

Middlesex Governing Body Meeting Minutes
May 11, 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. Becky Strickland and Joe Burnette with the ***Spring Hope Enterprise*** were the only guests attending.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the April 13, 2015 meeting minutes as presented by Clerk Lambert. Commissioner McClenny seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner McClenny moved to correct a street name from N. Walnut to N. Chestnut in the March 9, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis requested to move the scheduled Closed Session to the last item on the agenda, after the budget workshop, so the public will not have to stay until after the Closed Session to hear the budget materials. The amended agenda was unanimously approved as presented in a motion by Commissioner Alford and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

Clerk Lambert summarized the April financial statements, which were unanimously approved in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and a second by Commissioner McClenny.

Police Chief Dennis Murray advised that several days on the June Police Department schedule were left blank. Officer Brian Taylor must be absent from June 5, to June 28, 2015 for training. Murray said he would do everything he could to cover those days.

Mayor Lewis reported another new home being built in Cedar Run and three more scheduled soon, with one already sold, bring the total homes in the subdivision to nine. Also, inquiries were received for new home construction on W. Finch Avenue.

Police Officer Roger Shearin's resignation was unanimously approved in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner Lewis. Shearin accepted a position with another police department.

The following budget amendments were approved unanimously in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner McClenny:

<u>GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:</u>		<u>INCREASE</u>	
<u>Sanitation:</u>			
10-580-4500	Contracted Services	4,600.00	
10-580-1700	Maint. Of Vehicles	3,700.00	
<u>GENERAL FUND REVENUES:</u>			
10-361-0100	Cemetery Lots Sold	6,300.00	
10-361-0000	Grave Opening Fees	2,000.00	
<u>Dump truck motor repairs & use of Finch Construction truck & driver several weeks</u>			
<u>GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:</u>			
<u>Cemetery:</u>			
10-640-4500	Contracted Services	400.00	
<u>GENERAL FUND REVENUES:</u>			
10-361-0000	Grave Opening Fees	400.00	
<u>** Grave Openings significantly more than originally budgeted</u>			

Commissioner Davis moved to hire two swimming pool attendants, Lauren Lewis and Ava Barbosa, at \$9.00 per hour effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and passed unanimously. Mayor Lewis noted we will continue to use the three attendants from last year when they are available and willing to work, bringing the total to five attendants.

Mayor Lewis explained that a letter was received last week from the Middlesex Fire Department requesting the town to close an opened right of way on their property between Buck Deans Road and N. Pine Street. Late Friday afternoon, May 8, the Fire Department's attorney emailed a proposed ordinance for the Board of Commissioners to review regarding closing this unopened right of way. After reviewing the ordinance this morning with the town's attorney, Liz Fairman, we are following her recommendation to follow the procedures of the General Statutes regarding closing unopened streets and alleys in order to have this recorded properly in the Register of Deeds office and avoid any confusion in the future. Fairman forwarded to us today R2015-1140, Resolution of Intent to Close and Unopened Right of Way. Therefore, the resolution will be advertised four consecutive weeks in a newspaper with general circulation. The resolution states a Public Hearing will be held on June 8, 2015 at 7:30pm in the town hall for any interested parties to be heard. Commissioner Meacombs commented it would be advantageous to the citizens of Middlesex to close the unopened right of way on the lot where the Fire Department will be constructing their new fire station. Commissioner Meacombs moved to adopt Resolution R2015-1140 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for Public Comment. Becky Strickland was the only guest to address the Board. With no further comments, the public comment session was closed.

Budget discussions began for the 2015-2016 by discussing whether the town would continue to budget for regular water tower maintenance or enter into a contract. Mayor Lewis obtained two free inspections of the tower over the past two years and received a quote of \$8,360 from Southern Corrosion. Price increases are based on the annual consumer price index. Painting the outside of the tower would run \$25,000 to 28,000. After a brief review of the contract and the necessity to put back \$10,000 in reserves each and every year for water tower maintenance in lieu of a contract, the general consensus of the Board was to enter into a contract with Southern Corrosion. Nash County contracts with this Roanoke Rapids based company as well as many other North Carolina municipalities.

Mayor Lewis reported that he received health insurance quotes from the current broker and also from a new broker. After review, it appears United HealthCare with the new broker would be the best plan. It is a copay plan with a \$2,000 deductible. The premium increases \$4,000 over the comparable Blue Cross Blue Shield plan we currently have, but there would be no Medical Reimbursement Account. The \$10,000 budgeted for this reimbursement account could be taken out of the budget and reducing the fund balance needed by \$6,000 for the General Fund.

After discussion to repay the General Fund for monies transferred to pay off water and sewer loans back in 2009, general consensus of the Board was to repay the funds and they would determine the exact amount later in the meeting.

The sewer treatment charge for flow to City of Raleigh will increase 6%. However, the charge for BOD's & TSS's (biodegradables and total suspended solids) should decrease 70%, so the actual sewer costs should go down. The general consensus of the Board is to keep water and sewer rates the same.

The 2015 property tax value estimate received from Nash County is 43,900,000 excluding vehicles. Estimated revenue for the new year budget would be about \$214,000 at the current \$.52/100 tax rate. Vehicle estimates would realize revenues of \$23,466 at the current tax rate. Mayor Lewis reminded the Board regarding town auditor John Anthony's comments that they must increase the tax rate significantly to balance the budget and begin replacing General Fund reserves. Mayor Lewis noted that for the past several years, it was necessary to close General Fund CD's to pay the bills. The board was undecided in recommending the amount of tax rate increase. However, Commissioner McClenny moved to repay the General Fund \$50,000 from the

Water and Sewer Fund for monies transferred in 2009 to payoff water and sewer loans. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meacombs and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis reported that the repair bill for the dump truck presently in the shop will be close to \$10,000. Lewis asked Waste Industries last year about a contract price for garbage pickup and they advised him they couldn't touch the price the town charges, and that was just for garbage pickup – no yard waste or bulk items. Discussions regarding sanitation rates and the condition of the garbage and dump trucks also yielded no decision. Commissioner Meacombs remarked that we might could go another year without an increase.

Due to the time, it was decided to hold the Closed Session, and recess the meeting and reconvene to continue budget discussions.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session as authorized by G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a performance evaluations and to interview a Utility Department applicant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and passed unanimously.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Alford moved to hire Garrett Strickland as a Seasonal Utility Worker effective immediately at \$9.00 per hour, not to exceed 1,000 hours in twelve months. Commissioner Meacombs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

A public hearing was scheduled for June 8, 2015 at 7:40pm for public comment and discussion for the proposed 2015-2016 budget. The motion by Commissioner Meacombs was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to recess the meeting for further discussion of the 2015-2016 Budget and to reconvene on Friday, May 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Lewis 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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
FOR THE TOWN OF MIDDLESEX CALLING
FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ITS INTENT
TO CLOSE AN UNOPENED RIGHT OF WAY**

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department is the owner of a certain tract or parcel of land in Middlesex, North Carolina, on which it intends to build a fire house and related improvements; and

WHEREAS, the property is shown on a certain survey and map entitled “Recombination Plat for Middlesex Volunteer Dept.” by Civiltek East, Surveyors, dated July 3, 2014, recorded in Map Book 39, page 2, Nash Registry; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department survey shows an unopened right of way extending in a westerly direction from N. Pine Street at or near its intersection with W. Stewart Street across the property of the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department to Buck Deans Road and designated “unopened right –of-way” on survey and map entitled “Recombination Plat for Middlesex Volunteer Dept.” by Civiltek East, Surveyors, dated July 3, 2014, recorded in Map Book 39, page 2, Nash Registry; and

WHEREAS, said unopened right-of-way as shown on said survey has never been opened or improved and that no one relies on said unopened right-of-way for access and the said Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department owns all adjoining property on the north and south of said unopened right of way; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department has requested the Town of Middlesex to close said unopened right-of-way and the unopened right-of-way cannot be closed until a public hearing is held.

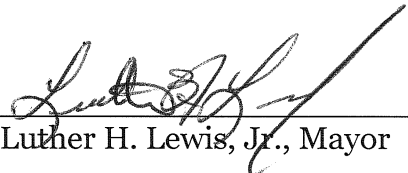
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF MIDDLESEX that a public hearing relative to the closing of the unopened right-of-way hereinabove described will be held at the regular meeting of the town council on June 8, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., in the town hall of the Town of Middlesex at which time any interested parties may be heard.

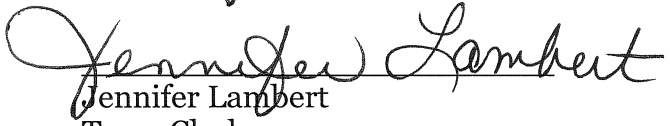
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

1. This resolution be sent by certified mail to all owners of property adjoining said unopened right-of-way.
2. Notice of this resolution be given to the general public, by publishing a copy of this resolution in a newspaper with general circulation once a week for four consecutive weeks beginning May 14, 2015.
3. Copies of this resolution shall be prominently posted in at least two places along said unopened right-of-way.

Adopted this 11th day of May, 2015.




Luther H. Lewis, Jr., Mayor


Jennifer Lambert
Town Clerk