

June 12, 2006

On June 12, 2006 the Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Lu Harvey Lewis, Jr. and Commissioners Fred Hough, Harold Meacombs, Luke Robinson, Derek Bissette and Basco Lewis. A guest list of those present is attached to these minutes. Mayor Lewis gave an invocation and called the meeting to order, stating that the first item of business was a Public Hearing scheduled for the discussion of the 2006-2007 budget.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for discussion of the budget and Dale Bachman made a comment in reference to the \$4,000 yearly fee for storing the Christmas lights and wondered if the town might want to consider storing the lights and have the town employees put them up each year. Mayor Lewis responded to his question by stating that it was an idea worth exploring.

Being no further input on the budget, the hearing was declared closed at 7:45 p.m. and the regular scheduled town meeting was opened, and Commissioner Hough moved to accept the agenda with the following additions: (1) specify type of grass to be used for land disturbed by replacing sewer laterals. Hough's motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously,

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to approve the Financial Statements for the month of May. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and carried unanimously.

The board reviewed information on the estimated lost revenues in the water and sewer funds due to reducing the minimum usage from 3,000 to 2,000 gallons, and also reviewed a letter from Nash County committing \$12,500 funding for the Middlesex Library for 2006-2007, an increase of \$1,000.00 from the previous year.

Chief Ferrell gave a report on the activities of the Police Department for the previous month, there were no discussions on the report.

Commissioner Lewis stated that four (4) tables needed to be added to the Community Building and the Board requested Gordon to check pricing and report at the next meeting.

Commissioner Bisette moved to rescind Title 4 Municipal Utilities, Chapter 1 Water System and Chapter 2 Sewer System, and to adopt the Title 4 Municipal Utilities Ordinance, Chapter 1 and 2 as proposed. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and it carried unanimously.

The entries were presented for the town emblem and logo. Mayor Lewis appointed Commissioners Meacombs and Bisette and Gordon Joyner, Town Administrator as a subcommittee and instructed them to choose the top three logos from the top five as presented to the subcommittee by the remaining Commissioners and bring these back before the Board.

Gordon Joyner, Town Administrator, stated that he needed to know exactly where the Board wanted to place the signage and the locations must be flagged before he approaches DOT about placing them on the right of ways. Joyner recommended to the board that one commissioner be appointed and be given authority to decide the exact locations of the "Welcome to Middlesex" signs. Mayor Lewis stated that he, along with Commissioner Bisette would work with Joyner to flag the locations. Everyone was in agreement.

Joyner presented quotes for the brick pillars for all four signs as follows:

- Contractor #1, \$7,650 with wood backboard, \$9,850 with brick backboard.
- Contractor #2, \$5,600 with wood backboard and \$8,800 with brick backboard.

Quotes were presented for several types of lettering and the board was in favor of the formed plastic letters mounted to the brick instead of the cast aluminum in brushed gold due to the enormous price difference as follows:

- \$900 per sign totaling \$3,600 for all four signs; **OR**
- \$2,190 per sign for the brushed gold letters totaling \$8,760 for all four signs.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept the least expensive bid of \$12,400 plus tax for all four signs, which consists of Donnie Price's bid of \$8,800 for 4 signs in all brick, and Signs Now's bid of \$3,600 total plus tax for formed plastic letters. Commissioner Hough seconded his motion and it carried unanimously.

The board was in agreement to proceed with the recommendation of the Beautification Committee for the color of the brick and lettering.

Hazel Parker, Manager at Oakdale Apartments, addressed the Board stating that she started the petition to add the K-9 drug dog to the force and said she thought it would be a great addition to the force. Steve Bissette also added that he was in favor of the K-9 and that it would be a great help to the force. Administrator Joyner advised the board that he would update associated costs and guidelines to be set and would report at the next meeting.

Joyner reported that eight abatement orders have been ignored and he must have board approval to proceed. Commissioner Bissette moved to proceed with the next step of sending letters giving notice that after 14 days, the \$100 a day fine will begin. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

After a citizen's request for a specific type of grass to be reseeded after a sewer lateral was replaced in their yard with grant funds, Administrator Joyner called the Rural Center for their guidelines on the subject. He advised the Board that the Rural Center has no objection to using grant funds to rake and sow fescue to hold until other grass grows back, but sowing specific types of grass would not be permissible.

Ron Sutton, with Sutton-Herring Engineers, representing PLT Concrete Services addressed the Board with a request for sewer to an out of town location on 264 Alt .near the Wake/Nash County line across from our last lift station. He stated that the \$2-3 million dollars facility would use water only for office bathrooms and sinks and therefore use only about 2,000 gallons of sewer flow. He stated that PLT Concrete would be a good corporate citizen. The plant will be using only 6 acres of a 20-acre tract of land. Mayor Lewis asked Mr. Sutton if PLT would be willing to be annexed and he stated that they would not. He stated that PLT would have no problem paying double sewer rates and would foot the entire bill for installing the sewer lines, taps, meters or whatever was needed. Mayor Lewis advised Mr. Sutton that Middlesex will have to request permission from Zebulon to add any additional sewer flow for industry and advise Mr. Sutton that we would get back to him as soon as possible.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adopt a Resolution ratifying and confirming the relationship between the Town of Middlesex, Nash County's outside cable consultant and attorney with respect to representation on cable matters. This resolution states that Action Audits, LLC and attorney Cynthia Pols represents Middlesex in all cable matters. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously.

No action was taken on the Resolution opposing tolling on I-95.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Town of Zebulon advising of a price increase of 18 cents per 1,000 gallons (from \$1.83 to \$2.01 per 1,000 gallons) effective July 1, 2006. Everyone was in agreement that the town had no choice but to pass the increase on to the consumer because over \$45,000 in reserve fund balance is needed to balance the 2006-2007 budget. Commissioner Meacombs moved to increase the sewer rate 25 cents per 1,000 gallons effective July 2006. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner stated he needed to do more research on his request for clarification on the town's policy on training and training related reimbursements.

After a brief review of the current policy on court pay for the police department, Commissioner Bissette moved to give equal time in comp time for court time served and reimburse officer for use of their personal vehicle at the applicable rate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and it carried unanimously. The previous policy was \$25.00 per event, regardless of how long the officer had to stay in court.

As a result of painting the town shop and replacement of a door, Commissioner Robinson moved to approve a 2005-2006 budget amendment as follows:

Public Buildings:

10-500-33	Departmental Supplies	+ 500.00
10-500-57	Miscellaneous	+ 100.00

Community Building:

10-502-15	main. of bldgs & grounds	- 600.00
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His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and it carried unanimously.

After reviewing the color code of Village Square Subdivision on the zoning map, Mayor Lewis noted that the zoning and meeting minutes for Village Square Subdivision reflect the correct zone and that only the color on the map is incorrect. Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the correction of the color from yellow to pink for Multi-family (RH). Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

From two bids for painting the community building, one for \$2,000 and one for \$1200, Commissioner Hough moved to accept the \$1200 bid from Ricky Pearce. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner asked the Board to set some specific guidelines to allow use of the community building free of charge for special circumstances, for example, a meeting for the purpose of bringing a business to Middlesex or to pursue items beneficial to the town. The Board requested Joyner to establish and present the guidelines at the next meeting.

A property tax release from Nash County for Stallings Coastal was reviewed. This release pertains to a discovery as a result of a Nash County Audit that billed taxes and late listing penalties for years 2000 through 2005. Commissioner Hough moved to release the tax values as received from Nash County for each year as follows:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TAX VALUE RELEASED</u>
2005	\$544,322.00
2004	356,846.00
2003	369,399.00
2002	401,229.00
2001	389,155.00
2000	407,394.00

Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion regarding the IRS ruling and the requirement of the state statutes that local governments must treat elected officials as employees, issuing W2 forms rather than Form 1099 for payments, and must withhold Social Security (FICA) and income taxes. Commissioner Hough moved to half the monthly salary and issue a biweekly paycheck for each member of the Governing Body deducting the FICA and withholding taxes. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson seconded and it carried unanimously.

Clerk Lambert presented a request from Elsie Jackson to either grade and lengthen the existing walking track or build a new one. Mayor Lewis stated that it is a project that we would look into.

After Administrator Joyner pointed out a pay inequity existing where an officer under the supervision of the Corporal is at the same rate of pay, Commissioner Bisette moved to increase the salary of Corporal Dennis Murray by \$1,200 a year for the 2006-2007 budget. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the following sewer adjustments:

- (1) Rachel Coates from \$48.00 to \$24.00
- (2) Mozelle Icenogle from \$1236.00 to \$24.00
- (3) Joyce Eatmon from \$60.00 to \$24.00
- (4) Brad Turnage from \$360.00 to \$36.00

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bisette and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to upgrade the Pay Class Code Chart to reflect the 3% cost of living effective July 1, 2006. Commissioner Bisette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Proposed 2006-2007 Budget presented reflected the Board's requested change from the previous meeting moving \$5,000 from Parks & Rec. to Streets & Sidewalks for signage and landscaping projects. Also, the Nash County contribution to the library was increased \$1,000 from \$11,500 to \$12,500. With the 25 cent per 1,000 gallons increase in the sewer rate, the figures need to be reviewed and adjusted. In order to allow time to review these numbers again, the Board agreed we would recess.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to recess to Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 8:00 p.m., which will be directly following the Land Use Plan Committee Meeting here at the Town Hall, to adopt the 2006-2007 Budget and to get back with PLT Concrete Services on their sewer service request and finish any other business.

Jennifer Lambert  
Clerk

Mayor Lu Harvey Lewis, Jr.  
Commissioners  
Harold Meacombs  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Derek Bisette  
Basco Lewis