

Middlesex Governing Body Special Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2016

Mayor Lewis called the special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. The Special Meeting was scheduled in regular session on May 9, 2016 to hold a 2016-2017 Budget Workshop. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Cherrye Davis, Ann Lewis, and J.W. McClenny. Police Chief Dennis Murray and Officer Vennie Brock were also present. There were no guests.

Group health insurance was the first topic of discussion. Quotes received yielded the following: United Healthcare (UHC), the current plan, will increase 3.9% or \$2,300 a year; Blue Cross Blue Shield is \$12,000 higher than our current plan; and Medcost, through the League of Municipalities, is \$20,000 higher for similar coverage but not quite as good as the current UHC plan.

Police Commissioner Danny Alford and Mayor Lewis met with Chief Dennis Murray last week to discuss the police budget requests. Work has been completed on all three Crown Victoria's and just put a rear end in one. They recommended to have two of the cars painted, one touched up, and new striping and lettering on all three, as opposed to buying a new or newer model used car. Painting would run about \$2,500, striping and lettering about \$550 per car for a total of about \$4,500. If a car blows up during the year, and we have to get another car, we can amend the budget.

Chief Murray requested computer upgrades for his office and the patrol office totaling \$2,000, and new laptops for cars totaling \$1,800. Mayor Lewis asked Murray to reconfirm the computer upgrade prices and ask for pricing and availability for refurbished laptops versus new ones.

Murray requested to add one full time position, raising the pay rate for reserve officers from \$11 to \$11.75 per hour, and a \$1.00 per hour increase for each of the four full time officers. Murray added that the reserve pay was not competitive with Nashville's \$15 per hour rate, and Spring Hope's \$12 per hour. At the meeting, they concluded not to add a fifth full time officer at this time and instead use the funds to implement the salary increases requested.

James Liles, Public Works Supervisor, requested a service truck, a trailer to haul both zero-turn mowers, and a tank for cleaning out manholes. He also reported that the trash truck is requiring a lot of repairs. Mayor Lewis reported that a 2004 or 2005 used service truck, similar to the 2005 James now drives, would run about \$9,000 and he will continue looking. It was decided to use the zero-turn mowers until they quit, and Mayor Lewis will continue looking for a small tractor for the five-foot finishing mower. Mayor Lewis said he could get a 250 gallon tank and use it on the town's small trailer and connect the pressure washer to the tank to clean out manholes.

There are three options for the trash truck if the town continues to pick up garbage: 1) purchase a body for the truck we have, which would be in the \$40,000 range; 2) purchase a used truck for \$80-85,000; or 3) purchase a new truck, with prices starting at \$125,000, which would require the driver to have a CDL-type license. If the town continues to use the trash truck for yard waste, the body could be repaired for \$3,000-\$5,000.

Waste Industries quoted \$17.08 for pickup for one trash cart and one recycle cart, with the town providing the carts. Trash would be picked up once a week and recycle every other week for this price. A study indicates recycle could be picked up every other week due a review of the previous year's recycle tonnage, and the fact that Waste Industries uses larger trucks. Two trash and two recycle carts (typical business) would be twice that, or \$34.16 per month. No decisions were made regarding trash and recycle pickup.

The town hall bathroom floor in the administration office has a hole that must be fixed. New carpet will run about \$4,000. Nothing has been done to update the town hall since it was moved to its' current location (over twenty years ago). Mayor Lewis will get prices on painting the interior. The town hall flag pole needs replacing.

Commissioners Ann Lewis and Cherrye Davis took a look around town at all the public buildings, and made a list of the most obvious things needing repair or attention. They advised all six of the town signs were illegible. New signs will be installed at all six locations, plus the Wellness Park on Highway 231. At the library, the outside walls have black and rust stains running down the white brick. Mayor Lewis will get prices on painting some or all, or possibly power washing some walls. The library is handicap accessible through the rear door, and has been used by handicap patrons in the past, but needs a buzzer and signs to indicate such. If necessary, a ramp may be placed at the front entrance, like the one added at the Police Department if there is space on the sidewalk. Also, tall grass and large wood poles need to be removed at the rear. This will be completed as soon as manpower is available. Straps on the duct work in the rear appear broken or missing and need to be checked. The book return on the outside of the library is rusted. Commissioner Davis, one of the librarians, said the book return was rarely used. It can be painted, or moved, if not used.

At West Hanes Park, the water is running in the bathroom sink. Commissioner Lewis stated the tennis courts need a bulldozer, and place gravel, sand, or screenings that can be packed for the basketball courts. Mayor Lewis noted it would cost over \$40,000 to repair the tennis courts, not to mention the roots growing through the courts. Disturbing the roots would most likely kill the trees. Everyone agreed that with little or no interest in the tennis courts, the town should try to fix the inside fenced area for basketball, since the public uses the courts for basketball.

The side door at the Police Department is rusted. Also, mortar is falling from the front facial wall on the Police Department building. Commissioner Lewis added that the sidewalks need work, and she "could go on and on". Someone has cut a board into on a picnic table at the Wellness Park and the board needs replacing. The handicap

handrail needs replacing and the walking track needs leveling due to rain washing leaving ruts. Mayor Lewis pointed out that screenings would be added and smoothed out.

Commissioner Lewis moved to go into Closed Session as allowed under G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) for employee performance evaluations and as allowed by G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) for contract discussions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and the vote was unanimous.

With no further business, Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn. Commissioner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Cherrye Davis
Ann Lewis
J.W. McClenny