

Middlesex Governing Body Meeting Minutes
April 13, 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 twelve guests attended.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the March 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 Davis and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

Clerk Lambert summarized the March financial statements, which were unanimously approved in a motion by Commissioner Lewis and a second by Commissioner Davis. Lambert also advised the Board that she had met with the Nash County Assistant District Attorney regarding the embezzlement case from last June and Shelly Woodruff's court date is April 16.

Police Chief Dennis Murray reported that several B&E (breaking and entering) cases over the past two months have been solved and ten out of twelve cases someone has been charged, and one has already been convicted.

Mayor Lewis advised a new house is under construction at 7910 Creech Road and the siding is on another new house in Village Square.

The Board discussed improvements to the Community Building and the current rental rates of \$100 rent and \$100 deposit for in-town and \$150 rent and \$150 deposit for out of town users. Commissioner Lewis commented that the rates are really cheap compared to other places and questioned if the town should have one fee to cover both in and out of town users. There was a brief discussion regarding in-town customers renting the building for out of town people to get the cheaper rate, which appears to happen a lot. Mayor Lewis added that the bathrooms are now up to code. With the remodeling, Commissioners Lewis and McClenny agreed it is a big improvement. Commissioner Davis added that there was nothing you could rent for under \$175. Mayor Lewis also noted that the Utility Department power washed the exterior of the building, which improved the appearance greatly. He also has been receiving quotes for painting the interior. Commissioner McClenny moved to increase the community building rental rate to a flat rate of \$175 per occurrence, plus a \$175 refundable deposit for both in and out of town users. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board agreed to move forward into the Swimming Pool season with the rates remaining at \$250 for the unlimited season pass for the family, or the \$40 pass for ten (1) visits. Everyone agreed to give it three years, and Meacombs and Alford noted that next year the Board would review the financial condition of the pool again. Alford stated he is not in favor of continuing next year if it does not prove profitable.

Mayor Lewis presented a request from Zack Stallings, President of the Middlesex Voluntary Fire Department requesting the town board to waive the acreage and impact fees for water and sewer to the new Middlesex Fire Department building. The water and sewer acreage and impact fees total \$11,075.32 for 1.6 acres. The town will supply the 1 ½ inch meter, which will be reimbursed by the Fire Department. Also, the Fire Department will pay the town a \$647 nitrogen reduction surcharge, which will be remitted to the City of Raleigh per the town's wastewater treatment contract.

Commissioner McClenny noted that he served for forty five (45) years and two (2) months as a volunteer firefighter, is now on the honorary list, and has no conflict of interest due to no personal financial gain and therefore must vote on the request. Commissioner Danny Alford stated he has been the Treasurer for the fire department for over thirty five (35) years and the town attorney advises I must vote because I have no conflict of interest because I have no personal financial gain. Mayor Lewis added that he, too, has been on the Fire Department for forty (40) years, but due to all board members being present, he will not be required to vote.

Alford explained that the Fire Department is spending over one million dollars for the betterment of the community, plus an additional \$39,000 to have paid coverage at the fire station during the day to give better service. Future plans include possible ambulance and EMT's for quicker response of 911 and technicians for 911 calls to respond quickly to emergencies that could save lives.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to waive \$11,075.32 in water and sewer acreage and impact fees as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis and passed unanimously. Zack Stallings thanked the Board for waiving the acreage and impact fees. He added that all the firemen were volunteers with the exception of one paid person, so all the volunteers give a lot of time. He also stated that if the county had to pay for services provided by the volunteers it would run about a half a million dollars a year.

A letter from the City of Raleigh proposing a 6% increase for wastewater treatment was an FYI and to be discussed later in budget sessions. We have received a reduction in the cost of BOD's as shown by the comparison of current contract sewer rates and projected rates for 2015-2016.

Melissa Schmidt-Rumaldo has requested to have her lease renewed with the town for El Mostro Bakery at 10220 S. Nash Street. The lease expires May 1, 2015 and her current rent amount is \$250 per month. Commissioner Meacombs moved to renew the lease as requested with the same terms. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and passed unanimously.

The 2015 Municipal Elections information was verified as correct and returned to the Nash County Board of Elections.

Clerk Lambert reviewed the proposed 2014-2015 Budget Amendment as follows:

<u>GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:</u>		<u>INCREASE</u>	<u>DECREASE</u>	
<i>Public Buildings:</i>				
10-500-1500	Maint. Of Blds & Grounds		1,000.00	
<i>Community Bldg:</i>				
10-502-1500	Maint. Of Bldg & Grounds	1,000.00		
<i>NOTE: To replace front door & paint inside of Community Building if Board agrees to do so.</i>				
<i>Cemetery:</i>				
10-640-1500	Maint. Of Blds & Grounds	1,000.00		
<u>GENERAL FUND REVENUES:</u>				
10-361-0100	Cemetery Lots Sold	1,000.00		
<i>NOTE: To cover cost of repairing/replacing damaged bricks in Cemetery wall</i>				

Commissioner moved to approve the amendment as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McClenny moved to hold a 2015-2016 Budget Workshop at the end of the regular meeting on May 11, 2015. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for Public Comment. Becky Strickland, Robert Johnson, Brandi Holt, Edna Mount, Zack Stallings, and Jennifer Lambert addressed various topics. With no further comments, the public comment session was closed.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session as authorized by G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a performance evaluation in the Utility Department and a police department matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and passed unanimously.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner McClenny moved to hire a seasonal utility department worker at a pay rate of \$9.00 per hour and to place the ad. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alford and passed unanimously.

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