

September 12, 2011  
Meeting Minutes

The Middlesex Governing Body met in regular session in the conference room of the Town Hall. Mayor Luther. H. Lewis, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners J.W. McClenny, Dale Bachmann, Luke Robinson, and Fred Hough. Commissioner Harold Meacombs was absent. The following guests were present: Police Chief Dennis Murray, Police Officers Crystal Daughtry and Vennie Brock, Utility Maintenance Worker Jeff Waddell, Joseph R. Rogers, Sr., Behshad Norowzi of North Carolina Department of Transportation, Edna Mount, Gloria Hicks, and Ronnie Hicks.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for the Public Comment Session. Edna Mount approached the podium and announced that she was dissatisfied with the way the Town was being run and did not think that she should be required to submit questions for the Board in advance to Mayor Lewis for his review. Mayor Lewis thanked Ms. Mount for her input. Being no more public comments, the session was closed.

The August 8, 2011 minutes from the regular meeting, as well as the August 23, 2011 minutes from the Special meeting were approved unanimously in a motion by Commissioner Bachmann and seconded by Commissioner Robinson.

Mayor Lewis requested to delete items 5 (b), Leo Green of Green Engineering to present a grant application to extend water service to Free Will Baptist Children's Home, and 7 (a) to adopt the resolution to apply for a grant to extend the water lines. These items will be tabled to a later date. Commissioner Bachmann requested to add under new business, suggested railroad repairs. The amended agenda was approved unanimously in a motion by Commissioner McClenny and seconded by Commissioner Bachmann.

Mr. Behshad Norowzi of the North Carolina Department of Transportation presented the Board with maps for the proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Middlesex as well as each Town within Nash County. The plan details suggestions for new sidewalks in the future if funding should become available. Mr. Norowzi explained that although no current funding is available for this project, he is trying to get all municipalities in Nash County to adopt the Plan because we would be more likely to be awarded future grant funds if the plan was already in place. The proposed plan does not expire until year 2035. Once the Municipalities have adopted the Plan, it will be presented to Nash County for adoption. The plan makes provisions for sidewalks to be installed on Town maintained streets as outlined on the map. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Norowzi for his time.

Shelly Woodruff, in the absence of Jennifer Lambert, Town Clerk, presented the Board with the August Financial Statements. She advised the Board that any questions could be directed to her or Clerk Lambert. Commissioner Robinson moved to accept the financial statements as correct, Commissioner McClenny seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief Dennis Murray presented his reports to the Board. He also asked Mayor Lewis if there were any updates on the new air cards needed for the police laptops. Mayor Lewis said that he had placed several calls with our Verizon representative but had not heard back and would follow up this week.

Utility Supervisor Dale Bachmann presented the Board with his report. He stated that being one man short last week, the Town had been delayed in picking up storm debris from Hurricane Irene. He added that he will devote most of Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> to the pickup. Bachmann also added that he would like to purchase a set of lights for the Town's generator. Currently when there is a water leak after dark, the Town borrows the light tower from the Fire Department. Bachmann has received a quote from Regi's Electric for \$1636 which includes a 480 volt transformer, panel, 3 lights, 4 receptacles and labor for installation. Commissioner McClenny moved to purchase the light at the quoted price, Commissioner Robinson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lewis congratulated Commissioner Bachmann for a job well done in removing debris from Hurricane Irene. Although Jeff Waddell had been on vacation that week, and there is still some cleanup to do, he stated that he thought the Utility Department had done an excellent job with clean up considering all of the regularly scheduled activities that had to be completed as well.

Mayor Lewis advised the Board that he will get some quotes for a 5,000 watt generator for the police department. During the power outage from the hurricane, the police department was without computers and radios because the current generator did not have enough power. Therefore, they were unable to communicate with Central Station. Commissioner McClenny suggested that Mayor Lewis see if we could get one through State Surplus Property.

Mayor Lewis reminded the Board of the need for an additional truck in the Utility Department. \$10,000 was budgeted for this purchase. Aycok Auto Auction of Kenly will conduct an auction of Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Lewis advised that he will go either the Friday or Saturday before to see if there are any trucks the Town may be interested in and he will call everyone and let them know what he found.

The Town rents a building to Helen Manning, who is doing business as Four Season's Consignment Shop. The six month lease will expire October 1, 2011. She has requested to stay in her shop and sign another lease for six more months. Commissioner Bachmann brought to the attention of the Board, that the lease states that liability insurance is to be provided by the tenant. The Board agreed that Helen Manning is to provide the Town with proof of liability insurance. Commissioner Hough moved to approve a new lease with Four Season's for six more months, Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bachmann moved to approve a resolution adopting the Nash County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Commissioner Robinson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Shelly Woodruff presented the Board with the following Tax Discoveries from Nash County:

- (1) Paulina Lyman Decampos- 2010 \$17.44
- (2) Baker Heating and Air, Inc.- 2009 \$104.14 and 2010 \$94.27

Commissioner Bachmann moved to approve the tax discoveries, Commissioner McClenny seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Shelly Woodruff presented the following Tax Releases from Nash County:

- (1) Paulina Lyman Decampos-2009 \$195.53
- (2) Paulina Lyman Decampos-2011 \$ 4.95
- (3) GE Capital Information Tech- 2011 \$ 15.26

Commissioner Hough moved to approve the tax releases, Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hough moved to accept part-time police officer Hillery Thompson's resignation dated August 15, 2011. Commissioner Bachmann seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Shelly Woodruff presented the E-Verify Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the board for adoption. This is a new required online employment verification system through the United States Department of Homeland Security, which begins on October 1, 2011. All future employees upon hire, must be entered into the system to verify eligibility to work in the U.S. This does not take the place of the mandatory I-9 form, and cannot be completed before hire. The Memorandum of Understanding outlines all of the requirements and responsibilities of the employer in participation of this free program. Commissioner Bachmann moved to approve the MOU, Commissioner Hough seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Joseph Rogers, Sr., presented a request to proclaim May 18, 2012 as "Pearlie Graham Rogers Day". His mother, Pearlie Graham Rogers, has lived in Middlesex since 1946 and will turn 100 years old that day. Mr. Rogers is the Chairman of the Celebration Committee and is in the process of writing a book about her life. He announced his wish to include a proclamation from the Town in the literature. Commissioner Hough moved to proclaim May 18, 2012 as "Pearlie Graham Rogers Day" in Middlesex, Commissioner McClenny seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. An official proclamation from the Town will be sent to Mr. Rogers to be included in the publication of the book.

Commissioner Bachmann said that he had received several complaints regarding broken ties at the main railroad crossing on Nash St. The ties are causing cars to misalign when they are struck at a certain angle. Mayor Lewis advised that he has spoken with Bill Bass, our district engineer with the Department of Transportation, and he was told that the railroad problems would be fixed. Lewis will follow up with Mr. Bass about the problem.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel issues, Commissioner Bachmann seconded, and the motion carried.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Bachmann moved to promote Officer Scott Pollard to Corporal effective September 16, 2011 at a pay increase of 2.5% for a probationary period of one year. This brings his annual salary to \$26,370. Commissioner McClenny seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Police Chief Dennis Murray asked permission to add one item of discussion to the agenda. Murray requested the Board consider changing the current uniform policy that states part-time employees are not eligible for shoe reimbursement. He stated that part-time police officers are provided uniforms from the Town and they cannot show up to work in sneakers. He thinks it would reasonable to annually purchase one pair of shoes per part-time employee, if needed. Mayor Lewis said the discussion would be tabled until the next meeting.

Being no further business, Commissioner Bachmann moved to adjourn.

Shelly Woodruff  
In absence of Town Clerk

Mayor Lu Harvey Lewis, Jr.  
Commissioners:  
Fred Hough  
Luke Robinson  
Dale Bachmann  
J.W. McClenny