



*Town council work session
April 27, 2026*

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

The meeting opened at 7:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor opened the public hearing on the UDC (Unified Development Codes) to update rules concerning specialty food stores. Liz Mitchum of CPL gave the updates-specialty food stores and accessory pumps. New provisions are section 89-187 for specialty food stores, and the second update is for public notice requirements-section 89-1315 for rezoning public notice and 89-1316 for special use public notice requirements and section 89-1387 for appeals for special use public notice.

The public hearing closed at 7:30 and in new business the council heard from Amber Wigley of Bethlehem 1st UMC who said the church was planning a second water event in the town square on June 28 from 5-7 p.m. Sally Brown made the motion to approve the event, Mike Camp seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The council heard about the carnival planned for Thursday, April 29 to Sunday, May 3.

The council discussed leasing or purchasing a garbage container for yard debris.

Doug Koestel inquired about the new trailer put in at 69 Angel Street which is in the historic district according to the comprehensive plan. The Mayor said a historic district has not been formally declared for the town.

The council discussed the brick house at 742 Manger Ave. Doug Koestel made a motion to remodel the house in preparation for using it as a rental. Sharon Johnson seconded the motion and Mike Camp voted yes. The Mayor vetoed the motion.

The council discussed having nameplates for the Mayor and Council made.

A business license for the new owner of the local radio station, WJBB, was approved with a motion by Brown, a second by Eric Dailey and a unanimous vote.

The Mayor said Alex Ward, an attorney and Barrow County commissioner, had agreed to preside as the judge of the town's municipal court.

Sharon Johnson spoke about Rich Atkinson, a planner whose hourly rate is \$135. An inspector would have to be hired. His company is willing to do everything CPL is doing for 90%

of the permit cost and Bethlehem gets 10%. This is special pricing for a small town, said Johnson. She said he was going to be present at the next meeting and wanted to add him to the agenda. Eric Dailey made the motion to add Atkinson to the agenda, Koestel seconded and the vote was unanimous. The Mayor vetoed the motion saying he wanted to vet the man first.

Koestel made a motion to add 785 Mary Street, road project updates and sign updates. Dailey seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lastly the council heard how hotel taxes are collected.

Sally Brown made a motion to approve the signage updates to the UDC, Koestel seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dailey made the motion to amend the agenda to discuss the McElhannon Road development, Koestel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The council discussed the Mary Street violation and learned road RFPs were due by May 15. The development at 951 Monroe Hwy. was considering a rezone, said Attorney Jack Samuels.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05.