

May 9, 2011
Meeting Minutes

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session in the Conference Room of the Town Hall. Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Fred Hough, Luke Robinson, Dale Bachmann, and J.W. McClenny. Guests were Steve Bissette, Officers Scott Pollard and Vennie Brock.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the public comment session. There were no comments and the session was closed.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the April minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bachmann requested to add Item c. under New Business, Discuss changing the recycle schedule to every Thursday. The amended agenda was approved in a motion by Commissioner Bachmann, seconded by Commissioner Meacombs, and carried unanimously.

Clerk Lambert reviewed the April financial statements. The financial statements were accepted as correct in a unanimous motion by Commissioner Robinson, which was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs.

Interim Chief Dennis Murray advised that there would be changes to the schedule due to part time Officer Hillary Thompson accepting a full time position with DIRECTV. He also advised that all the equipment has not been removed from the wrecked 2003 Crown Vic.

Commissioner Bachmann advised the electrical pole and transformer is up at Well #5 and there should be electricity by the end of this week. He is waiting for a flow meter at Well#4. The state inspected the backwash system is all is fine. Tests show VOC's now absent at Well #4.

Commissioner McClenny thanked the Utility Department, adding that the cemetery looked nice for Mother's Day.

Mayor Lewis advised that the backhoe was sold and there have been a couple of inquires about the dump truck, and the items still remain on Craig's List. Also, he advised the housing and pulley is falling out of the finishing mower purchased last year, and Barnes Equipment, in conjunction with Bush Hog, will be replacing the mower free of charge.

Mayor Lewis advised that he met with Julie Cubeta with the NC Rural Center about the cost overruns on the Meter and Well Construction Project. She requested that we get her a final figure and she would present to the Rural Center Board on June 28th. She sees no problem with us being awarded the grant funds. We should not have to spend any more town funds. However, this means the project will go over into the next fiscal year.

The check was received for the claim reimbursement for the police laptop in the wrecked Crown Vic. Mayor Lewis added that he is still waiting to here from the state fleet regarding another police vehicle as they are not available at this time.

After a brief discussion to allow prepaid grave openings, the Board chose to take no action, adding that associated software costs of \$80-\$160 involved, plus extra bookkeeping, and not enough interested persons, does not warrant action at this time.

Mayor Lewis recommended increasing the weekend grave opening fee from \$450 to \$500 due to having to pay overtime, the town was not making money for weekend burials. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Bachmann moved to increase the weekend grave opening fee from \$450 to \$500. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a letter from Nash County regarding the water and sewer at the Middlesex Corporate Park, which stated that "Nash County and the hospital recognize that once sewer facilities are provided within reasonable distance to connect, Nash County will arrange for that connection". Also "Nash County will provide the matching funds necessary to water and sewer extensions and would partner with the town to secure those grant funds by the town likely being the grant applicant."

Also reviewed was a letter from NC DOT Powell Bill Program advising the towns of excess funds of \$21,051.41, which must be expended by June 30, 2011. However, the town has already spent \$108,669.53 on paving and Powell Bill projects this fiscal year.

Clerk Lambert presented a list of uncollectible utility accounts totaling \$1799.50, which should be written off to bad debts. Commissioner Meacombs moved to write off \$1799.50 in bad debts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bachmann and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bachmann requested to change the recycle schedule from every other Thursday to **every** Thursday, citing extra trips to Raleigh due to increased recyclables. After a brief discussion, Commissioner McClenny moved

to pick up recyclables every Thursday. Commissioner Meacombs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session to discuss a police personnel matter under G.S.143.318.11(a)(6).

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Meacombs moved to promote Dennis Murray to Police Chief at a salary of \$35,000 a year starting Friday, May 13th, 2011. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to advertise for a 4th full time police officer at a salary range of \$24,500 to \$27,700 depending on experience. Commissioner Bachmann seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

A year to date comparison of revenues versus expenditures for 2010-2011 and the first draft of the 2011-2012 budget, including salary and benefit information was presented by Mayor Lewis. He added that the salaries included and the health insurance are in the budget exactly as they are at the present time and added that Jennifer Lambert, James Liles, and Sammy Drake were up for salary reviews. Mayor Lewis then reviewed each department, pointing out significant changes from this year and the capital project requests.

Mayor Lewis added that he is waiting for health insurance rate quotes from BCBS and NCLM Municipal Insurance Trust. We have asked the City of Raleigh for new wastewater treatment rates but have not received them, and have been advised that if Waste Industries has a July 1 price increase, it will be 2% or less.

Included in the budget materials were the current rate charts for water, sewer, sanitation, and all miscellaneous charges, as well as a trial balance and a list of CD's by category that the town currently has with Heritage Bank. Also, there was a history of property tax rates included. Lambert pointed out that \$122,667 in debt service is due in 2011-2012, with only \$10,000 in reserves.

Mayor Lewis asked each Board member to review the materials and get back to him or Clerk Lambert before the June meeting with any questions regarding the budget or materials.

Commissioner Bachmann and Mayor Lewis, along with Mike Meyers with Envirolink met with Raleigh officials. We feel Raleigh owes the town an adjustment on our account for overages charged from 2007 forward based on the calibrations completed at the Mudcat stadium lift station. The meter has registered 9% too high since 2007. Ken Waldroup with the City of Raleigh stated

that Peggy Bissette and Engineer Michael Acquesta knew this all the time, but the pump was to accommodate growth. Raleigh made us aware that that they knew we were not sending as much wastewater as we were paying for because they have a pump that measures the flow also. The contract calls for adjustments over or under 5%.

Commissioner Bachmann explained that the mag type meter has turbulence in the line which produces a false reading, and the meter was installed to close. It should be installed 10 feet ahead and 10 feet past the meter.

Mike Meyers with Envirolink is drafting a letter to send to Raleigh to see how they reply.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Clerk

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