

October 11, 2004

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session on October 11, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Mayor Pro Tem Larry Daniel, Commissioners Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, and Basco Lewis. Commissioner Harold Meacombs was absent. Mayor Daniel called to meeting to order and gave the invocation. Guests were Cherrye Davis, Ann M. Lewis, Cass Wigent, Ray and Cash Cameron, and Vennie Brock.

Mayor Daniel opened the floor for a Public Hearing on the Proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance for the Town of Middlesex. The Clerk defined hazard mitigation, how it affects Middlesex and reviewed reasons for developing the plan. There was only one question regarding the 100-year flood plain zone and Middlesex has no areas in this zone. Commissioner Hough moved to close the Public Hearing at 7:45 pm. Commissioner Robinson seconded his motion and it carried unanimously.

The board then went into regular session and Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the minutes of the September 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> meetings as correct. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mayor Daniel then recognized Cass Wigent, the Keep America Beautiful Coordinator for Nash and Edgecombe Counties. Mr. Wigent reviewed litter pickup campaigns, litter education, and litter costs in our state. He brought stickers, gloves, bags and other information about coordinating litter pickup campaigns and encouraged all citizens to volunteer and get involved. Mayor Daniel thanked Mr. Wigent for his presentation.

After the clerk reviewed the Financial Statements for September, Commissioner Hough moved to accept them as correct, Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Utilities Director Jeff Waddell reported Don Raynor has rechecked and noted the flow in all the manholes in town and as soon as we have a sizeable rain, he will return to recheck the flow to try to isolate the inflow problem. Also, rubber seals have been ordered to plug the manholes. Utility Service is trying to coordinate a crew to schedule the painting of the inside of the water tower in November. Jeff also stated he would like to address the Board in closed session about a replacement for Dennis Wheeler, who had to resign to due to disability.

Chief Ferrell reported that the painting at the Police Department has been completed and that the 2001 Crown Vic transmission has no overdrive. After presenting a proposal from Leith Ford for a new transmission for \$1492.18 and labor a \$420, the

Board was in agreement that a new transmission versus a rebuilt one would be the better choice, which includes a three (3) year or 36,000 mile warranty. Commissioner Hough moved to accept the proposal, Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson, the Board Representative to the library, asked Cherrye Davis to review a request for additional space. Ms. Davis stated that the library cannot take any donated books, there was no space to set up computers, even ones that could be donated, the wiring is inadequate, and they needed more electrical outlets. The library now holds GED classes and could possibly add computer classes if space was available. Ms. Davis requested that the town give the library the community building or consider adding on double the existing space of the library. After a lengthy discussion regarding all the options, including moving the library next door to the town hall, it was decided that the citizens of the town should have some input. Ms. Davis will coordinate with the Clerk to attach a brief survey to the utility bills being mailed on November 1, 2004.

Mayor Daniel stated that Cherrye Davis has been collecting a lot of information on the history of the town and would chair a committee for a bicentennial celebration for the year 2008. He encouraged others to participate, stating that it was not too early to begin preparations.

Mayor Daniel recognized Ray and Cash Cameron, who requested to address the Board regarding another letter they received last month advising that their junk yards continue to be in violation of the town's zoning ordinance and must be cleaned up in 30 days. Peggy Bisette, the Zoning Administrator was absent, so Clerk Lambert stated that this has been an ongoing situation for many years and the town hall continues to receive complaints from citizens.

Mr. Ray Cameron stated that his and Cash Cameron's junk yards were not in town until the town annexed this property. Upon being asked if the junk on E. Hanes Avenue around the New Life Holiness Church, Poplar Street, S. Elm, and Jones Street was all on their property both Ray and Cash Cameron stated that all junk was on their property. Both gentlemen stated that they had been doing business here in Middlesex all their life, that they were just trying to make a living, were doing this before we annexed them in the city limits, and stated that they have been cleaning up and will continue to clean up the junk in these areas. The police department has been instructed to take pictures of the areas so we can determine any progress made and Chief Ferrell stated he has two sets of pictures to date showing very little, if any progress.

After being asked by the Board members, the Cameron's would not give a date by which the cleanup would be completed. They also stated that they were grown men and do not like being told what to do. Mayor Daniel stated he would talk with Peggy Bisette and find out where all the property lines were they would go take another look at the area in question.

Commissioner Lewis moved to adopt the Middlesex Hazard Mitigation Plan and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, and the Resolution of Adoption. Commissioner Hough seconded and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to accept Dennis Wheeler's resignation. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adopt the Resolution of Participation in the NC Debt Setoff Program. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to go through the NC Debt Setoff Program to try to recover the lost rent and cleanup costs resulting from Jamie Jernigan's default on the lease agreement for The Tackle Shop. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

All requests for rental of the building next door were tabled until a decision is reached regarding the possibility of moving the library.

The Clerk reviewed a memo from Peggy Bisette to the Board regarding various zoning projects in progress.

There was a brief discussion regarding Mr. Jason Story's letter requesting a sewer adjustment. Mr. Story stated in this letter that we billed him for 6,000 gallons of water but he just doesn't see where that is possible. Vennie Brock, his landlord, stated that everything has been checked and they could find no problems. The Clerk stated that allowing this adjustment would set a bad precedent, but Vennie Brock stated we set that precedent last month when we gave Middlesex School an adjustment based on the same circumstances.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the following sewer adjustments:

1. Father & Son Restaurant from \$468.00 to \$324.00
2. Louis Driver from \$180.00 to \$24.00
3. Mozelle Icenogle from \$456.00 to \$36.00
4. Jason Story from \$72.00 to \$24.00

Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 2 to 1, with Commissioner Hough being the dissenting vote.

The review of the proposed Organizational Chart for the town was tabled until all Commissioners could be present.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go to into Closed Session to discuss Dennis Wheeler's replacement in the Utility Department. Commissioner Lewis seconded and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to return to Open Session. Commissioner Lewis seconded and it carried unanimously. No action was taken to replace Dennis Wheeler.

Being no further business, Commissioner Hough moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert  
Town Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Larry Daniel  
Commissioners  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Basco Lewis