

October 6, 1997

The members of the Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on October 06, 1997 in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bisette, Commissioners Fred Hough, Naomi Powell, Isaac Lewis and Bascoe Lewis. Mayor Bisette called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the invocation was given by Commissioner Isaac Lewis.

The clerk presented the Minutes of the previous meeting and the Financial Statements for the previous month and they were accepted as correct in a motion made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bisette recognized guest Mike Holland, owner of Family Arcade on Hanes Avenue, who requested to be allowed to keep the game room open until 12 midnight and from 1-6 p.m. on Sunday's. Holland stated that he had to ask customers to leave now at 10:00 p.m..

The clerk stated that the board would have to amend its Zoning Ordinance, which requires a public hearing before the request could be legally made. Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to hold a public hearing on Holland's request. The clerk was to schedule it.

At the September meeting there was a discussion of citizens refusing to pay the sanitation fee because they did not use the service. And some of the residents on NC231 were refusing to pay the water and sewer connection fees, and monthly charges. The clerk was instructed to send letters to these citizens informing them of the board action to send these matters to the town's attorney for legal process to collect the fees.

Derek Bisette was present stating that he had received a letter from the town stating that he owed \$376.00 in past due charges for sanitation services. He said that since he had received the letter he had paid for the service for August and September but he did not feel that he should have to pay the past due amount, since he did not actually use the service.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to relieve Bisette of the past due charges, however his motion did not receive a second.

Commissioner Hough stated that he felt that if one had to pay for the service, then each and everyone should have to pay. He stated that he had not used the service but had paid the fee every month since it was implemented. Mayor Bisette asked the clerk to research the ordinances on the sanitation issue and promised Derek Bisette that he would have a final answer to the problem at the November 03, 1997 meeting.

Mayor Bisette recognized Rhonda Jordan who stated that she wanted to let the board know that she would be moving from the building she now rents from the town by Oct.15, due to the fact that her business has outgrown the building and is relocating to Rocky Mount. She stated that she appreciated all the support she had received from the town in getting her business started, and further stated that she had a large gas heater hanging from the ceiling and if the town wished to purchase it for \$500.00 she would leave it there.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to have Commissioner Hough to look at the heater and if he felt it was a good investment to buy it, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Powell and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bisette recognized Edna Mount who was asking questions about an article she read on a request for annexation.

Chief Brock gave a report to the board on the activities of the police department for the previous month, and had the clerk to read a letter from the Department of Justice, awarding a grant for one police officer for a period of three (3) years at 75% cost. He further stated that he had an applicant for interviewing to fill the vacancy of the fourth officer.

Commissioner Powell asked the board if the town employees could clean the lot behind Powell Memorial Clinic, stating that stumps were there since Hurricane Fran. Mayor Bisette said that he would talk to Utility Director Wilson about it.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis stated that he had received a request from a citizen on North Chestnut Street to post "Children Playing" signs along the street, stating that several children had no place but the street to ride their bikes. Commissioner Powell stated that children should not be playing in the street. The board decided not to take action to place signs.

Mayor Bissette informed the board that only two bids had been submitted for the construction of the well project as follows:

(1) T.A. Loving-----	\$290,000.00	Alt.1
	\$350,000.00	Alt.2
(2) Water & Waste -----	\$252,000.00	Alt.1
	\$308,287.00	Alt.2

The board discussed the bids, stating that they felt they were excessively high and did not make any decision to accept or reject either bid at this time. The bids will remain open for sixty (60) days. The clerk stated that she had filed applications for some funding to help complete the project.

The clerk stated that Principal Insurance Company had sent the yearly renewal quotes for the town's health insurance premiums and that the new rates were going to increase by approximately 18%. She stated that she had obtained quotes from Blue Cross-Blue Shield and also the North Carolina League of Municipalities. The League had a better benefit package at less cost to the town than the other plans, this plan would save the town approximately \$2300.00 per year.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to accept the League's plan for the town's coverage, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis and carried unanimously.

The clerk presented two bills from Bennie Lewis stating that they had not been approved for payment prior to the work being done. The work was authorized by Utility Directory Sanford Wilson. One bill was \$1604.82 stating "replaced top on well house behind Middlesex Elem.School; replace attic fan; installed vinyl siding; and replaced top on water access building." The second bill was for \$531.00 and read " replaced front of equipment supply bldg."

Commissioner Hough stated that he did not know the work was being done until it was almost completed and that he did not appreciate this kind of thing happening. He felt that Wilson should have at least notified a commissioner before authorizing Lewis to do this work. He also stated that in the future he would like to see all invoices submitted to the town for payment to itemize the work done, the hourly labor charge and parts.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis stated that he also felt that Wilson should have gotten confirmation from the proper official before

authorizing Lewis to do the work, but he felt that Lewis was entitled to his pay, and he moved to pay the \$531.00 bill and to hold the \$1604.82 bill until Commissioner Hough could inspect the work, and if it met his satisfaction to then direct the clerk to pay the bill, instead of waiting until the next meeting to vote to pay it, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette informed the board that a Public Hearing would be held at Nash Community College on October 14, 1997 in reference to the proposed location of a nursing home in Middlesex and he urged all to attend if possible.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to enter into closed session for the purpose of interviewing John Facuett for a position with the police force, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

After completion of the interview, Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to go back into open session, seconded by Commissioner Powell, Mayor Bissette declared the meeting open to the public again.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to hire Facuett on a ninety (90) day probationary period with full benefits at a salary of \$18,128.00, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Powell moved to adjourn.

*Peggy Bissette*  
Peggy Bissette  
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette *BRB*  
Commissioners:  
Fred Hough *FH*  
Naomi Powell *NP*  
Isaac Lewis *IL*  
Bascoe Lewis *WBL*