

Middlesex Governing Body Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2015

Mayor Lewis called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:30 pm and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Danny Alford, Cherry Davis, Ann Lewis, and J.W. McClenny. Only one guest attended.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the January 12 and 23, 2015 meeting minutes as presented by Clerk Lambert. Commissioner Davis seconded and the vote was unanimous.

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

Clerk Lambert presented the January financial statements, which were unanimously approved after a motion by Commissioner Alford and a second by Commissioner McClenny. Lambert advised the Board that Tammy Pittman completed two days Utilities Management Training at Logics in Raleigh and her six-month performance evaluation was completed. Lambert reported that everything is running smoothly and on schedule. Mayor Lewis pointed out the \$10,517.92 sewer treatment bill for the month of November. He negotiated with Raleigh to get the original bill of \$17,500 down to a twelve month average. The flowmeter is not reading properly and continues to give problems, and a solution will be discussed later in the meeting. Commissioner Alford asked if we have used any of the dye packets to find the infiltration. Mayor Lewis replied, "yes", but to date have found no signs of infiltration at those locations or anything out of the ordinary, but they are continuing the process.

Chief Dennis Murray reported that he has not received Colt Robbin's paperwork back from NC Training & Standards. As soon as Sammy Drake completes firearms training, he will take Drake's paperwork and hopes Colt's will be ready. In the meantime, Dennis reported that the department is covering "the best they can with what they've got".

There was a brief discussion about a ditch at the corner of Rockside Road and 264 Alternate. Someone was asking about the orange traffic cones. Mayor Lewis said it could be a natural spring. This location has been the source of an earlier problem. He added that they would try to find the source of the water when the weather gets better and the ground gets dry enough to investigate further.

Commissioner Davis presented a corrected library report for January, which indicated a lot more visitors.

Mayor Lewis reported the new doublewide and the new modular on Rockside Road are now on site and the meter has been installed for the doublewide. Also, the footing has been poured for a new house at the entrance to Village Square Subdivision on West Finch Ave. Paradise Homes has a couple of potential buyers for more lots in Southwinds Subdivision and KB Builders has a potential buyer for another house they built in Cedar Run Subdivision.

The flowmeter at the Mudcat Stadium lift station has been messing up and recording flow when the pumps are not pumping. It has been worked on and calibrated several times during November and December. The meter was purchased in September 2012, but not installed until December 2013, so the meter is over two years old, and out of the warranty period. The technician from Water Guard, who has been several times to work on and calibrate the meter, and has over twenty years of experience with meters, has given us a \$5,000 quote for a new mag meter, which he believes is a more reliable meter. He is installing a meter in Rocky Mount on February 20 for another customer and if he can install this one during the same trip, we could save \$200. In addition, he will not bill us the \$700 we owe for the work he has completed on the existing meter. There is money in the sewer budget in maintenance of equipment to purchase the meter. Mayor Lewis continues to explain the incorrect flow readings to the City of Raleigh. They have been billing us for a twelve-month average. Commissioner McClenny moved to go ahead and purchase the mag meter for the Mudcat Stadium lift station as quoted. Commissioner Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Lewis advised he would continue to update everyone if the situation changes.

Underwood, Inc. continues to work with us on the sewer pump problems. When we get the final figures for the three stations that are in dire need for pump replacement, we will go ahead and borrow the funds from Southern Bank. The town has already been approved for the loan.

Mayor Lewis presented a survey of cemetery fees charged by Bailey and Spring Hope for grave spaces and grave openings, along with the town's current rates and proposed new rates. Commissioner Lewis and McClenny met with Mayor Lewis and Clerk Lambert to discuss and review the survey last week. Mayor Lewis suggested the town increase rates to be more in line with surrounding towns. He also recommended we make the change effective immediately and not wait to incorporate the changes in the 2015-2016 budget. Board members were asked to consider making the front row of cemetery spaces available for sale. There are several spaces that would be available, which would generate a lot of revenue for the town. He noted that he would go back out to the cemetery and measure to get a better idea of exactly how many plots could be sold and the Board could revisit this idea at a later date. Commissioner Alford moved to increase the cemetery lot fees as proposed effective February 11, 2015. Commissioner Lewis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Following are the current and the newly approved rates:

	Current Rate		Effective 2/11/2015	
Cemetery Lots- Inside	\$500	Min. 2 spaces/\$1,000	\$800	2 spaces \$1600
Cemetery Lots- Outside	\$950	Min. 2 spaces/\$1,900	\$1,250	2 spaces \$2500
Mausoleum requires 4 spaces				
Grave Openings-Weekday	\$400		\$700	
Grave Openings-Weekend	\$500		\$800	
Grave Opening-Infant	\$150		\$300 Weekday/\$400 Weekend	
Grave Opening-Cremation Urn	\$150		\$300 Weekday/\$400 Weekend	

The Library budget for 2015-2016 must be submitted to Nash County by February 17, 2015. Nash County currently contributes \$13,230, of the \$31,600 library budget, and the town supplies the remaining \$18,370. The letter from Nash County states there will be no additional funding for the 2015-2016 budget. Mayor Lewis advised the Board that the majority of the \$18,370 is in salaries, and other than salaries, there are two choices to cut library expenditures. We could cut back in purchases of books, or cut back on hours open. Middlesex Library is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm or six hours a day. Mayor Lewis noted that the Town of Bailey does not contribute to the Bailey library, other than they own the building, and it is open only two days a week. Commissioner Davis commented that people are coming to the Middlesex library from Bailey. Mayor Lewis asked the Board to consider this as we move forward discussing the 2015-2016 budget.

Recently, we have had requests to lease the community building on Sundays for church services for a period of eighteen months to two years. We have also been approached by someone who wants to hold exercise classes at night on a weekly basis. Town policy has prohibited this in the past, but with the need for additional General Fund revenues, Mayor Lewis feels we need to revisit the policies and be able to accommodate these requests. The building was only rented seven Sundays in the past twelve months. Commissioner Alford commented that someone using the building on a regular basis for an extended period of time, should get a cheaper rate than the normal daily rate. Mayor Lewis added they must agree to all rules and regulations as any other renter. The Board asked Mayor Lewis to move forward on these requests and put together suggestions and bring back to the Board.

The Board agreed to hold a budget workshop at the end of the regular meeting on March 9, 2014. The Board agreed with Mayor Lewis that a draft budget for 2015-2016 would be submitted at that time. This draft budget will include no salary increases or capital projects. It will include only necessary operating expenses and a reasonable amount of funds needed for public buildings maintenance. This will allow the Board to see how much fund balance will be needed to balance the budget, and discuss where the revenue will be generated. By June, we should know if \$27,000 is available in the

Sewer Fund to pay back the General Fund for money used to pay Sewer debt in previous years.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for public comments and there were none.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the vote was unanimous.



Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

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