



*Council workshop meeting
Feb. 26, 2024*

Present: Mayor Chris Lelle; Councilmen, Doug Koestel, Tommy Buchanan, Sally Brown, Eric Dailey and Sharon Johnson; Clerk, Kathy Bridges; Attorney Brian Dempsey

Visitors: Beth Buchanan, Amber Wigley, the trustee chair of the Bethlehem First UMC cemetery and Paul Brown

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7 with the Pledge of Allegiance

The council first discussed the annexation request of the church which was postponed due to David Henderson withdrawing his annexation request.

The Arbor Day Essay contest winners will be announced at the March meeting. Second and fifth graders at Bethlehem Elementary participated and Forester Lea Clark judged the essays. The children will read their essays and have a photo taken with the Mayor.

The audit agreement had language added for a 30-day termination clause. It will be on the consent agenda in March.

The statewide mutual aid agreement was also put on the consent agenda as was the purchasing policy.

The attorney looked over the town's liability insurance policy and was satisfied with the terms.

The council gave the go ahead to adding comcast emails for the mayor, clerk, council and code enforcement agent.

The council discussed the potential for bringing planning/zoning in-house by using contractors. The Mayor said it gives the town more ability to speed up the process and have more control. He will get proposals.

Business license violations and land use violations were next discussed and Lelle said he would speak with the violators before taking further action.

He asked the clerk to see records of the Chevron station's new signage.

Sally Brown was to research the business license fees of surrounding cities/counties.

The council read the letter from Republic Services announcing a 16% increase in fees.

The spring clean-up date was set for April 22 which is Earth Day.

Scheduling the town hall for community meeting input was set for Monday, April 15 at 7
p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.