

January 13, 2003

The Middlesex Governing Body met on January 13, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Larry Daniel, and Bascoe Lewis. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Commissioner Daniel. Mayor Bissette welcomed the guests, Vennie Brock, and Gary Lee, John Sharpe and Stephanie Creech. Mayor Bissette also thanked Mr. Sharpe of the Spring Hope Enterprise and Ms. Creech of the Wilson Daily Times for the good job they do covering the town.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting, was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

The Clerk reviewed the December Financial Statements and Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept them as correct, seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette presented Chief Charles Ferrell with the N.C. Criminal Justice Officer's Advanced Law Certificate. Chief Ferrell gave a report on the activities of the Police Department for the previous month.

Utilities Director Jeff Waddell reported that the OHSA Inspection in December initiated by the town went well and that many of the problems on the list have already been corrected. Electrician J.T. Durham has been contacted and will be coming this week to fix some electrical problems. He also noted that all the limbs from the ice storm have been picked up.

Commissioner Hough noted that the new trash truck had been serviced and was ready to go to Wilco in Wilson to put on the packer taken off the burned trash truck.

Gary Lee advised that he has a letter to send to Chief Ferrell from First Baptist Church addressing loitering problems on Hanes Avenue and Oak Street and he is awaiting a letter from the Cameron's, an area property owner.

At OSHA's recommendation, Commissioner Hough moved to appointed Clerk Jennifer Lambert as the town's Safety Coordinator, Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

After some discussion regarding a motion passed at the June 10, 2002 town meeting regarding health insurance on retirees to be paid by the town, Commissioner Meacombs moved to amend the motion to state "to pay the retiree's insurance until age 65". The motion to amend was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the estimate from the N.C. Department of Transportation for installation of the Railroad Crossing Signals and Gates on Manning Street, Norfolk Southern Railway Crossing No. 465 641S. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and was carried unanimously.

After some discussion on local e-government utilization grants, this project was tabled due to the fact it would take extensive training and meeting time.

Commissioner Hough moved to accept the fire truck donated by the Middlesex Fire Department, his motioned was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and carried unanimously.

The Clerk was asked to send a note to the citizens of the town to display their house numbers where visible to aid in the health and welfare of all the citizens.

Commissioner Hough motioned to purchase and install MicroSoft Office XP to solve some computer software problems with the current Corel Software. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and was carried unanimously.

Mayor Bissette requested the Clerk to contact the N.C. League of Municipalities and see what kind of help they could offer to update our ordinances and what costs would be involved.

After some discussion regarding current cutoff fees charged and returned checks on payment of water bills, Commissioner Meacombs motioned to change the cutoff fee for every offense to \$25.00 and anyone paying a bill with a bad check, on the second offense, the water will be turned off and they will have to pay the \$25.00 cutoff fee in addition to the \$20.00 returned check fee. Commissioner Daniel seconded his motion and was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to adjust sewer bills as follows:

Bobby Radford from \$333.25 to \$23.25  
Joyce Howard from \$85.25 to \$38.75

This motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into closed session to discuss a proposal by Boyce & Isley, PLLC, to join a suit to recover county and municipal funds withheld by the N.C. Secretary of Revenue.

Commissioner Daniel moved to go back into open session, Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved not to pursue the lawsuit against the Secretary of Revenue. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Daniel moved to accept the resignation of Officer Chris Creech, his motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and was carried unanimously.

After much discussion regarding the painting of the packer for the new trash truck, it was decided to get another quote and discuss further the pros and cons of sandblasting and whether to have the packer painted before or after it is mounted on the new truck.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to adopt the resolution regarding the town's payment of thirty-year retiree's insurance until age 65. Commissioner Daniel seconded his motion. The motion passed with a majority vote of 4 affirmative votes and 1 negative vote.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette  
Commissioners  
Harold Meacombs  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Larry Daniel  
Basco Lewis