

September 10, 2007

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on September 10, 2007. Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. Commissioners Basco Lewis, Derek Bissette, Luke Robinson, Fred Hough, and Harold Meacombs were present. Dale Bachmann and Rose Cushing (Spring Hope Enterprise) were the only guests.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the Public Comment Session and there was no input, and the session was closed.

Commissioner Hough moved to approve the minutes of the August 13th and August 23rd minutes. Hough's motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

Administrator Gordon Joyner requested to add two Earth Tech contracts for new grant/loan projects to the agenda, one for engineering services for a water pump station, elevated tank and water well; and the second for engineering services for the town's centennial park. Commissioner Hough moved to approve the agenda with the requested additions. Commissioner Bissette seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The clerk presented the financial statements for August. A motion was made by Commissioner Robinson to accept, seconded by Commissioner Hough, and carried unanimously.

Chief Ferrell advised the Board that the Governor's Crime Commissioner grant for the mini tasers and air cards was almost complete except for training on e-citation.

Commissioner Bissette asked that the grass be cut at the "Welcome to Middlesex" sign at Rockside and West Finch Avenue and Administrator Joyner stated he would relay message to Jeff Waddell.

Three quotes for a new dump truck were presented and discussed. The Board agreed to postpone the purchase until the first of the year.

Mayor Lewis advised the Board that the Draft Land Use Plan will serve as a guide for the next 10-15 years, that it was not set in stone, can be modified, and that the plan contained no zoning changes. Commissioner Hough moved to hold a Public Hearing to discuss the Draft Land Use Plan on October 8, 2007 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room at the Town Hall. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner reported that he and Jeff Waddell investigated the sewer line problem at Mary Helon Hales' house, and found the problem was not contributed to the work performed by the contractor during the sewer rehab project. The town's line under the street (Finch Avenue-264 Alt) had dropped and has been repaired by the town.

A motion was made by Commissioner Robinson to release a late listing penalty of \$23.15 for Time Warner Cable due to a request received from the Nash County Tax Office. Commissioner Bissette seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Joyner presented an amendment to the Personnel Policy, Article VI Employee Benefits, Section 5. Retirement System, to correct a contradiction regarding eligibility. Commissioner Hough moved to amend the first sentence as follows:

Change wording from: "Each employee who is expected to work for the Town more than 1,000 hours annually shall join the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System when eligible as a condition of employment."

Change wording to: "Each employee who is expected to work for the Town full time shall join the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System when eligible as a condition of employment."

Commissioner Hough moved to adopt the amendment as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously.

After a brief discussion about citizens reserving the public park on West Hanes Avenue, Commissioner Bissette moved to adopt the Reservation Agreement presented by Joyner stating the rules and regulations, the addition of a \$50 refundable deposit to reserve the picnic area, the playground, or both areas, and to include in the agreement a deposit exemption for Middlesex Elementary School. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Clerk presented a letter from the N.C. Department of State Treasurer's Office stating that beginning October 1, 2007, the town's September contribution must be submitted online through the new ORBIT software system and the funds will be electronically transmitted. Commissioner Hough approved the change, Commissioner Bissette seconded and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette moved to declare a Stage 1 Water Shortage Condition Advisory, which is a voluntary stage, and to mail notification to all citizens. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner's resignation stated the effective date as September 30th. However, after some discussion, Joyner told the Board he was flexible. He will be taking a couple of weeks off in late September or early October to take a trip and come back to work for a couple more weeks until we could get an advertisement in the paper. Following that period of time, Gordon will work with Mayor Lewis on his schedule. Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the resignation. Commissioner Hough seconded and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette moved to accept Joe Sherrick's resignation effective September 15, 2007, with September 14th as his last day of work. Commissioner Robinson seconded and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner presented Earth Tech's engineering service fees to prepare applications for funds to install a water booster pump to serve any growth on the western side of town due to lack of water pressure, and to erect a second elevated tank and a fourth water supply well to ensure that sufficient water resources will be available for the entire town. Earth Tech will prepare the USDA funding documents, the NC Local Government loan documents, and application to the NC Rural Center for a fee of \$17,600.

Mayor Lewis advised that he met with Gordon, Mike Harris of USDA Rural Development, and Michael Acquesta of Earth Tech on September 4th. The estimated cost of the entire project would be between \$850,000-\$900,000. Mr. Harris recommended we apply for a one million dollar grant/loan through USDA and apply to the Rural Center for a grant for \$500,000. Commissioner Meacombs stated the only avenue to free money was to apply. The board was in agreement to apply to USDA for \$1,000,000 and to the Rural Center for \$500,000. After a rather lengthy discussion, Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the Earth Tech contract to pursue the water pump station, tank, and well at a cost of \$17,600. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Luke Robinson and it carried unanimously.

A second contract from Earth Tech was presented for engineering services at a cost of \$5,000 to apply for a \$100,000 loan/grant for the town's Centennial Park. The contract includes preparation of USDA funding documents and Feasibility Report. Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the Earth Tech contract for \$5,000, Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into Closed Session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss an employee evaluation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and carried unanimously.

Back in Open Session, Mayor Lewis advised the Board that he will be attending a meeting on September 19th regarding the Little River Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and also will attend a Rural Water Workshop with Michael Acquesta on September 20th, which will give the town ten points toward our grant application.

Mayor Lewis also advised the Board that the signed Raleigh Wastewater Contract had just been received. The Clerk advised that the contract would be submitted the next day with the request for payment from the Rural Center and USDA Rural Development for the remaining grant funds due. When the funds are received, the town can then purchase the 50,000 gallons of additional sewer flow from Raleigh at \$7.00 per thousand as stated in the contract.

Being no further business, Commission Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

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