

July 10, 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., Commissioners Fred Hough, Harold Meacombs, Luke Robinson, Derek Bissette and Basco Lewis. Forty seven people attended including the Governing Body and Attorney Liz Fairman. The guest list is attached. Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order, gave the invocation, and opened the floor for the Public Comment Session. No one had any comments.

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

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the agenda with no changes. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis turned to floor over to Ms. Amina Turner, Executive Director of the NC NAACP, to address the Board regarding the cross burning at the Edward Few residence and subsequent actions. Ms. Turner spoke for about ten minutes regarding the numerous incidents at the Few residence over the last several weeks, including the cross burning, spray painting of KKK on the propane tank, harassing phone calls, sugar put in vehicle gas tanks, break-ins, and the electric meter being pulled. They feel that the Police Department has not done enough to try to solve the case and she called for equal protection by law enforcement for all citizens.

Mayor Lewis stated that our Police Department has been diligent in responding to every call from the Few's and officers have spent many hours investigating the case. He advised that we are using all available resources to solve the case and is confident that it will be solved. He thanked her for coming and thanked all the visitors for coming.

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

Chief Ferrell advised the Board that he should have a reply within the next two weeks on the GHSP grant for the car and trailer.

Administrator Joyner advised the Board that the Beautification Committee met with Mr. Jay Leggett of Landscape Designs, Inc., looked at the walking track area, and should present a report next month with recommended upgrades to the entire area.

Commissioner Bissette moved to accept the recommendation of Dr. Michael Acquesta, the town's engineer, to slip line the sewer main on Selma Road due to further investigations proving serious root intrusion. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The top three picks of the committee were #2, #3, and #4 out of 45 submissions for the Logo Competition. These three were passed among the Board for review and discussion at the end of the meeting.

Commission Meacombs moved to approve the Community Building Rental Fee Waiver Policy as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously. The fees will be waived only when the requestor clearly demonstrates an economic advantage to or for the Town of Middlesex and is consistent with the overall development goals and objectives of the town.

Administrator Joyner advised the Board that the startup costs of the Police K-9 would be \$662.00 and the annual recurring costs would be \$532.00, the same as presented in his October 10, 2005 memo. He advised the Board that the officer, Tim Kapp, may be accepted into the military within the next couple of months, but recommended that we implement the K-9. Commissioner Bissette stated that he would like to review the guidelines drafted by Chief Ferrell before voting on the issue. Therefore, the matter was tabled until August.

After talking with NC DOT regarding the site locations for the entrance signs, Administrator Joyner advised the Board that we cannot place the brick column signs on the right of ways. A DOT official will meet with Gordon in the next few days to make sure our site flags are out of the right-of-ways so the project is tabled until August.

A letter from Dr. Michael Acquesta stated that he reviewed video tapes of the South Elm Street sewer line. He suggests that we dig up a tap and if the PVC has jagged cuts as he suspicions, he recommends we do a point repair at each tap on S. Elm. Commissioner Robinson moved to proceed as recommended. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner recommended a change to the current sewer adjustment policy of only one adjustment per year. He recommended to change the adjustment policy to allow adjustments for every leak or loss that meets the criteria as follows:

Adjustments, as approved by the Town Administrator, may be made for sewer charges as a result of excessive (above usual or normal) water consumption. To qualify for an adjustment, the consumer shall demonstrate that the excess was:

1. 3,000 gallons greater than the most recent twelve month average consumption.
2. the result of leaks or losses and or other circumstances beyond the control of the consumer.
3. not due to negligence, misuse, or voluntary consumption of or by the consumer.
4. not the result of a condition or circumstances for for which a previous adjustment was made.
5. due to an annual filling of an existing or newly installed swimming pool. (Adjustments for these purposes shall be limited to one in any twelve month period).

All Board members were in favor of adding #6 as follows:

6. In all cases where the overage enters the sewer system, only one adjustment will be given in any twelve month period.

Commissioner Hough moved to approve the revision to the sewer adjustment policy as stated above effective July 10, 2006. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette moved to approve the following sewer adjustments:

- (1) Oris Stallings from \$324.00 to \$36.00
- (2) Video Control Systems from \$300.00 to \$24.00

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11 (a) (6) for an employee evaluation, and G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5) for discussion of possible acquisition of real property. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and carried unanimously.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Meacombs moved to have Gordon Joyner merge the color scheme and graphics and the theme for #3 and #4 into one logo, present the merged logo at the August meeting and consider the competition a tie. The \$200 first prize and the \$100 second prize will be split between the two winners, Dale Bachmann and Morgan Hough, awarding \$150 to each. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Bissette moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Clerk

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