

Middlesex Governing Body Meeting Minutes
March 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. Approximately ten guests attended.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the February 9, 2015 meeting minutes as presented by Clerk Lambert. Commissioner McClenny seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The agenda was unanimously approved as presented in a motion by Commissioner Alford and seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

Mayor Lewis read aloud a proclamation to celebrate the week of March 8 – 14, 2015 as Girl Scout Week. Commissioner Alford moved to approve the 2015 Girl Scout Week Proclamation. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Lewis thanked the Girl Scouts from Troop 86 and their Scout Leaders, who presented Girl Scout cookies for enjoyment. The proclamation is attached and are a part of these minutes.

Clerk Lambert presented the February financial statements, which were unanimously approved after a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and a second by Commissioner McClenny.

Officer Vennie Brock was present to represent the Police Department in the absence of Chief Dennis Murray. Brock noted that several break-ins had been solved involving a juvenile.

In the Public Works Department, power outages resulting from storms caused problems and generators kept the Selma Road lift station operating. Power was out from Thursday, February 26 until Saturday, February 28 at 2:00 a.m. Lots of debris remains around town as a result of the storm and we continue to work on clearing it. Utility Supervisor James Liles reported both rotating assemblies in the sewer pumps at the Southern Seeds lift station were just replaced. He advised the check valves were bad in the Mudcat Stadium lift station and they are on order. Three sewer pumps were down today, but Liles reported he had them back up and running.

Commissioner Davis added that the library has plenty of new books in inventory.

Mayor Lewis reported the two new homes on Rockside Road have been sold and would add to the tax base. We should be receiving unpaid taxes on the doublewide

foreclosed and sold by Nash County located at the corner of Stokes and Rockside Road.

Mayor Lewis reviewed a letter from the NC Department of Transportation Powell Bill Program, stating the town has an excess accumulation of \$28,851.60, which must be spent before June 30, 2015. Mayor Lewis explained the town has completed a paving project about every three years in order to complete a sizeable paving project and get a good price. Since the allocations, which ran about \$26,000 in one payment a year, was changed a couple of years ago to two allocations (payments) per year of about \$13,000. This lowered our allowed accumulation from about \$250-260,000 for ten allocations to only \$130,000. Mayor Lewis then reviewed his letter to NC DOT requesting to allow the town to accumulate up to the sum of the past twenty (20) allocations as allowed by G.S.136-41.3(c), (instead of the current 10 allocations). Mayor Lewis advised the Board that the request has been approved and a revised Powell Bill history showing no excess accumulation was received and presented to the Board.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for public comments. Becky Strickland, a resident on North Chestnut Street, was the only speaker. With no other speakers, the session was closed.

*typo corrected by Board motion 5-11-2015.
original minutes stated "Walnut".*

Mayor Lewis then began discussing the 2015-2016 draft budget. Figures from the current year were used in most cases, since much information is not available at this time. This budget was prepared in this manner to see how much General Fund balance would be needed to balance the budget before any items were changed or increased, for example, health insurance costs, other insurance premiums, the new tax scroll estimates. Lewis noted there are a lot of unknowns, but this will give a general idea of how much tax increase would be needed to balance this budget with no changes from the current year. Big unknowns, Lewis added, such as insurance and the estimated tax scroll, will most likely be received in May. No salary increases or capital projects are included. In the Police Department, \$4,000 was included for a new heat/air system, and \$10,000 was included for public building maintenance.

Mayor Lewis referred to a spreadsheet showing revenue generated for each one-cent tax increase. A 13.5 cent tax increase would be necessary to cover the \$66,045 fund balance needed to balance this budget based on the current year figures.

Rates and fee schedules were reviewed. Cemetery rates were increased last month. Community Building rental fees and allowing churches to use the building will be determined later.

In General Fund expenditures, Logics Software annual maintenance and support will increase 3% or \$355. Library book purchases were cut \$500 from the current year.

In the Water and Sewer Fund, the projected long range planned increase is 6% for 2015-2016 according to the City of Raleigh in a meeting Mayor Lewis attended last year. We currently have no water debt, and the sewer debt for 2015-2016 is in CD reserves in the bank. At this time, no reserves have been replaced for the \$50,000 CD closed to pay off Well#4 loan. Also, no reserves have been replaced for the \$65,000 CD closed to pay off the USDA Sewer Rehab loan.


Included in the budget materials for Board members to review were all rate charts, property tax increase history, a letter indicating election costs estimated at \$2,205, a spreadsheet detailing all monies transferred from the General Fund in 2009 to pay Water and Sewer debt which has not been repaid, and a list of all CD's in the bank.

Commissioner Meacombs asked about the projected longevity of the trash truck. James Liles advised that the truck is in good shape and Hollis Welding has looked at the body recently and said he could weld the problem areas. Mayor Lewis added that we have repaired the hydraulic cylinders a couple of times this fiscal year. Meacombs added that we have no surplus for a truck, so when the time comes, we should look at contract garbage service again.

Mayor Lewis recognized Brandie Holt. Ms. Holt asked if the town would consider closing the town swimming pool since it has not been profitable for two years. Mayor Lewis replied the Board had previously agreed to give the pool three years to see if would be profitable, or at least break even. The Board continues to look at the pool financials occasionally and every year during budget discussions.

In closing the Budget Workshop, Mayor Lewis asked Board members to get back to him on any budget items which need to be discussed or any new information pertaining to the 2015-2016 budget and everyone agreed any items would be discussed at the end of the April meeting.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn. Commissioner McClenny 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