

April 14, 2008

The regular scheduled meeting of the Middlesex Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Lewis at 7:30 p.m. and he gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Derek Bissette, and J.W. McClenny. Guests were Bob Walters, Vennie Brock, and Hilary Helens with the Wilson Daily Times.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the Public Comment Session. There were no questions or comments and Mayor Lewis closed the session.

Mayor Lewis then opened the floor for a Public Hearing to hear an annexation request from Mr. Bob Walters, ENC3 Development Group LLC for a tract of land at the corner of US264A (East Finch Avenue) and Quincy Street to place Dollar General store. The signed annexation petition was presented. There were no comments from the public and Mayor Lewis closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Bissette moved to accept the March minutes as correct. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Hough and it carried unanimously.

In a motion by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Meacombs, and carried unanimously, the agenda was approved as presented.

Commissioner Hough moved to accept the March Financial Statements as presented by the Clerk. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette reported that she was ill the day the mandatory meeting for the CDBG grants was held so the town is not eligible to participate this year. She also advised that Bass, Nixon and Kennedy has not responded to questions regarding their request to tie into the town's sewer at the Mudcat lift station.

At the March meeting, the Board voted to pursue the cleanup of Cash Cameron's junkyard, instructing Bissette to turn the matter over to the town's attorney. Administrator Bissette advised the Board that this property is in the name of Daisy Cameron Heirs and is included in the Ray Cameron lawsuit.

Clerk Lambert presented a Certification of Sufficiency investigating the ownership of property described in the annexation petition received by ENC3 Development Group, LLC for property located at the corner of US264A (East Finch Ave.) and Quincy Street to place Dollar General store. The town attorney

confirmed the owner of record as ENC3 Development, LLC and that the petition was properly signed.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to annex the property petitioned by ENC3 Development Group, LLC and adopt the annexation ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Officer Crystal Daughtry's resignation (effective April 3, 2008), and her request to remain as an auxiliary officer was approved in a motion made by Commissioner Bissette, seconded by Commissioner Meacombs, and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bissette moved to approved the following 2007-2008 budget amendment due to increased legal services in connection with the Ray Cameron junkyard lawsuit:

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
EXPENDITURES:		
LEGAL:		
10-470-3800	Professional Service	\$2,500
REVENUES:		
10-329-0000	Interest Earned	\$2,500

Commissioner McClenny seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette reviewed an email and ordinance from the City of Raleigh advising an increase in nitrogen fees effective July 1, 2008 to be collected and remitted to Raleigh for every new connection to the sewer system. A four-inch sewer connection will increase from \$366 to \$377. Bissette advised that these fees have been included in the 2008-2009 budget presented.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Hough moved to appoint the Middlesex Governing Body as the Hearing Officer for Abandoned Structures and the Minimum Housing Code. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette presented a quote of \$4500 to \$5,000 to rebuild and install the motor in the 2001 Crown Victoria Police Cruiser that blew up a couple of weeks ago. Kenly Ford quoted a new motor at approximately \$3,070 and another \$1,200 for installation, for a total of approximately \$4,300.

Chief Ferrell presented several quotes from the City of Jacksonville. They have fifteen white Crown Victoria's ranging from year model 2000-2004 equipped

with light bars, and they just became available today. He reported that past experiences of other agencies with cars purchased from Jacksonville have been good. They have been known to keep excellent maintenance records and these records are given to the purchaser. A 2003 Crown Vic with 60-65,000 miles would sell for \$7,100 and a 2004 Crown Vic with the same mileage would sell for \$7,300. These are NASDAQ prices, but Jacksonville stated they would negotiate these prices with other agencies. Ferrell also presented quotes from the State Highway Patrol, but the mileage was around 87,000 miles for 2003 and 2004 models.

After some discussion, Commissioner Bissette moved to have Chief Ferrell go to Jacksonville and look at the cars as soon as possible and purchase the one he felt was the best. Commissioner Hough seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to hold a Public Hearing on May 12, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the regular scheduled meeting to hear the recommendation from the Bailey-Middlesex Recreation Committee to use a portion (approximately 65 acres of a tract of land), owned by Fred Lamm and located on Stoney Hill Church Road as the site for the development of the new Bailey-Middlesex Recreation Park. Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette reviewed the entire 2008-2009 proposed budget by department. Commissioner Bissette had requested to a larger percentage of salaries to be taken from the Water and Sewer Fund and charged to the General Fund. The effect of this change caused a shortfall in the Sanitation department meaning the rate would need to be increased by \$1.50 per month per customer to balance the Sanitation budget. Administrator Bissette added that if we take salaries and benefits out of the Water and Sewer Funds and charge them to the General Fund, that at some point the property taxes would have to be increased. The Board agreed to switch the breakdown of salaries between departments back as they were.

The \$50,000 in capital projects in the Parks and Recreation budget for the Bailey-Middlesex Recreation Park was included at the request of the Board.

The Board was also in agreement with Administrator Bissette's recommendation to use approximately \$100,000 in General Funds to pay the Sewer Debt Service for one year only to build up the Sewer Fund. Commissioner Meacombs stated that we should only do this for one year and everyone was in agreement.

Administrator Bissette recommended a 3% COLA and some merit increases ranging from zero to two percent, which were included in the budget presented. Bissette pointed out that the current inflation rate is running 4.26% and asked that the Board approve the request to reward the town's good employees. She also pointed out the high cost of training and uniforms should the town lose an employee. Bissette asked the Board how they could increase the salary of the Nash County Recreation Department employee from \$846 to over \$1700 for 2008-2009 for the town's contribution, and not give their own employees the recommended increase. Some of the Commissioners did not remember approving the \$1700 for the Nash County Recreation employee's salary contribution from the March meeting, stating that they did not understand that the contribution was for that salary. Bissette stated that good employees were the town's best assets and should be treated as such. She further stated that personal feelings should be left out of meetings in order to be effective leaders and voting should be done according to what's best for the employees of Middlesex.

Mayor Lewis advised the Board that he thought the town should give the recommended increases, as did Commissioner Meacombs. Commissioner Robinson said he was for giving 2% COLA. Commissioner Bissette, Hough, and McClenny were in favor of no increase. Administrator Bissette stated that total salaries and benefits in the proposed 2008-2009 budget totals \$509,479, down from \$523,688 last year.

After a very lengthy discussion, all were in agreement they would come a percentage that everyone could agree upon. Commissioner Hough moved to give a 2% COLA increase and no merit increases. Commissioner Bissette seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed 2008-2009 Budget on May 12th, 2008 at 7:30 pm., immediately following the Public Hearing for the recommendation from the Bailey-Middlesex Recreation Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bissette and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11(a)(3) to discuss a legal matter regarding Creech Farms Subdivision. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Back in Open Session, and with no further business, Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Town Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Fred Hough
Luke Robinson
Derek Bissette
J.W. McClenny