Town council meeting
Oct. 12, 2026

Present: Mayor Chris Lelle; Councilmen, Sharon Johnson, Eric Dailey, Sally Brown and Doug Koestel; Kathy Bridges, clerk, Jack Samuels, attorney

The meeting opened at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor opened the public hearing on the UDC updates concerning cottage industries and special exception variances.

The Sept. 14 regular minutes and executive session minutes were approved with a motion by Doug Koestel, a second by Eric Daily and a yes vote by Sharon Johnson.

The council looked over the financials and the Mayor recommended buying 2-$250,000 CDs with different terms out of the general funds.

In new business the attorney requested an amendment to the Bureau Veritas contract allowing the town to process and approve inspection requests in order to track them. The contract is for one year and can be terminated with 30-day notice. He recommended the town clerk approve and process inspection requests. He said the council had already approved the contract, so no motion was needed.

The annexation request for the 2 parcels on West Star needed to include the requested zoning, said the attorney, before the request could be send to Barrow County.

At 7:30 p.m. the public hearing was closed with no comments.

The council approved both the Cottage Industry and the special exception variance ordinances with a motion by Sally Brown, a second by Eric Daily and a unanimous vote.

Sharon Johnson gave an update on the Manger Ave. house and Doug Koestel spoke about the playground expansion. He said he plans to add a $20,000 estimate in the budget for a future restroom on site.

The Mayor said he would have a price update on the Harrison Mill Road paving at the next meeting.

Sally Brown told the council about Andrew Yearwood, a descendent of the Yearwood blacksmith at 16 Angel Street, who was helping in filing for historical registry. She recommended him to be the “Bethlehem” official historian. Koestel made the motion to proclaim Yearwood as the local historian, Eric Dailey seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The Mayor recommended an Oct. 26th meeting to present bids from architects familiar with historical renovations.

Eric Dailey reported that the electronic sign was now working thanks to his electrician friend, Mike Pflug. Koestel made a motion to pay Pflug $500 now for his work on the sign and $500 later. Dailey seconded and the vote passed by unanimous vote.

The council discussed the parking lot at Highway 11 across from the Manger house. Sally Brown made a motion to obtain an RFP to clear the lot, Dailey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lastly the Mayor asked Koestel to meet with him on the budget on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.

At 8:05 Brown made the motion to go into executive session for litigation discussion and real estate, Dailey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:48 Dailey voted to end the executive session, Brown seconded and the vote was unanimous. Dailey made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss personnel, Brown seconded and the vote passed unanimously. Koestel made a motion to double the clerk's salary for this meeting, Dailey seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51.