

Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2012

Mayor Lewis opened the public hearing at 7:30pm to hear public input for the proposed 2012-2013 budget. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Mayor Lewis then called the regular meeting to order and gave the invocation. Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Danny Alford, Cherrye Davis, Dale Bachmann and J.W. McClenny were present. Guests were Edna Mount, Barbara Allen and daughter, Helen Manning, and Vennie Brock.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for Public Comment. Edna Mount, a citizen and a judge for the Nash County Board of Elections, addressed the Board regarding an incident in which a Middlesex Commissioner allegedly interfered with her duties as Elections Judge on Election Day. When Ms. Mount called the Commissioner by name, Mayor Lewis interrupted Ms. Mount. He advised her that she was out of line in calling out an individual commissioner about a personal grievance or disagreement and that the matter was not town business to be brought out in Public Comment Session. He confirmed he had already advised her this in his previous phone conversation with Ms. Mount last week in reply to her letter requesting to be placed on the meeting agenda. Ms. Mount made a final statement requesting the town's elected officials not interfere with her in her duties as a public official. Mayor Lewis asked for a copy of her written grievance, which Ms. Mount gladly supplied, and he closed the public comment session.

The May meeting minutes were unanimously approved in a motion by Commissioner Alford and seconded by Commissioner Bachmann.

The agenda was approved unanimously in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Clerk Lambert reviewed the May financial statements. They were approved unanimously in a motion by Commissioner Bachmann and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

Mayor Lewis asked Police Chief Dennis Murray to see if he could borrow Spring Hope's speed trailer. Murray agreed and he will check with the GHSP for grant availability and check into the cost of a speed trailer.

Commissioner Bachmann advised that all meter sets with leaking cutoff valves have been replaced, and a new digital meter has been installed at the former Fawn Industries building. The old leaf vacuum, which has been for sale for quite some time, has a blown piston in the motor, and we have had no interest. Bachmann asked that it be scrapped and the board members agreed.

The rear shelter at the library that fell a couple of weeks ago did not damage anything. Commissioner Bachmann will put the gutter back up and as soon as possible Mayor Lewis will check into an awning for the rear entrance.

Middlesex Family Dental is now open for business and the open house held on Sunday afternoon was a success. The chiropractor is setting up and will be ready to work in about two weeks.

Commissioner McClenny reported problems with bugs at the community building and the rear storm door will not close. He recommended we call Whitco Exterminating to treat the building now and on a monthly basis until all bugs are eliminated because this has been an ongoing problem for about a year. Mayor Lewis added that the wall paneling may need to be removed. McClenny also received a report that another garbage can is needed. Commissioner Bachmann assured McClenny he would deliver a second garbage can.

Clerk Lambert's investigations proved that other Nash County towns were very satisfied with the county collection of their property taxes. The Board reviewed the contract with Nash County to collect the town taxes. Commissioner Bachmann requested to change the last sentence in **Section 7. a) GENERAL PROVISIONS** to read "Any problems experienced by the Town with regard to this undertaking shall be communicated to the County Manager to be resolved as the County Manager and the Town Finance Officer deem appropriate." Commissioner Bachmann moved to adopt the contract, with the change, effective July 1, 2012. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and carried unanimously.

At the August 11, 2011 meeting, the Board approved to purchase ALEN Software for the police air cards. Chief Murray found CJ LEADS Software at no cost. Therefore, Commissioner Meacombs rescinded his August motion to purchase ALEN Software. Commissioner Alford seconded the motion to rescind, and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Lewis presented a Street Closing Permit request received from Misty Strickland for a special event, the "Warren Sneak Lewis Law Enforcement Foundation's 5K Memorial Run". The event is to be held on September 8, 2012, which is Middlesex Fireman's Day. The Nash County Sheriff's Department will handle all the road closings, which has been approved by NC DOT. The designated roads for the run will be closed between 7:30am – 10:30am. Mayor Lewis added that this will be an annual event. The permit was approved unanimously in a motion by Commissioner McClenny and seconded by Commissioner Bachmann.

Commissioner Bachmann moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11(a)(5) to discuss personnel matters.

Back in Open Session, the Board reviewed the proposed 2012-2013 budget. Commissioner Bachmann inquired why the sanitation rate was increased \$1 per month at the previous budget meeting, which he was absent. He pointed out that sanitation revenues through May were \$70,000 and expenditures were only \$43,000, and stressed that there was no need to increase the rate at this time. The \$1 increase would add \$4,300 in revenue based on an average 360 sanitation customers. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Alford suggested that the Board agreed to increase the rate to recoup the cost of the garbage cans the town purchased. Everyone agreed to remove the \$1 increase and let the sanitation rates remain unchanged.

All cemetery fees, community building lease fees, and deposits will remain unchanged. With the addition of Pencco, Inc., a large water customer, Mayor Lewis commented that the water fund would probably be in good shape. As for the sewer rate, the City of Raleigh still has not passed the 2012-2013 rates. Everyone was in agreement to not raise the rates until we receive the final rates from Raleigh. Mayor Lewis pointed out that if we received the rates in the next week or two, we might be able to review and discuss the rates. If not, everyone agreed we would adopt the budget with no increase in water and sewer rates, and at the point in time we receive the Raleigh rates, we would discuss rates again, and possibly increase rates then, if necessary.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept Utility Worker Jeff Waddell's resignation effective July 21, 2012. Commissioner Alford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McClenny moved to hire Cherrye Davis as temporary Part Time Librarian effective June 1, 2012 to work twelve hours a week, six (6) hours Monday, and six (6) hours on Friday, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Bachmann and passed unanimously. Commissioner Davis emphasized that with Robert Stamper's hours, the library will have uniform schedule of 11:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Commissioner Bachmann moved to advertise for a full time Utility Worker with a salary range of \$10 - \$12 per hour. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to change the status of Lu Harvey Lewis from part time to full exempt time Town Administrator/Economic Development Director effective July 1, 2012, with an annual salary of \$58,500 with no health insurance. Commissioner Alford seconded the motion. The vote was 4 to 1 in favor, with Commissioner Bachmann being the dissenting vote.

A special meeting was scheduled for Friday, June 22, 2012, to adopt the 2012-2013 Budget Ordinance and to approve any necessary 2011-2012 budget amendments. Commissioner Bachmann moved to schedule the meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and it passed unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Town Clerk

Mayor Lu Harvey Lewis, Jr.
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Danny Alford
Dale Bachmann
Cherrye Davis
J.W. McClenny