

*Town of Bethlehem  
Council meeting  
Dec. 5, 2022*

Present: Mayor Sandy McNab; Councilmen, Tommy Buchanan, Doug Koestel, Bryan Bell, Eric Dailey and Scott Morgan; Clerk, Kathy Bridges; Attorney Ron Bennett.

Visitors: Jerry and Sharon Johnson, Ashley Franklin

The meeting was opened at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Sandy McNab. New Councilman for Post 3, Eric Dailey, was sworn in by Attorney Bennett.

Bryan Bell made a motion to approve the November minutes and with a second by Scott Morgan the motion passed unanimously.

The Budget resolution was first on the agenda. Scott Morgan made the motion to approve signing the resolution and with a second by Bryan Bell the vote was unanimous.

The Mayor said the bucket truck the council could consider buying was a 2006 with the same bucket and lift as the old one. He said he and Wayne Ridgeway used it to put up the remaining Christmas lights on the electric poles. The asking price is \$12,000. Eric Dailey made the motion to purchase the truck, Scott Morgan seconded, Doug Koestel and Bryan Bell voted yes, and Tommy Buchanan voted against. The motion passed. The old truck will be put on the government bid site-govdeals.com.

The parking lot striping bids were next on the agenda. The Brigmoore bid was \$3,850 and the Formula Forward Motion bid was \$4,000. Doug Koestel made the motion to use Brigmoore, Eric Dailey seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

The council discussed public comments at meetings and setting time limits. Bryan Bell made the motion to limit public comments to five minutes, Eric Dailey seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Attorney Bennett said public comments were typically not a question-and-answer format.

The council discussed spouses serving on the council and Attorney Bennett said that legally they can not be prevented from serving.

The council moved on to the code violations at 151 West Star Street. Attorney Bennett said he had a meeting with Rebecca Whiddon (Barrow County Planning Director) where they would discuss the remaining issues with development of the land. Then he would meet with the owner and (hopefully) get a promise to comply and set a time limit on compliance. He said taking the owner to court was the last effort to enforce compliance and hoped to avoid that.

Bennett said the council needed to add an executive session to talk about LOST- (Local Option Sales Tax)-potential pending litigation.

Doug Koestel said he had been asked to represent Bethlehem on a committee to discuss updating the county comprehensive plan.

At 8 p.m. Bryan Bell made the motion to go into executive session and Doug Koestel seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

At 8:22 the council came out of executive session with a motion by Scott Morgan, a second by Bryan Bell and a unanimous vote. Scott Morgan made the motion to allow the Mayor to sign the LOST certificate of distribution by population and Doug Koestel seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 8:30 Tommy Buchanan made the motion to adjourn, and the meeting ended by unanimous consent.