

October 7, 1996

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On Monday night, October 7, 1996, the Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session with members Mayor Bobby R. Bisette and Commissioners Fred Hough, Isaac Lewis, Naomi Powell, and Bascoe Lewis present. Commissioner Jimmy Meacombs was absent. Mayor Bisette called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the invocation was given by Commissioner Isaac Lewis.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the financial statements for the previous month were accepted as correct in a motion by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Fred Hough, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bisette welcomed guests Ray Cameron and Ann M. Lewis to the meeting.

Mr. Cameron stated that he was present to protest paying the sewer charge on this monthly water bill. He said that all the other citizens in the area of his home were tied into the sewer system by the Community Development Block Grant that the town received several years ago and he felt that it was unfair that he had to pay for the same service. He said that he had been asking for sewer service for years before it was put down his street. He further stated that former Commissioner David Jordan had told him that he would not have to pay for his hook-up and that if he didn't hook-up, he would not have to pay sewer charges until he was actually using it.

Mayor Bisette stated that he was not on the Board at the time the grant was administered and asked the Clerk to explain the procedural process to the Board. The Clerk stated that the homes to be included in the grant were determined before the grant was ever approved by the State and that Mr. Cameron's house was not included because it was not in a deteriorated condition; and, that she personally answered his questions and concerns at the time the work was being done and told him that he would have to be responsible for the \$125.00 tap fee, but that the actual cost of getting the sewer line to his property was borne by the grant money, and if he refused to tie onto the line, he would still be charged a sewer fee each month because it was available to him.

Mayor Bisette told Mr. Cameron that the policy the Town had in effect would have to be followed, and the Board did not take any action to relieve Mr. Cameron of any sewer use fee.

Ms. Ann Lewis stated that they had received a water bill for the month of August for 19,000 gallons of water and sewer usage and that their monthly bill was usually 3,000 to 4,000 gallons per month. She asked that unusual amount of sewer be adjusted and allow her to pay for the water. She further stated that someone in charge of watering their dog left a water hose running while they were on vacation. Mayor Bissette informed Mrs. Lewis that the Board would make an adjustment on her bill and it would have to be in accordance with the present policy.

Mayor Bissette informed the Board that Middlesex had received the help of volunteers from Sumter County, South Carolina, the National Guard, the Army Corp of Engineers, and the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department to help clear the town of debris after Hurricane Fran. The Board asked the Clerk to send letters thanking those organizations for their help.

Commissioner Hough stated that he had a quote on pressure washing the cemetery wall in order to prepare it for painting, but wanted to know if the Board members might want to consider bricking the wall in order to keep from having to put money in it for painting. He was asked to get a price on bricking for the next meeting.

It was determined that Bobby Pope's request for annexing him into the town limits could not be acted upon because Pope rents his property and the actual landowner would have to request the annexation.

Commissioner Naomi Powell informed the Board that a representative of playground equipment would be at the December meeting to help with the design of the park playground equipment.

Rhonda Narron's ninety day probationary period of employment expired on October 2, 1996. Mayor Bissette commented that Mrs. Narron had proved to be a very efficient worker and had a very good relationship with the public. Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to hire Mrs. Narron as a permanent part-time employee as Assistant to the Town Clerk. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis, and carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a letter from Attorney Terry Alford requesting that the Town release a lien on property owned by Penny Biggs in order to allow her to sell one lot. The Town

has a lien on the property as a result of work done through a Community Block Grant. Ms. Biggs received a grant in the amount of \$32,000.00. The lien is on the lot that the house sits on and the adjoining lot.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved not to release the lien at this time but to write Mr. Alford a letter stating that if they want to have it surveyed showing the actual lot lines and the set backs that the two pieces of property will be left with and present the survey to the Board, the matter would be considered at that point. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved ~~the~~ ^{to} adopt the attached resolution to apply for public assistance for damages created by Hurricane Fran to help recoup the cost of removing the debris from the town. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

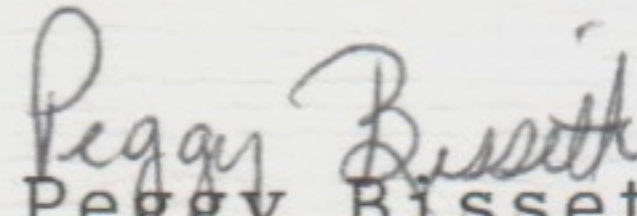
Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to adjust the following water bills:

- A. Herbert Craddock from \$228.20 to \$152.15
- B. Larry McDougal from \$118.35 to \$76.10
- C. Diona Eatmon from \$93.00 to \$59.20
- D. Warren Lewis from \$169.05 to \$101.45

Lewis' motion was seconded by Commissioner Bascoe Lewis and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette informed the Board that he had recently met with the Finch's on North Nash Street and had been given verbal permission to cut the oak trees in the right-of-way in order to allow the curb and gutter project to begin at the intersection of US264A.

Being no further business, Commissioner Powell moved to adjourn.


Peggy Bissette,
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette
Commissioners
Fred Hough
Isaac Lewis
Naomi Powell
Bascoe Lewis