

March 10, 2003

The Middlesex Governing Body met on March 10, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Bobby R. Bissette, Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Luke Robinson, Bascoe Lewis, and Larry Daniel. Commissioner Fred Hough was absent. Mayor Bissette called the meeting to order and Commissioner Daniel gave the invocation. Mayor Bissette welcomed the guests, Rocky Winstead, Gary Lee, Sheila McDougal, Pauline Hinnant, Vennie Brock, Kenneth Lunger and Bradley Shepard.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as correct, Commissioner Lewis seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to accept the February Financial Statements as correct, Commissioner Robinson seconded and carried unanimously.

The Clerk requested an additional \$200 extra programming for the new Cemetery Program. This addition will provide a color-coded map which appears on the screen to identify available, sold, and occupied spaces that would be point-and-click system giving all information pertaining to the specific plot. Commissioner Daniel moved to approve the additional \$200 programming for the Cemetery Program, Commissioner Robinson seconded and carried unanimously.

Chief Ferrell introduced Kenneth Lunger, Jr., and Bradley Shepard, which he requested that the Board interview in Closed Session for part-time help in the Police Department.

Jeff Waddell reported that the Utilities Department had purchased the retractable fall line required by OSHA and they had been testing and training on its use. He also reported that his department would be involved in several days of training on safety and health programs.

Commissioner Daniel noted it was the time of year to get the park cleaned up, and that the painting of the shelters and tennis court needs to be done before warm weather gets here. Jeff will coordinate with Chief Ferrell to arrange for community service workers to do the painting. There is a rotten tree that needs to be removed and Commissioners Lewis and Jeff will take a look at it.

Commissioner Robinson noted that he had been to South Elm Street with Mayor Bissette and also had Herman Ellis to review the water drainage problem. Herman will clean the ditches and soon as it is dry enough.

Chief Ferrell met with Police Commissioner Fred Hough who recommended that he pursue the Homeland Security Grant for new police cars.

After some discussion, Commissioner Lewis moved to apply to the state for grant monies under Solid Waste Management in order to purchase a self-contained leaf vacuum system. Commissioners Daniel seconded and it carried unanimously.

Rocky Winstead addressed the Town Board regarding a commitment from the town to the Southern Nash County Athletic Association for the Middlesex Elementary ball field. He noted that they had various pledges of \$8,000, and that the baseball season begins the first week of April. Commissioner Daniel, who is a member of the Association, expressed that he would like to talk with Leslie Liles, President of the Association, and get further clarification on what was actually needed from the town. The Board will then call a Special Meeting to decide the amount the town will contribute.

After reviewing the draft parking ordinance submitted by the Clerk, Mayor Bissette recognized Sheila McDougal, owner of Sheila's Style Shop on West Hanes Avenue. Sheila stated that the two-hour limit would be a problem for her and her customers. Mayor Bissette stated the purpose of the ordinance was to help the businesses and the citizens, not to hurt them. After more discussion and noting that all complaints were regarding Nash Street, Commissioner Daniel moved to adopt a two-hour parking ordinance on Nash Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and a penalty of \$10.00 per violation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Daniel moved to have the Clerk begin collection proceedings on unpaid 2002 taxes and to advertise the tax liens on the real property. Commissioner Lewis seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Daniel moved to adopt the Resolution for Minority Business Participation in Awarding Town Contracts, Commissioner Robinson seconded and carried unanimously. This resolution finalizes the paperwork for the final approval of the Rural Development grant monies for the Sewer Rehabilitation Project, so we can advertise for bids.

After some discussion, the Board agreed for the Department Heads to designate smoking and non-smoking areas which is a requirement before adopting the town Safety and Health Program.

The Board agreed to meet Wednesday, April 2, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall for a budget workshop. The purpose will be to set salaries for the next fiscal year and for the department heads to submit any new projects for next year.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the following sewer adjustments.  
Commissioner Lewis seconded and carried unanimously.

1. Marjorie Yates from \$170.50 to \$24.25
2. Jonathan Bush from \$96.00 to \$24.00
3. Theo Vick from \$256.00 to \$48.00

Gary Lee requested to be added to the agenda for the April 14, 2003 Regular Meeting representing the First Baptist Church and the Mayor acknowledged he would be on the agenda.

Commissioner Lewis moved to go into Closed Session to interview two applicants for the Police Department pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go back into Open Session, seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to hire Kenneth Lee Lunger, Jr. and Bradley Alan Shepard as part-time Police Officers at the standard part-time pay of \$10 per hour, contingent upon the passing of the drug and physiological testing. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel and carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Town Clerk

Mayor Bobby R. Bissette  
Commissioners  
Harold Meacombs  
Luke Robinson  
Larry Daniel  
Bascoe Lewis