

January 10, 2000

On January 10, 2000 the Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Isaac Lewis and Bascoe Lewis. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the invocation was given by Commissioner Isaac Lewis.

There were approximately 20 people gathered in the Conference Room and Mayor Bissette welcomed them to the meeting and asked if they wish to address the board.

James Cardona stated that he wanted to personally thank each board member for the opportunity that Middlesex had given him to become a policeman and that he would not have been able to pursue this new career with the Wake County Sheriff's Department if it had not been for the valuable experience he received from Chief Brock and the Middlesex Police Department. He shook hands with each member of the board and each wished him well in his new job.

Randy Nash of 12520 West Pamlico Street stood and addressed the board. He stated that he had lived in Middlesex for over three years and that his landlord was Chief Brock and that if Middlesex were to remove Chief Brock from his duties as Chief of Police that it would be a terrible waste and that those who did not like the chief were scumbags anyway.

Debra Jordan immediately stood and said that she was not a scumbag, however she did not like Vince Brock. Mrs. Jordan stated that Chief Brock had investigated a complaint about her dog and drew a gun and threatened to kill the dog in front of her daughter. She stated that he knew when she worked and would always go to her house when her daughters were home alone when he had to address any problems there.

Jo Ann Radford stated that she was a tenant of Vennie Brock's but that she knew him to be a good law officer, words of anger flew between Debra Jordan and Radford until Mayor Bissette called them into order.

Barbara Bunn spoke up and stated that she felt the group should be sure that the rumors were true and if the group had the cart before the horse in this situation, that they had heard that Vinnie Brock was going to be fired.

Edna Mount, spoke to the group and said that she did have problems with Chief Brock and if they could not be resolved at this level that she knew higher levels to turn too. There had been a complaint filed by Ms. Mount against loud noises in her area and when investigated the noise was a motorcycle being operated at the chief of police's residence.

Ms. Mount complained that O'Possum Street was too narrow for two cars to pass and needed some attention, and also suggested that a stop light be installed at the intersection of Hanes and Nash Street before someone is hurt crossing the street.

Mayor Bissette informed her that both streets were maintained by the NC Department of Transportation and the stop light would come under their jurisdiction.

Ms. Mount then spoke of a drive-by shooting occurring at the Middlesex Manor, but never made it clear as to what she was talking about.

James Cardona spoke up and asked everyone to read the town's noise ordinance and they would find that the conflict Ms. Mount spoke of was not a reality. He stated that Chief Brock administered the law to everyone alike and that included the Chief himself.

Alvin Brantley stated that Brock was a good man for Middlesex and urged the town not to do anything drastic.

Mayor Bissette asked if anyone else had anything to say and at this time no one spoke.

The clerk presented the Minutes of the previous meetings and Commissioner Isaac Lewis made a motion to accept the Minutes of the meetings, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

The clerk presented the Financial Statements for the previous month and they were accepted as correct in a motion by Commissioner Hough, seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette stated that at the last meeting he failed to appoint Police Commissioners for the next two years and at this time he re-appointed Commissioners Fred Hough and Bascoe Lewis to the Police Commission.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis stated that the windows recently installed in the police building, were cut too small and one had blown out of the frames. Biswanger, the installer has been called to return and look at them.

Commissioner Meacombs stated that all the lift stations had been equipped with the quick connect couplings for the generator. He further stated that the generator should be delivered within the month of January, that he had contacted the maker and was told that they were running behind schedule.

Mayor Bissette reported that the new well house had been completed and that the pump was installed and awaiting the piping and electrical hook-ups.

Mayor Bissette reported that the proposed industry had chosen another location and would not be locating in Middlesex.

The item of donating money to the Mount Pleasant Rescue Squad which was tabled last month was brought up and Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to donate \$5,000.00 over a period of two years to the Mount Pleasant Rescue Squad, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

The board reviewed raised appraisals on the insurance carried on the town buildings and water and sewer system. The clerk was instructed to try to get prices of the increases and get the back to the board for a decision.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to go into closed session for the following :

1. review application for laborer
2. review employee evaluation on Joshua Biggs at end of six months probation.
3. review employee evaluation on Wanda Peel at end of six months period.
4. review two police applicants
5. police related matters.

Lewis's motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

The Minutes of the Closed Meeting are sealed until the Board of Commissioners deem it to be time to unseal them.

Once the discussion was over in closed session, Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to go back into open session, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to hire Charles Ward at a salary of \$7.25 per hour as a laborer for the maintenance department for a probationary period of six months, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Isaac Lewis and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to hire Nathan Gant as a police officer at a salary of \$20,008.00 yearly for a six months probationary period, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to hire Christopher Traud at a salary of \$20,008.00 per year for a six months probationary period, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Richard Price spoke to the board and stated that a problem existed in the police department between one officer and the chief and not the entire department and that the board should not dismiss Brock because of that incident, and there was not a problem with the department.

James Cardona pleaded with the board not to make any decision based on hearsay or any hasty decision.

Margaret Nash said that she moved from a small town that lacked in police protection and that Brock is the only reason she is still in Middlesex and if he is dismissed the Nash's would leave Middlesex. She said kids looked up to Brock and many of them would be in trouble if he were not taking the time to direct them.

Richard Lambert, Wake County Deputy, former Middlesex Officer said that he would not be where he is today in law enforcement if not for Chief Brock, further stating, sure Vennie is gruff and unpolished at times but in a time of trouble for his department he was there on the spot, and to dismiss Brock from his duties as Chief of Police would be a tragedy.

James Barnes, who left Middlesex to take employment with the Nash County Sheriff's Department stated that Chief Brock was one of the best law enforcement officers that he knew and that he felt Middlesex would not be what it was today if not for Brock. At this point, Barnes left the room in tears.

Wayne Meddlin, former Chief of Police for the Town of Zebulon addressed the board and pleaded with the board to consider the fact that Chief Brock had many years of law enforcement with the town and that if there were problems, to please address them with mediator and try to get the problem resolved, that a dismissal of the chief would divide the town, and the entire town would suffer as a result. He stated that he had worked with Chief Brock on several occasions and had always found him to be an excellent law enforcement officer.

After everyone had the opportunity to speak, Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to remove Vincent Brock from his position as Chief of Police of the Town Of Middlesex, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Harold Meacombs and carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Bascoe Lewis moved to appoint Sgt. Patrick Ridgway to serve as Acting Chief until

such time as the board could effectively appoint a Chief of Police, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Luke Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to purchase a trolley cart for folding tables and a chair stacker for the Community Building, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Isaac Lewis moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bissette,
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Fred Hough
Luke Robinson
Isaac Lewis
Bascoe Lewis

On January 19, 2000 the Middlesex Governing Body met in a Special Called Session in the Conference Room of the Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Isaac Lewis and Bascoe Lewis. The purpose of the meeting was to instruct the clerk on some request that were made by Vincent Brock who was relieved of the duties of Chief of Police and the filing of paper work that was necessary.

Clerk Bissette stated that Brock had requested that he be paid for vacation time that he had not taken at the end of his employment. The clerk was instructed to follow the procedure in the handbook that outlines the vacation guidelines. The book reads that "Under no circumstances will and employee be paid any vacation due if fired from the Town of Middlesex for a valid reason."

The board reviewed a letter from NC Employment Security Commission stating that Brock had filed for unemployment benefits. The board instructed her to fill out the form stating the reason that Brock was dismissed was for conduct unbecoming to a police officer and return it.

The board also reviewed a copy of the separation paper to be sent to NC Criminal Justice and Training Standards and instructed the clerk to mail it with the mayor's signature.

Being no further business, Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn.

Peggy Bissette,
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Fred Hough
Luke Robinson
Isaac Lewis
Bascoe Lewis