

April 2, 2007

The Middlesex Governing Body met in Special Session for a Budget Workshop. Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Guests were Dale Bachmann, and Hilary Hellens with The Wilson Times.

Administrator Joyner reviewed the agenda items, attachments and exhibits. He asked a series of questions for discussion on various topics and stated all figures are preliminary draft and all can be changed at a later workshop.

Mayor Lewis stated the Board would look at expenditures and decide whether or not to increase the property tax rate at the next budget meeting.

After discussing the sanitation rate and reviewing an analysis on collection of bulk waste, the Board agreed to increase the sanitation rates by \$1.00 across the Board. The residential rate will change from \$11.25 to \$12.25, and the business rate will change from \$19.00 to \$20.00 effective July 1, 2007. The town ordinance concerning bulk waste special charges will need to be amended.

The Board agreed with Joyner's recommendation to increase the following miscellaneous fees:

- Community Building rent in town from \$65 to \$75
- Community Building rent out of town from \$85 to \$95
- Community Building deposit remains unchanged at \$50

- Cemetery plots in town from \$300 to \$450
- Cemetery plots out of town remain at \$750 (no change)
- Perpetual Care (one time fee) remain at \$50 (no change)

- Grave openings-weekdays from \$300 to \$400
- Grave openings-weekends from \$350 to \$450
- Grave openings-infants from \$100 to \$150
- Grave openings-cremations from \$100 to \$150

- Water deposit will remain unchanged at \$175.00
- Copies remain at \$.20 each
- Faxes remain at \$2.50 per page

Mayor Lewis explained that towns are now charging a recreation impact fee on newly developed lots, which is kept in a separate fund, to help improve infrastructure to meet growth demands. This action may require special legislation. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to charge \$250 per newly developed lot.

In response to a request from Carolina Gateway Partnership for a contribution to help promote the Industrial Park in Middlesex, the Board agreed to include \$500.

Chief Ferrell requested to apply for a Governor's Crime Commission Grant for a Mobile Data Upgrade for the police cars which is a 75% grant and 25% match. The total grant would be \$25,000 with a net cost to the town of approximately \$6,250. The Board agreed to include in budget.

The Board agreed not to increase their salaries, but increased their expense account from \$800 this fiscal year budget to \$2,000 for 2007-2008 to allow for meetings with developers, realtors, and engineers to promote the right kind of growth for the town.

Joyner explained to the Board the need for upgraded computer hardware and software. He had not received final quotes from Ameritech for hardware or Logics for the windows software upgrade, but gave ballpark estimates. The Board was in agreement that leasing was the best option for the hardware at \$1,860 a year versus purchase for \$6,900 and agreed that both upgrades should be included in the budget. Before the next budget meeting, Joyner will address concerns regarding any third party service support.

The Board requested more cost information before deciding to update the Town Code of Ordinances.

After a brief discussion regarding the public works facility upgrade, the Board agreed to include \$100,000 in the draft budget until Commissioner Bissette could verify a price on a 50' x 100' ft metal shell building with insulation and two roll-up doors and concrete floor for \$50,000.

Mayor Lewis proposed to change the allocation formula for the town's contribution to the Fire Department to equal the fire tax rate. The town would need to adopt a resolution to this effect. The current fire tax rate is \$.05 per \$100 valuation and the Board was in agreement to the proposed change.

Joyner presented a list of Powell Bill streets that need paving. Commissioner Hough requested to review the list with Joyner, compare to his earlier notes, and agree on priority. All Commissioners agreed to include \$250,000 for Powell Bill street paving.

The Board was in agreement that the town needs a new dump truck and requested to include a ballpark figure of \$30,000 and to get a diesel versus gasoline engine.

The Parks and Recreation budget will remain unchanged at \$4,000 from the 2006-2007 budget.

Commissioner Bissette will get a quote for tearing down the old wall, hauling it off, and digging the footing for the cemetery wall. Everyone agreed to include \$30,000 commenting that the wall is unsightly, is definitely a project that needs to be done in the near future, and that no paving should be started until the wall is completed.

The Centennial Program budget will remain unchanged at \$4,000 from 2006-2007.

After a brief discussion on the Centennial Park Project the Board agreed to include \$7,500 in the budget and will review again after Joyner receives a list from the Beautification Committee of priorities and associated costs so we can apply for a grant.

Mayor Lewis stated that we should include in the budget \$11,000 each year for five years for the Hanes Company inducements, which is equal to 50% of the property taxes paid up to \$4,500,000.

The Board gave it's OK to include \$1,290 for an actuarial study through the League of Municipalities for post employment benefits, which all towns will be reporting as a liability in the future as required by the Governmental Accounting and Standards Board.

Joyner did not recommend any increases in water and sewer rates. The Board agreed that they would rather go up on the overall rate than to change the minimum back to 2,000 gallons, which was changed in July 2005. They agreed to leave the \$175.00 deposit per meter unchanged.

The Board agreed to leave the acreage and impact fees unchanged for water and sewer.

Although a sewer jetter is in the current budget, the Board agreed the best option for the town would be to contract with TV-A-Pipe to clean and video for \$1.25 per linear foot. We have approximately 25,000 linear feet of lines and we are required by the state to clean a minimum of 10% or 2,500 ft. Total cost to be included in this budget to clean and video is \$3,125.

The committee for the joint Middlesex/Bailey Recreation Sports Complex is requesting that Middlesex contribute \$250,000 over a five year period. Mayor Lewis stated that we should place this as a special line item in the budget. No amount was decided at this time.

A second Budget Workshop was scheduled for Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Basco Lewis moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.  
Commissioners  
Harold Meacombs  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Derek Bissette  
Basco Lewis