



*Town council meeting
Jan. 6, 2025*

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

Visitors: Beth Buchanan, Jerry Johnson, Wayne Ridgeway

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked if the council had read the minutes. Sharon Johnson suggested a change for the Dec. 2 minutes concerning employee pay increases. The change would be that pay increases are voted on annually. Sally Brown made the motion to approve the minutes with the change and with a second by Sharon Johnson the motion passed unanimously. Doug Koestel made a motion to approve the comp plan minutes and with a second by Sally Brown the motion passed unanimously.

The election ordinance was next on the agenda for the filling of seats Post 1, 3 and 5 in the 2025 election. Sally Brown made the motion to approve the ordinance, Doug Koestel seconded, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The council next discussed the community room and pavilion fees. The fee had been \$250 for the community room in 2011. It increased to \$275 in 2016 and \$325 in 2019. The pavilion had stayed at \$100. The community room deposit will increase to \$300, and the rent will be \$350 for citizens of Bethlehem and \$450 for non-residents. The pavilion deposit will increase to \$150 with the rent for Bethlehem residents at \$125 and for non-residents, \$150. Sally Brown made the motion to approve the changes, Doug Koestel seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Attorney Jack Samuels was to assist the clerk in redoing the lease agreement.

Next the Mayor discussed creating a social media page for Bethlehem on Facebook with no comments allowed. Sally Brown volunteered to help manage the page with the Mayor and Clerk as administrators. Sharon Johnson made the motion to start a Facebook page, Sally Brown seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a 4-1 vote with Tommy Buchanan against.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.