

Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2012

Mayor Lewis called the regular meeting to order at 7:30pm and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Danny Alford, Cherrye Davis, Dale Bachmann, and J.W. McClenny. Approximately 45 guests attended.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for Public Comment. Pam Johnson voiced complaints regarding the town buildings cleaning job not being posted and not making citizens aware of job opportunities with the town.

Brandie Holt commented that the town ordinances still had not been placed on the town's website.

Robert Johnson gave a presentation about the timeline on the Wellness Park Project, the Bailey-Middlesex Park Project.

Gillistine Pearce stated that her complaint was mosquitoes.

Mayor Lewis thanked the citizens for their comments and closed the session.

The August meeting minutes were unanimously approved in a motion by Commissioner Bachmann and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

The June 22, 2012 minutes were corrected as presented in a motion by Commissioner Bachmann and seconded by Commissioner Meacombs. The East Coast Packaging Reuse and Restoration Grant/Loan amounts were corrected as follows:

*East Coast Packaging is requesting \$100,000 in a principal forgiveness loan, and will match \$100,000, and Carolina Gateways Partnership may donate another \$25,000, totaling \$235,000.*

Mayor Lewis requested to delete Item J. under New Business on the agenda and add Item 7 (c) to Old Business – review draft letter regarding cemetery policies to the agenda. Commissioner Alford moved to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Clerk Lambert reviewed the August financial statements and reminded Board members of the deadline of Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> for applications for supplemental life insurance available through payroll deduction. The August financials were unanimously approved in a motion by Commissioner McClenny and seconded by Commissioner Meacombs.

Mayor Lewis requested Police Chief Murray to borrow Spring Hope's speed trailer and check prices and availability for a new or used speed trailer for the town.

Commissioner Bachmann advised that the Utility Department replaced 240 feet of water line on West Hanes Avenue in dire need of replacement and added that NC DOT will patch the area and resurface the street.

Commissioner Davis stated the old computer monitors have been removed and she is continuing to organize the books in the library.

During Commissioner's comments, Commissioner Bachmann responded to recent citizen complaints, stating that a lot of change has occurred in Middlesex in recent months, with new homes built and new businesses coming to town. He added that with increased costs in fuel, utilities, supplies, materials and labor costs it has been challenging to manage the towns business at the current tax rate of fifty cents per \$100 of valuation and that town officials and staff have worked hard to continue with the modest tax rate, which has not been increased since 1997.

Bachmann commented that the town has to make decisions that aren't always popular, we care about the problems and take our work seriously. He asked that citizens keep in mind the structure we must operate under and the total scope of the work the town has to manage. Each department operates with minimal staffing, and during vacations, sickness, and holidays, priorities must change and the most important jobs done first.

Next, Bachmann emphasized that the Governing Body has put a procedure in place to address citizens concerns/complaints. This procedure is to come to the town hall and meet with the Mayor, or make an appointment for the Mayor to visit your home or business. This procedure ensures a prompt response and quick resolve for concerns or complaints.

Lastly, Bachmann expressed that the Governing Body and all town employees are committed to making Middlesex all that it can be.

Clerk Lambert reminded Board members of the Ethics Training on September 21, 2012 at 9:00am at the Momeyer Ruritan Club.

The NC Rural Center awarded \$85,000 in Building Reuse and Restoration Grant funds for East Coast Packaging to relocate to Middlesex. Mayor Lewis added that they are working on the old Fawn Industries Building on East Finch Avenue, will transfer 25 employees from Youngsville and add twenty-five new jobs.

Problems with scheduling of grave openings prompted the Board to draft a letter to funeral homes stating that the town must be notified on Friday by 3:00pm for a service earlier than 1:30pm on Monday. In addition, the Board reviewed a draft letter to suppliers of memorial markers, mausoleums, etc., requesting they contact the town before placement of any of these items in Hollywood Cemetery to ensure they are correctly placed inside property lines. All Board members were in agreement to send the two letters.

The audit contract effective August 20, 2012 with Anthony & Tabb, P.A. to audit the 2011-2012 records was unanimously approved and in a motion by Commissioner Alford and seconded by Commissioner Bachmann.

Matthew Tyler Harris, Auxiliary Police Officer, resigned effective August 27, 2012. His resignation was unanimously accepted in a motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Meacombs.

David Jones, a part time temporary Utility Worker, resigned effective August 28, 2012. His oral resignation was unanimously accepted in a motion by Commissioner Alford and seconded by Commissioner McClenny.

The Town Building Lease Agreement was amended to require a copy of a Certificate of Liability Insurance be submitted to the town and add the requirement for a 30-day written notice to terminate the lease agreement. Commissioner Bachmann moved to amend the lease agreement as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and passed unanimously.

The Garbage and Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance, Title 3, Chapter 2, Section 3-2-10 of the town code was amended to add:

*No building material from the construction, reconstruction, remodeling or repair of a building, walkway, driveway, sign and other structure, including but not limited to, excavated earth, tree stumps, rocks, gravel, bricks, plaster, concrete, lumber, roof shingles, roof paper, carpet or carpet liner, waste wood products, old plumbing fixtures, or any other similar material used in construction or the containers or wrappings therefore, will be picked up by town personnel.*

Commissioner Alford moved to amend as stated above. Commissioner Bachmann seconded and the amendment passed unanimously.

After a brief discussion regarding difficulty experienced by town personnel and time required in picking up of grass clippings, pine cones, and small branches, the Board tabled the matter until the October meeting to allow time to determine who will furnish a yard waste container and size of container.

The Cemetery Ordinance, Title 3, Chapter 3, Section 3-3-1 of the town code was amended to add:

*There is a minimum purchase requirement of two grave spaces. All mausoleums require four grave spaces.*

Commissioner Meacombs moved to amend the ordinance as stated above. Commissioner McClenny seconded the motion and the amendment passed unanimously.

Commissioner McClenny advised he had received complaints about tree roots causing problems on the right side in the old section of the cemetery and he would continue to investigate.

Helen Manning's notice to terminate the lease with the town effective October 1, 2012 for the building located at 10220 S. Nash St, (doing business as Four Seasons Consignment), was accepted unanimously in a motion by Commissioner McClenny and seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Cecilia Mullins requested to lease the town's building at 10220 S. Nash Street effective October 1, 2012. Mullins presented the Board with a letter outlining her proposed business plans for retail sales. Commissioner McClenny moved to lease the building to Cecilia Mullins for a period of six (6) months effective October 1, 2012 for \$150 per month. Commissioner Alford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bachmann moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11(1)(6) for an employee evaluation.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Alford moved to promote Corporal Scott Pollard to Sergeant with a pay increase of \$.30 per hour effective with pay period beginning September 14, 2012. Commissioner Meacombs seconded the motion and the vote was four (4) in the affirmative, with the dissenting vote from Commissioner Bachmann.

Commissioner Meacombs made a motion to move Jamie Cummings from his unpaid Auxiliary Police Officer position to Reserve Police Officer at the reserve office pay rate effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Alford and passed unanimously.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

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