

May 05, 1997

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on Monday, May 5, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Fred Hough, Naomi Powell, Isaac Lewis, and Bascoe Lewis.

Mayor Bissette opened the floor for the Public Hearing on the proposed Middlesex Subdivision Ordinance that was prepared and presented by the Middlesex Planning Board. The chairman of the Planning Board, Mr. Luther H. Lewis, Jr., was present to answer questions concerning this ordinance. There were approximately ten (10) people present.

Chairman Lewis stated that the ordinance was almost identical to Nash County's and that Mr. Larry Odom from the Nash County Planning Department had been very instrumental in the preparation of this ordinance. Mr. Lewis further stated that it was imperative that the Board appoint a Review Officer who is qualified to review plats that are presented for minor and major subdivisions. The clerk was instructed to contact Ms. Patsy King at Region L Council of Governments to see if she would be able to serve as the Review Officer.

Mayor Bissette asked if there were others who wished to be heard concerning this matter; and, there being none, the Public Hearing was closed at 8:00 p.m. and the Board went into regular session.

Ms. Agnes Bissette was present and asked that the Board consider rezoning her property located on West Stewart Street in order that mobile homes might be allowed. She was informed that she would have to make an appeal to the Planning Board, but that a certain parcel of land could not be rezoned; all land surrounding it would have to be rezoned.

Ms. Pauline Hinnant was present and stated that there were lots on Cope Avenue and Opposum Road that were overgrown and asked the Board to have them cleared. The clerk was instructed to determine the owners and write them a letter asking them to clear the lots or the Town would clear them and apply the cost as a lien on the property and add it to the taxes.

Ms. Edna Mount was present and stated that she was treated very rudely at the last meeting after stating that she wanted to be appointed to the vacancy on the Board. She said that she felt she deserved the seat and wanted a written statement as to why she was not appointed. Mayor Bisette informed Ms. Mount that a decision had been made by the Board not to fill this seat due to the fact that this is an election year and that this decision would stand.

Ms. Colleen Hatcher, Librarian for the Middlesex Public Library, was present along with several more guests to answer questions about the Society for Creative Anachronism, a group that she is a member of, and stated that she wanted to dispel the rumors that this is some sort of cult related group.

Ms. Linda Goldman, a teacher in Randolph County who serves at the Regional President for this group, was present and stated that it is a very educational organization that is interested in medieval times and that they hold meetings around the state at which members dress and re-enact the medieval ages.

Mayor Bisette asked the question of how this applies to the Middlesex Public Library and Ms. Hatcher stated that she had been a member of this group for years and after becoming the Librarian and seeing the children become interested in learning, she became active again. Commissioner Powell stated that she had attended a fair sponsored by this group last week and found it to be very educational.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as correct in a motion by Commissioner Hough, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and carried unanimously.

Chief Brock was present with a report on the activities of the Police Department for the previous month. He informed the Board that the applicant for Police Officer that was approved at the last board meeting did not pass the psychological test and therefore could not be hired; however, he did have an applicant, Chris Batchelor, for consideration tonight.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis stated that a ditch on South Chestnut Street had been eroding and was in need of repair because it was going to cause the street to cave. He stated that he asked BRS Construction Company for a quote on tiling the ditch while they were working in the area and they gave a price of around \$15,000.00.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis stated that the motor in the dump truck had gone bad and would need replacing at a cost of over \$3,000.00; however, the Board asked to have it repaired.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Nash County ABC Board stating that the local ABC Store would be closing on May 31, 1997, due to the loss of profit over the past several years.

The Board set a date of Monday, June 2, 1997, to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed 1997-98 budget.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to adjust the water bill of Cynthia Glover from \$118.35 to \$76.10. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Fred Hough moved to put the town's banking needs out to bid between the two local banks for a three year period, with the exception of the money invested in certificates of deposits, stating that the town would accept the best package offered. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

There was a discussion on the purchase of gas for town vehicles and the fact that only two of the local gas stations are being used. The clerk was asked to contact all the businesses that sell gas to see if they wanted to charge gas to the town for payment on a monthly basis.

After some discussion regarding upkeep of the community building, Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to increase the rent to \$50.00 per day for out of town users and increase the deposit to \$50.00 for every user. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Chief Brock introduced Mr. Thomas Christopher Batchelor to the Board as a candidate for the Police Officer vacancy. Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to go into closed session for the purpose of interviewing Mr. Batchelor. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Following the interview, Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to end the closed session and enter back into open session. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to hire Mr. Batchelor on a ninety (90) day probationary period with all benefits at a salary of \$17,568.00 provided that all state requirements are met. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Having no further business, Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bissette
Peggy Bissette
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette

Commissioners:

Fred Hough *FH*

Naomi Powell *NP*

Isaac Lewis *IL*

Bascoe Lewis *wbl*