

Middlesex Governing Body Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2022

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Danny Alford, Cherrye Davis, J.W. McClenny, and Harold Meacombs. Commissioner Ann Lewis and Public Works Supervisor James Liles were not present. Police Chief Mike Collins was present. There was 17 guest at this meeting. The Enterprise was present.

Linda Cooper-Suggs from the NC House of Representatives from district 24 spoke on behalf of the new district that has Wilson County, Bailey, & Middlesex. She is very personable and grew up around this area so she is very familiar with the people and the struggles that they endure. She commented on what she is able to do because of her background and ability to do. She ended with please feel free to call her and she handed out business cards. She also extended an invitation to receive her newsletter if anyone is interested.

The January meeting minutes were approved unanimously as presented in a motion by Commissioner Alford and seconded by Commissioner Davis.

The meeting agenda was amended to add number g to new business for a document from SanfordHolshouser that is a proposal to serve the Town of Middlesex as bond council. A closed session was also added under G.S. 143-318.11. for economic development incentives.

The amended meeting agenda was unanimously approved as presented in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

Gloria Vinson, The Town Clerk, reviewed the January financials, which were unanimously approved as presented in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Mike Collins, The Police Chief let everyone know that his report was in the packet and while everyone is reviewing his report that he wanted to comment about a certain citizen Becky Strickland at a previous meeting and that Becky had made some accusations about his ability to do his job and had also questioned his christianity with his church. Becky stated that he had lied to her. The Chief also stated that Becky had basically attacked him in front of

everyone. He also stated the board feels beat down most of the time when they leave here and he knows because he knows that he does. He said several people come up to him each day and tell him how good a job the police department does each day and that is why these people are here tonight. Also that we would at the least feel refreshed when we left this meeting. He ended with that he would like a public apology in person from Becky Strickland at the next meeting.

Mayor Lewis reported 3 miscellaneous permits and there was 2 new house permit outside town limits being issued for the month of January. The shell building will close on February 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a scheduled ceremony on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. There is a lot of behind the scenes activities that are happening here that are going to change the dynamics of the town as we move forward. 118 lot subdivision on Graham Wood property will be moving forward and I hope to have the construction maps by the end of the month. It will be a really nice subdivision for the town and really nice tax increase for the town. To upkeep the police dept and public works so that we will not have to have a tax increase. We have a really good board. They have been really good to work for and I have worked in the past with other boards but the board that we have today. They are exceptional, they are from here, live here, and they are not going anywhere. That makes a lot of difference.

In old business, The Petway-Pearson Mills contract had been revised with a new contract price. It was \$9,500 reduced to 6,500 because when we receive of the amount of grant money that we have received that is why we need two audits our auditors Anthony & Tabb will be completing the first part of the audit and they will come in at the end and complete it.

In new business, 10 year old taxes need to be written off like we do every year. The amount is 3,202.72. These are uncollectable. Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept and Commissioner Alford seconded it and the motion was carried.

We will need a budget amendment for a police department grant for 24,500. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year that we have received this grant. Commissioner Meacombs made the motion to accept the budget amendment for this grant for monies to be spent on police dept supplies. Commissioner Alford seconded and it was unanimous. The second budget amendment for 15,000 was the one Matthew Winslow presented for police department for additional rehabilitations inside and outside of the building. Commissioner Alford made motion to accept budget amendment and Commissioner McClenny seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

We also need a budget amendment for our audit contract for \$735.00 in three departments which are administration, water, and sewer equals \$2,205.00 to be split up between them. Commissioner Alford made the motion to accept this budget amendment and Commissioner McClenny seconded it and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Police dept. needs a budget amendment for insurance in the amount of \$17,040. It was found to be omitted after an internal audit of our own when the budget was originally done as it was discovered to be a glitch in the logics programming. Commissioner Meacombs made the motion to accept the police dept insurance budget amendment and it was seconded by Commissioner Davis. The vote was unanimous.

Discussion was had about purchasing 2 more police vehicles with a USDA grant while our grant share is 75% up to \$50,000. In October, because of our increase in population and medium household income, our grant share will go down to 35% up to \$50,000 making it cost the town \$22,000 to \$25,000 more dollars in loan funds for 2 vehicles after the change. We can look at selling the higher mileage vehicles after we complete the new vehicle purchase. Commissioner Alford made a motion to move forward with the USDA grant application for 2 new police vehicles and it was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and the vote was unanimous.

We have received a SanfordHolshouser proposal to provide USDA Bond Counsel services. The 2 million loan grant process with USDA requires a bond counsel letter. If we borrow more than \$500,000 we will need this, if we don't we will not need this. The bond letter to go with the grant application Commissioner Alford made the motion for Mayor Lewis to sign to be turned in with the grant to accept it if needed and Commissioner Davis seconded and the vote was carried unanimously.

There were 6 public comments at this time. Several folks spoke on behalf of how good that the town is doing with Mike Collins at the helm and that our police department is the best it has been in years. We have received several grants for new police cars and equipment for the police department. With the town growing Mayor Lewis hopes that we can continue to get more grants so that we can continue to excel. Mayor Lewis commented that there is no I in team and that it takes a team to achieve what it takes to run this town. We are a team that works extremely well together and this is one exceptional board of commissioners.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session as allowed by G.S.143-318.11(a) (6) to discuss economic development incentives. Commissioner Alford seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Back in open session, with no further business Commissioner McClenny moved to adjourn. Commissioner Meacombs seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Gloria Vinson, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Mayor  
Luther H. Lewis, Jr.  
Commissioners  
Ann Lewis  
Danny Alford  
Cherrye Davis  
J.W. McClenny  
Harold Meacombs

