

Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2014

Mayor Lewis called the regular meeting to order at 7:30pm and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Danny Alford, Cherrye Davis, Ann Lewis, and J.W. McClenny. Close to twenty guests attended, including representatives from the *Nashville Graphic*, *Spring Hope Enterprise* and *Wilson Times*, the Bailey-Middlesex Park Committee, and several citizens.

The February meeting minutes were unanimously approved with a motion by Commissioner Alford and seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

Requested additions to the agenda were as follows: Add to New Business, Item c. Schedule a 2014-2015 budget workshop; Item d. Discuss a land gift; and add to the Closed Session; Item b. Discuss a contract. The amended agenda was approved unanimously in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the public comment session. Citizens Robert Johnson, Edna Mount, Brandie Holt, and Becky Strickland addressed the Board about various topics including parks, streets, and public records. Bailey Mayor Tim Johnson gave an update on the Bailey-Middlesex Park. The session was then closed.

Commissioner McClenny moved to approve the February financial report. Commissioner Alford seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis reviewed the February activities of the Utility Department and answered Robert Johnson's and Brandie Holt's questions regarding the Hanes Park shelter work, and street paving scheduling, to be started when weather permits.

Mayor Lewis congratulated Corey Friedman with the *Wilson Times* on receiving an award for his articles on public records, but asked where he got his information for his headline and the first paragraph in his most recent article. Mayor Lewis added that he did not have the same information. Mayor Lewis also thanked Bailey Mayor Tim Johnson for the update on the Bailey-Middlesex Park.

During the Commissioner's reports, Danny Alford expressed his concerns over the February 20, 2014 article in the *Spring Hope Enterprise* referring to Becky Strickland's tire being punctured after the February town meeting. Alford stated that he, nor any board members, condone any act of this nature and hopes the police get to the bottom of the incident. He questioned Becky Strickland's comment to the paper that she would not be intimidated, asking her what proof she had that anyone with the town had anything to do with her tire. Alford continued to address all the negative criticism the Board has been receiving from Robert Johnson, Brandie Holt, and Becky Strickland. He explained that they may not agree with how long the

Bailey Middlesex Park is taking, but pointed out that the town's had to find and purchase the land before the project started. He added that all the negative comments were not helping and urged them to think of what could be done if they would turn their negative actions into positive ones and work with the Town Board instead of against them. He also stated Mayor Lewis discusses town matters frequently with each Commissioner and keeps everyone well informed.

Also during the Commissioner's reports, Harold Meacombs answered to several negative comments in public comment in recent months, stating he considers himself to be a very ethical person and in the sixteen to seventeen years he has served the town, he has always considered the citizens in all actions. After all, he said, whatever effects every citizen, also effects him. He pointed out that he plans to continue to do what is best for the town and its citizens and has done nothing he is ashamed of during his tenure. He also answered that Board members are made aware of what Mayor Lewis is working on because he talks to each Board member beforehand.

Last year, the Board discussed and agreed to join Bailey and Nash County to complete a Regional Sewer Study by applying for a \$60,000 grant through the NC Rural Center, which had a 50% match. That grant is no longer available as a result of the changes at the Rural Center. Mayor Lewis met with Dennis Patton with Upper Coastal Council of Governments (COG) and Mike Myer with Envirolink to discuss any upcoming grants. He requested the board to renew participation in the grant for a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) of \$50,000 to complete the sewer study. Bailey would be the grant applicant. Commissioner McClenny moved to apply with Baily and Nash County for the TAG grant. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and the vote was unanimous.

In addition, a High Unit Cost (HUC) grant is available, in addition to the CDBG grant, which the Board has already agreed to pursue. Mayor Lewis requested the town to apply for this \$55,000 grant to cover work needed at Lift Stations 6, 7, and 8. We are also continuing to pursue the CDBG money to assist with fixing ten of the eleven lift stations in need of repairs. All three of these grants require no match. With an April 1, 2013 deadline, the town may have to apply in the May 1, 2014 round. There will also be another round of CDBG money in September. Commissioner McClenny moved to apply for the High Unity Cost grant. Meacombs seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Lewis noted that a second public hearing is required before the CDBG application is submitted. Commissioner McClenny pointed out that with all the town's priorities, nothing is more important or as serious as fixing the town's sewer system.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to hold a Public Hearing to amend the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO) at 7:30pm on April 14, 2014 prior to the regular

meeting. The town will need to adopt the Nash County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) maps dated July 7, 2014. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Alford moved to approve the following two amendments the town's personnel policy as presented:

## **ARTICLE VII: HOLIDAYS AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

### **Section 8. Vacation Leave: Maximum Accumulation**

**DELETE:** Effective the last payroll in the calendar year, any employee with more than the allowed accumulated leave shall have the excess removed. The excess amount removed shall be converted to sick leave and added to the employee's sick leave balance. Employees are not eligible to receive pay for excess vacation time not taken.

**REVISED:** On December 31 each year, up to one week above an employee's annual accumulated vacation may be carried forward to the next year, provided the employee has one week remaining over their maximum accumulation allowed for one year.

**DELETE:** Employees are not eligible to receive pay for excess vacation time not taken.

**REVISED:** Employees may request and receive up to one week of vacation pay in lieu of taking the vacation time off, provided the employee has at least two weeks of vacation accumulated per year.

Commissioner Lewis seconded and the two amendments were unanimously approved.

A 2014-2015 Budget Workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 3:00pm in the conference room at the town hall in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs. Commissioner McClenny seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Southland Partners, who purchased the tract of land for Creekridge Apartments, approached Mayor Lewis and offered two unused tracts of adjoining land as a gift to the town, pursuant to IRS regulations. One tract, about 1 ½ acres, is inside the city limits, and the second tract, about three (3) acres is in the county and adjoins the Middlesex Elementary School property. Property taxes on the parcel in town run \$67 in town tax and about \$90 in county tax. Property tax on the acreage in the county is \$144. Mayor Lewis advised he is open to suggestions if the board is interested, adding he would check with Nash County to see if they might be interested in the lot adjoining the school. He noted that both parcels are low, wet areas. The Board tabled the matter requesting Mayor Lewis to do more follow up with Nash County.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session as allowed by N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter and as allowed by N.C.G.S.143-

318.11(a)(5) to discuss a contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and passed unanimously.

Back in Open Session and with no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis 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