

August 8, 2005

The Middlesex Governing Body held a Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the town hall to hear a request from Tracey Wiggins for a Special Use Permit to operate a child day care center at 12360 East Hanes Avenue. Ms. Wiggins and Maurice Elliot were present. The only other guest present was Timothy Kapp, who was present for an interview for a police officer position.

Mayor Lewis opened the hearing, stating that the building is located in a C1 Zone (Commercial Business), which prohibits day care centers. Lewis, who is also the Chairman of the Planning Board, stated that the Planning Board recommends to the Town Board to amend the present Zoning Ordinance to allow day care centers in C1 by Special Use Permit.

Mayor Lewis asked Ms. Wiggins if she would like to present her request. Maurice Elliot addressed the Board in Ms. Wiggin's behalf. He presented a handout stating the benefits this day care would be for citizens and the town. Elliott advised that the facility would not only be a day care, but an educational center, it would be in a safe place (close to the Police and Fire Stations) and that he and Ms. Wiggins have experience in operating a day care center and teaching children.

Being no further questions or comments, Mayor Lewis thanked them for their interest and closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Lewis called the regular meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and gave the invocation. Commissioners Luke Robinson, Derek Bissette, Basco Lewis, Harold Meacombs and Fred Hough were present.

Mayor Lewis asked for requests for additions to the agenda. Town Administrator Gordon Joyner requested to add (1) participation in the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Campaign, (2) sewer adjustment requests from Jason Hopkins and Sonia Bracamonte, (3) interview Timothy Kapp for a full time police officer's position., and (4) approve NC State Retirement System training class on December 1 in Nashville, NC for Clerk Jennifer Lambert. Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the agenda, including the additions. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis then turned the meeting over to the town's engineer, Michael Acquesta, to review a proposal to apply for a grant through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for funds up to \$1 million to be used solely for sewer rehabilitation. This would be 80% grant and 20% match from the town. The 20% match could be town employee labor, or other grant funds (\$300,000 remaining from the Rural Center grant) resulting in no cash expended by the town. Earth Tech will prepare the application free of charge. They would need a resolution passed by the Board before pursuing the application process.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to adopt the resolution to apply for the \$1 million dollar grant through Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Acquesta also reviewed the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG), which he applied for through Congressman Etheridge's office in December 2005 for \$490,000. These funds, if awarded, could be used for water, sewer or storm drainage. This grant is a 55% grant with 45% matching funds from the town. Remaining funds from the current sewer rehab project (\$300,000 remaining) could be used as the 45%. We should hear something from this grant request between November 2005 and January 2006. He advised the Board that he would write Congressman Etheridge to follow up on this grant request.

Commissioner Hough moved to accept the July Financial Statements as presented by the Clerk. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Town Administrator Gordon Joyner advised the Board that Barry Page, Water Services Specialist for the City of Wilson came Monday, August 1, 2005 and visited well #4 on Finch Avenue. To clear iron and manganese from the water supply, he recommended (1) we add chlorine before filtration instead of after, as we had been doing, (2) extensive flushing of all hydrants with full force, and (3) add calcium phosphate after filtration. He also found that the ball valve was stuck in the filter pump and that has been replaced. Red water complaints have significantly reduced. Mayor Lewis also recommended that we flush at all dead ends periodically.

Administrator Joyner recommended to hire a fifth full time officer based on conversations with Chief Ferrell. This would reduce the part time officers needed, which would, in turn, create consistency and continuity in the department and help attain good public relations with the citizens.

Joyner reviewed several projects and objectives he is continuing to work on in the next several months in the areas of operations and maintenance, management and administrative, town ordinances and policies, and hazard mitigation actions. He pointed out several contradictory items between ordinances and policies that are in place and recommended that they be clarified. He recommended that the Board appoint a Safety Committee and create an Emergency Response Plan/Recall Procedure. Joyner will develop and update these policies and procedures and present to the Board at a later date.

Administrator Joyner met with Bob Sepe of Action Audits, Nash County Manager Bob Murphy, and several other municipal representatives to discuss the transfer of Adelphia Cable to Time Warner/ComKast. The Board must act on a resolution to this effect and now is the best time to negotiate to improve and broaden services. A report will be presented at a later date.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Meacombs moved to change travel to be reimbursed at the current IRS rate at the time of travel effective immediately, as recommended by Joyner. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously. The rate at the present time is 40 cents per mile.

Commissioner Bissette moved to change the language in the personnel policy, Article III, Section 17, Training Approval, Page 16 as follows to correct a word omission: "All participation in training, workshops, schools, conferences and meeting must have prior approval of the Town Administrator and appropriate designated Commissioner....". Commissioner Meacombs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette moved to appoint Town Administrator Gordon Joyner as Safety Coordinator for the town as stated in the job description, and to amend the Safety Policy to reflect this change. His motion was seconded and Commissioner Lewis and was carried unanimously. The appointment of a Safety Committee was tabled until the next meeting to allow the Commissioners time to review.

Administrator Joyner reviewed the minutes of the Planning Board meeting on August 1, 2005. Mr. Isaac Lewis and Bobby Stanley, of JIBE Enterprises, came to town hall and questioned that the Board had changed the Zoning Ordinance for Southwinds Subdivision (along Stokes Road). At the time the property was developed, mobile homes were allowed in a RA Zone on individual lots. However, the Zoning Ordinance was amended in January 2004, and no mobile homes are allowed in any RA Zone. They feel the Town Board changed the ordinance in midstream and is denying their rights, after they have invested so much in the project. Following a brief discussion, the Board was in agreement that JIBE must apply for rezoning of the property in order to place a single or doublewide mobile home in Southwinds.

Cass Wigent, representative of Keep America Beautiful (KAB) is requesting a representative from the Middlesex area to join KAB as a committee member. This matter was tabled until a later date.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve for Jennifer Lambert to attend a conference in Nashville, NC sponsored by the NC State Retirement Systems December 1, 2005. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson requested Administrator Joyner to obtain quotes for removal of a tree on West Hanes Avenue that is cracking the sidewalk. Quotes will be presented at the September meeting.

At the recommendation of the Planning Board, Commissioner Hough moved to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow day care centers in a C1 (Commercial Business) by Special Use Permit. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to grant Tracey Wiggins a Special Use Permit to operate a day care center at 12360 East Hanes Avenue provided she meets all requirements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the following sewer adjustments:

- (1) James Kale from \$168.00 to \$48.00
- (2) Edward Haag from \$132.00 to \$72.00
- (3) Sonia Bracamonte from \$504.00 to \$48.00
- (4) Jason Hopkins from \$120.00 to \$48.00

Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session to interview Timothy Kapp for a full time police officer's position. The motion as seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously.

Once back in Open Session, Commissioner Bissette moved the hire Timothy Kapp as a full time police officer at a salary of \$26,500 per year. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Being no further business, Mayor Lewis adjourned the meeting.

Jennifer Lambert
Town Clerk

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