

Middlesex Governing Body Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2017

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners J.W. McClenny, Cherrye Davis, Danny Alford, and Harold Meacombs. Commissioner Ann Lewis was absent. Interim Police Chief Otto Hayes was present, along with Joe Burnette with the **Spring Hope Enterprise**. There were approximately seven other guests.

The May 2, 8, 22, and 31, 2017 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented in motion by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

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

Town Clerk Jennifer Lambert reviewed the May financials, which were unanimously approved as presented in a motion by Commissioner Meacombs and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

Interim Police Chief Otto Hayes, Mayor Lewis, and Commissioner Harold Meacombs have reviewed the fourteen applications received for the full time Police Chief's position, and interviews should be soon.

Public Works Supervisor James Liles was absent. Mayor Lewis did refer to the increased garbage tonnage to Waste Industries as a result of the new homes being built and new people moving into town.

Commissioner Cherrye Davis reported the library has received many new books and more are on the way.

Mayor Lewis reported writing two more zoning permits, one for a new house in Village Square Subdivision and one in Cedar Run. He also added he has begun to look at interior lots in town available for growth and at areas suitable for new subdivisions on the edges of town.

Commissioners confirmed the 2017 tax rate will remain at \$.57 per \$100 valuation and Clerk Lambert will advise the Nash County Tax Department.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for public comment. Two citizens addressed the Board regarding various concerns. Mayor Lewis then closed the public comment session.

The second draft of the 2017-2018 budget was presented. There were a few changes, which were mostly corrections or missing information in the first draft. A couple of salaries were reduced due to the hours being corrected. Sanitation contracted services expense was increased from \$27,000 to \$30,000 due to price increases usually in January, and a large increase in tonnage. Mayor Lewis pointed out that instead of \$63,000 needed in fund balance, the new figure is \$56,000 for the General Fund. Forty thousand \$40,000 of this represents lost revenue from lease fees from the dental facility, which the lease ends June 30, 2017.

The Board asked Mayor Lewis at a previous meeting to research various options to find a tenant for the medical facility. Parrish Realty will list the building for 6% if another realtor is involved, or 4% if only they were involved. Parrish thinks we cannot get the amount of rent that we were receiving, and a fair monthly rent amount would be \$2,000 to \$2,500. Everyone agreed this amount was a lot more than we will be receiving with no one in the building.

The dental equipment is still in the building and Christi Davis stated they wanted \$10,000 for the equipment. Mayor Lewis advised her it would alright to leave the equipment until the building was rented. If another dental office happens to lease, they may want to purchase the equipment. However, he also advised her if she found a sale for the equipment to go ahead and sell it.

The NC Dental Society has a website that has classified with would run \$10 per week for twelve weeks. The Board asked Mayor Lewis to check with Parrish and find out if we listed with them and leased to someone found on the NC Dental Society website, would commission still be due to them. Commissioner Alford moved to place an ad on the NC Dental Society website and list the building with Parrish Realty with the clarification that if the renter comes from the NC Dental Society website, there will be no charge from Parrish. Commissioner McClenny seconded and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Lewis noted the loss of \$40,000 of General Fund Revenues due to non-rental of the building is equivalent to a \$.08 tax increase.

Clerk Lambert questioned the town's direction regarding the town's website problems and the need for a new website. The one proposal received for a new web design was \$2,500 with an ongoing \$100 per month maintenance. Citizen Robert Johnson advised we might could get it completed for no charge by a community college student or a Barton College student. He will check and get back to Clerk Lambert with a contact.

Commissioner Meacombs asked Envirolink's contract price for handling all of public works. Mayor Lewis replied \$224,000. He reiterated he would like to schedule a time for Ken and Mike from Envirolink to come and address any questions or concerns the Board may have. He projected a \$75-\$76,000 savings to go outside with Envirolink. He answered several questions, stating Envirolink would pick up

the garbage, using the town's truck and their labor. Envirolink would perform all regular maintenance on equipment, including tires. The town would be required to fix major repairs, i.e. bad motor or transmission. The town would require them to keep equipment belonging to Middlesex in the town. Mayor Lewis understood they would replace the equipment, but would check further.

Commissioner McClenny stated he thinks we should go with VWS for garbage services and the remaining Public Works stay in town. Mayor Lewis advised that option would be no savings to the town. If we do, he added, and the garbage truck blows up, we would have to buy a new truck. If we go with Envirolink, and the truck lasts two more years, we will save money.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to advertise and hold a Public Hearing to hear comments and questions regarding the 2017-2018 proposed budget on June 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner McClenny seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to go into Closed Session as allowed by G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner McClenny seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Meacombs moved to accept the resignation of Tammy Pittman effective June 12, 2017. Commissioner Alford seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Meacombs moved to remove Tammy Pittman from the town banking resolutions and signature cards and to add Gloria Vinson to all banking resolutions and signature cards effective immediately. Commissioner Alford seconded and the vote was unanimous.

With no further business, Commissioner McClenny moved to recess the meeting and reconvene the meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 10:00a.m. Commissioner seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Jennifer Lambert, Town Clerk

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