

March 21, 2005

The Middlesex Governing Body held its regular meeting in the Conference Room of the town hall on March 21, 2005. The meeting was rescheduled from March 14<sup>th</sup> due to lack of a quorum. Mayor Pro Tem Harold Meacombs called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Derek Bissette and Basco Lewis. Guests were Jacob Brown, Steve Glover, Gary Ferrell, and Vennie Brock.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to accept the February Financial Statements as correct. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chief Ferrell presented Sergeant Judy Garver's resignation effective April 1, 2005. Ferrell also requested the Board to review a proposal for a Dodge Durango SUV for \$19,928.31 through GSA, which is cheaper than purchasing through state contract for a Crown Victoria.

Commissioner Hough requested Jeff Waddell to get an update on the painting of the water tower.

Town Administrator Peggy Bissette advised the Board that the Nash County Planning Board was hearing our request for extending the ETJ and Planning Board Chairman Lu Harvey Lewis is present representing the Middlesex Planning Board. The process will take 60-90 days to put into place. All property owners must be notified if our request is approved.

The Board set a date of April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. for a workshop to review the proposed Personnel Policy and to set a date for a Budget Workshop.

Peggy Bissette requested a digital copier for the town hall with a quote from Ron Worthington in the amount of \$3600 with a one year warranty. Commissioner Bissette requested Peggy to get a second quote and report back at the next meeting.

After reviewing a quote from Harris Perry in the amount of \$11,100 for work on a ditch on S. Chestnut at David Jordan's house and the ditch behind Automotive Paint & Parts that runs parallel to the railroad track, Commissioner Bissette agreed to try to get a second quote from James Ferrell and report back at the next meeting. Peggy stated that the cost for the ditch on South Chestnut could be paid for out of the Powell Bill Funds, but not the ditch parallel to the railroad track and Finch Avenue.

Commissioner Bissette requested Jeff to fix two bad pot holes on Pine Street.

Larry Daniel addressed the Board regarding his utility bill which had doubled due to a tenant moving in an upstairs apartment in his home. After a lengthy discussion, Daniels advised the Board that there was nothing they could say that he would agree with as to why he should get a double bill. Mayor Pro Tem Meacombs asked Peggy to do a report on the revenue that would be lost if we were to make a rate change for accounts with more than one business or more than one residence on one meter. The report will be reviewed at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Lewis moved to place a stop sign at the end of Colonial Drive where it exits into Rockside Road. Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to release taxes is the amount of \$87.62 billed to Citicorp Del Lease that resulted in a duplication in Nash County's tax records. Commissioner Robinson seconded and it carried unanimously.

No action was taken on materials submitted regarding the Twin Counties Great American Cleanup sponsored by Nash & Edgecombe Counties and the City of Rocky Mount.

Mayor Pro Tem Meacombs brought to everyone's attention the Nash County Landfill's Program to take abandoned mobile homes free of charge until May 15, 2005. There was some discussion regarding one abandoned mobile home on West Hanes Avenue and one just beyond Middlesex Elementary School on East Hanes Avenue, which is outside the city limits, but in our ETJ. The estimated cost would be \$2500 for removal of both. The Board requested Peggy to get a second quote. No action was taken.

After reviewing the annual warranty invoice for \$549.00 for the Hewlett Packard printer in the town hall, Commissioner Bissette moved not to extend the warranty. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to make the following sewer adjustments:

- (1) New Life Holiness from \$336.00 to \$36.00
- (2) Emma Lynch from \$180.00 to \$48.00

Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

After a brief discussion regarding the use of alcohol at the community building, Commissioner Lewis moved to change the lease agreement to prohibit the use of alcohol at the community building. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried by a 3 to 1 vote, with Commissioner Bissette being the opposing vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Meacombs made an announcement that The Powell Memorial Clinic will be holding an open house on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Upon review of a request from the North Carolina League of Municipalities to support the Community Development Block Grant Program, no action was taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Meacombs reviewed a letter from the North Carolina State Treasurer's office cautioning the Governing Body to monitor our water and sewer funds revenues and expenditures closely due to net losses for the last two years and cash revenues declining from 2002 forward. Vance Holloman urged the Board to ensure we have raised our rates sufficiently to provide these services and meet our debt service obligations. The Board agreed these numbers would be reviewed as part of the new budget.

At the recommendation of John Anthony, CPA, Commissioner Robinson moved to add Mayor Pro Tem Harold Meacombs as a fourth check signer for the town's bank accounts. Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Meacombs appointed Commissioner Derek Bissette as a Police Commissioner, replacing Larry Daniel and requested that Commissioners Bissette and Hough meet with Chief Ferrell and report back to the Board at the next regular meeting regarding the purchase of another police vehicle.

Commissioner Hough moved to go into Closed Session to interview Jacob Brown as a part time police officer, Steve Glover as a full time police officer, and Gary Ferrell as a full time laborer in the Utility Department. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Bissette moved to hire Gary Ferrell as a full time laborer at \$8.50 per hour, to complete schooling within a year of hire for his well water certification and wastewater certification and will be on probation for one year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to hire Jacob Brown as part time police officer at \$10.00 per hour. Commissioner Bissette seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette moved to offer Steve Glover a part time police officer position, if he would accept part time. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Harold Meacombs  
Commissioners  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Derek Bissette  
Basco Lewis