

October 8, 2007

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on October 8, 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. The guest list is attached and are part of these minutes.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for a Public Hearing to discuss the Middlesex Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Mr. Oliver Bass with the NC Division of Community Assistance was present to answer any questions. There was no public comment and Mayor Lewis closed the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m.

John Anthony, with Anthony, Moore & Tabb, PA presented the 2006-2007 audited financial statements which have been received and approved by the State Treasurers' Office. Mr. Anthony gave the town a clean opinion, stating that the financial statements represent a fair picture of the financial condition of the town. Cash increased \$105,000 in the General Fund from last year and the town has excellent financial reserves. Net income for the General Fund was 46,284. In the Proprietary Fund (water and sewer), the net loss of \$65,000 includes depreciation of \$150,000. Net income was \$85,000 without the depreciation. Mr. Anthony stated that we may receive a letter from the state regarding the loss because the water and sewer fund should be self-sustaining. Total sales from water and sewer were down 15% from last year, mostly due to lower consumption as a result of citizens conserving. The property tax collection rate was 98.07% for real and personal property. The motor vehicle tax collection rate collected by Nash County was 78.24%, and the state may comment on this, even though the state mandates that these taxes are collected by the county. Mr. Anthony commended the office staff for their work and stated that they operated the town in a very effective manner. There were no questions by the Governing Body. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Anthony.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the Public Comment Session. Mr. John Smith presented the town with a print of the Declaration of Independence from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a gift from his son, John Smith, Jr., who is a Purple Heart recipient and government employee. Mayor Lewis and the Board thanked Mr. Smith, along with a round of applause from the audience, and asked the Clerk to have the print framed and placed on the wall in the conference room.

No further comments were made from the public and the comment session was closed at 7:45 p.m.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the September meeting minutes as correct. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner requested to add two items to the agenda: (1) Item 10. Closed Session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter, and (2) under Old Business, Item 9d, the Town Administrator job announcement report & recommendation.

Commissioner Bisette moved to adopt the agenda with the two requested additions, his motion was seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to approve the financial statements for September as correct. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bisette informed the Board that even though his name appeared in Dale Bachmann's article to the editor of the Wilson Daily Times, he wanted to assure the other Board members that he had nothing to do with the article. He also told Gordon Joyner he appreciated the job he had done as Town Administrator.

The Middlesex Comprehensive Land Use Plan was adopted unanimously in a motion made by Commissioner Bisette and seconded Commissioner Meacombs. Mayor Lewis thanked Oliver Bass for his assistance with the project.

Administrator Joyner presented a map with recommended sites for more street paving. Commissioner Hough and Robinson stated that they looked at several streets during the weekend and none looked urgent. Joyner stated that he thought the Board asked him to bring back recommended paving sites not only because of need but to improve appearance, and that the Powell Bill funds are free money. Commissioner Meacombs noted that by the time the streets are identified and quotes received, asphalt plants will be closing. After much discussion, Commissioner Bisette moved to have Mayor Lewis, Commissioners Hough and Robinson decide on the streets and to have them paved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and it carried unanimously.

Joyner requested bids from four contractors on two separate occasions for the Hollywood Cemetery retaining wall project and received no replies. Commissioner Lewis obtained a bid of \$19,165 from Christopher Dawson, which had all costs itemized and seemed very reasonable. Commissioner Lewis moved to accept Mr. Dawson's bid of \$19,165. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bisette and it carried unanimously.

Joyner advised that the full time Town Administrator position was advertised five days for two consecutive weeks and no applications or resume's were received. He recommended that we go to a broader market. Mayor Lewis advised the Clerk to place the ad in the two League newsletters and change the deadline to read "open until filled". The Board agreed to have the Clerk get prices on packages and work with the Mayor to get the ad in the Sunday News & Observer.

Mr. Van Pearsall with Boy Scouts of America requested permission to establish an experiential law enforcement learning site with the Middlesex Police Department for Explorer

Scouts, based on discussions with Chief Ferrell and Administrator Joyner. For one to one and one-half hours twice a month, co-ed high school students, ages 14-20, would work with our Police Department and two adults, an officer and an adult volunteer at a cost of \$20 per year. The \$20 fee is for liability insurance coverage for the scouts as well as town personnel and officials. Commissioner Bissette moved to approve the Explorer Scout Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and it carried unanimously.

A motion made by Commissioner Bissette to purchase an extra taser for the police department to be used as a backup at a total cost of \$864.62 was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to release 2007 taxes billed to Ronnie Rhodes, DBA Rhodes Paint & Body totaling \$30.05 and Joseph Stan and Teresa Overman totaling \$36.47. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

In a motion made by Commissioner Meacombs, approval was given for Jeff Waddell to attend two one day seminars in Rocky Mount on November 6th at a cost of \$99 and on December 3rd at a cost of \$179. The first seminar is How to Supervise People and the second is Team Building and Organizational Skills. Meacombs' motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Joyner investigated the town's leaf collection system and advised the Board that the plywood box has to be rebuilt every two years and is very dangerous to use. He stated we could purchase a self-contained, 25 cubic yard pull behind system for \$27,000. Commissioner Meacombs agreed that the box is dangerous and it against rebuilding the leaf box, which Joyner said would last this fall season. The Board was in agreement that we should pursue the purchase of the vacuum system early next year, especially if we enforce the open burning ordinance.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into Closed Session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Bissette seconded and it carried unanimously.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Bissette moved for Gordon Joyner to remain on the payroll as proposed. Joyner proposed to follow through on several projects underway and coordinate with the Clerk to schedule all work on Tuesdays if possible. Work would not include any supervisory duties or responsibilities. Compensation is based on a minimum of a four-hour callback, plus one hour travel time. Mileage at 18 miles each way will be reimbursed by check upon receipt of a completed travel reimbursement request. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Joyner thanked the Board and stated he appreciated the opportunity to serve them and the town and the relationships with each one of them. Commissioner Bissette thanked Joyner for a job well done and Commissioner Meacombs added that since he has been Town

Administrator, our meetings have been more organized and more business was taken care of in a shorter amount of time.

Being no further business, Commissioner Bissette moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

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