

Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2013

Mayor Lewis called the regular meeting to order at 7:30pm and gave the invocation. Commissioners present were Harold Meacombs, Danny Alford, Cherrye Davis, Dale Bachmann, and J.W. McClenny. Several guests attended.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for Public Comment. Robert Johnson requested the status of the park equipment. With no further comments, the session was closed.

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

Commissioner Bachmann requested to add a Closed Session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) for contract discussion. Commissioner Bachmann moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Alford seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The January financials were unanimously approved in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner Bachmann.

Commissioner Bachmann reported problems with grease in the sewer system, adding that it cost the town about \$800 today cleaning grease from the East Hanes pump station. He requested the assistance of all customers to stop putting grease in the sewer, stating that all help is appreciated. There are no drawings for the water lines for South Oak Street, so these lines must be located in order to complete the South Oak Street project. Since the lines on one side of the street have been replaced, there have been no problems with water quality on South Oak.

Mayor Lewis congratulated Commissioner Cherrye Davis on her appointment to the Braswell Library Board. The Library WiFi is working again.

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home Water Line Project will resume as soon as the boring company can begin work.

Town Attorney Liz Fairman advised Mayor Lewis that the Board could change the Town Charter to elect the Mayor every four (4) years, versus the present two (2) year term by one of two ways: a text amendment, which would require holding a public hearing and adopting a resolution; or, have a bill introduced and passed by the NC Legislature. Mayor Lewis added that Middlesex was the only town in Nash County where the Mayor has to run for office every two years and asked the Board if they wish to pursue the matter.

Everyone was in agreement to investigate the quickest route to have the Mayor's term changed to four years.

Commissioner Alford moved to hold a Public Hearing to review the updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance at 7:30pm on March 11, 2013 with the regular town meeting to follow. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bachmann and passed unanimously.

Unpaid property taxes for year 2002 totaling \$799.67 are now ten years old and must be written off per NC G.S.105-378(a). Commissioner Bachmann moved to write off the 2002 property taxes. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to pay the 2013 annual invoice totaling \$3,384 to the Nash County Recreation Department for recreational services in our area. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Alford and passed unanimously. Mayor Lewis noted that the payment was included in the budget.

Mayor Lewis reviewed payoff figures from NC DENR for the Well #4 loan and from USDA for the Sewer Rehab Loan. Sewer CD's totaling \$115,000 are only yielding .30% interest, while the loan interest is 4.25% to DENR. In addition, a restricted CD for the life of this loan totaling \$12,010 can be closed and used as part of the payoff. The payoff is \$88,418.79 as of February 28, 2013. Paying this loan off would save the town \$18,022.13 interest.

The Well #4 loan payoff quoted by NC DENR as of February 15, 2013 is \$43,975.17. Water Fund CD reserves total \$100,000, with an interest rate of .20%. The loan interest rate is 2.6%, and the town would save \$4,304 in interest.

Mayor Lewis pointed out he has discussed these payoffs with John Anthony, the town's auditor, and John agrees it would be a good move on the town's part to pay these loans off, saving the interest, as long as we put the reserves back into CD's over time. Mayor Lewis added that we should put the amount of the annual payment back into CD reserves, and more if possible, and everyone agreed.

Commissioner Bachmann moved to pay off both these loans as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alford and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Alford moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) for employee evaluations and G.S.318.11(a)(5) for contract discussion. Commissioner Davis seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Meacombs moved to increase Sergeant Scott Pollard's pay by \$.65 per hour, Officer Sammy Drake \$.45 per hour, Shelly Woodruff by \$.60 per hour, and James Liles \$.60 per hour effective with pay period beginning February 15, 2013, and to revisit Sergeant Pollard's status again in six months. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs also stated the consensus of the Board is to allow Chief Murray to drive his patrol car home.

Being no further business, Commissioner Alford moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

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