

November 9, 2009

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 7:30p.m. and gave the invocation. Members present were Commissioners Harold Meacombs, Luke Robinson, Derek Bissette, Fred Hough, and J.W. McClenny. Police Chief Ferrell was present and guests in attendance were Future Graphics representatives Deanna Chambers, Phil Killete, and Kenneth Stancil.

Mayor Lewis opened the floor for public comment. Being no public questions or comments, Mayor Lewis closed the session.

The October minutes were approved in a motion by Commissioner Hough, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, and carried unanimously.

Administrator Bissette requested to add Deanna Chambers with Future Graphics to the agenda as the first item in Old Business, stating that Ms. Chambers wished to discuss a grant for Future Graphics. Bissette then asked to delete item # 8. Closed Session to discuss a police personnel matter stating that Chief Ferrell was going to do more investigation into the matter before it would be brought before the board.

Ms. Chambers is requesting that the town approve a pre-application for a NC Rural Center Grant on their behalf for reuse and restoration of the former Fawn Industries building. Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the agenda with the requested changes. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and carried unanimously.

In a motion by Commissioner Meacombs, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, and carried unanimously, the October financial statements were accepted as correct.

Chief Ferrell advised the Board that Middlesex Motor changed the battery in the 2001 Crown Vic and installed a switch which would keep the battery from draining hoping to solve the problem of the transmission not changing properly. Mayor Lewis asked Ferrell to get quotes for a transmission with a warranty and present at the next meeting if the transmission problem still exists. Chief Ferrell, who arrived at the meeting later after the approval of the agenda, requested that the Closed Session be added back to the agenda. Mayor Lewis asked Administrator Bissette if she had objections adding this item back to the agenda and she replied "no". The Board members agreed to add the Closed Session back to the agenda.

Administrator Bissette met with Engineer Michael Acquesta, and Mr. Letchworth, owner of Letco, who will begin drilling the test well next week. Mr. Letchworth is willing to complete the whole project, including building the well house while he is here. Administrator Bissette will get another price for the well house and compare with Letco before the next meeting.

Recyclables were picked up on November 5th for the first time, which took a day and a half and two trips to Raleigh to the recycle station. Administrator Bissette estimated the town would reduce trash by three and a half tons. She advised that the recycle grants are still open and she will check on applying to purchase one or two large bins to place at the Selma Road sewer plant and compare pricing on having someone come and pick up the bins and take to the recycling station versus town pickup.

Deanna Chambers, representing Future Graphics, addressed the Board, requesting the town to approve a pre-application for a NC Rural Center Grant for Building Reuse and Restoration on their behalf for the former Fawn Industries building. Ms. Chambers introduced Phil Killette and Kenny Stancil and gave a brief history of the commercial printing company. They have been in business since 1994 starting with three employees, expanding to fifty at one point in time, and currently have thirty five employees and hoping to grow. They are currently remodeling and making room for their equipment. Mr. Stancil estimated they would be in before Christmas and completely out of the Zebulon facility.

Administrator Bissette pointed out that if funded, the grant requires the town to pay \$6,500 in administration fees, which will be paid by the town and the town will be reimbursed by Carolina Gateway Partnership. The grant will be for \$10,000 per job for five (5) full time jobs. Commissioner Meacombs moved to proceed with the pre-application for the grant. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Stancil requested that the town give them a quote for a tap and meter to measure water used for their cooling tower, stating that this water does not enter the sewer system. It operates like a radiator, reusing the same water and he added that the tower loses a lot of water due to evaporation. Administrator Bissette and Utility Director Jeff Waddell will meet with Mr. Stancil and get a price on the best size tap to suit their needs.

Mayor Lewis and the Board thanked Ms. Chambers, Mr. Killette, and Mr. Stancil for their interest in Middlesex and wished them success in their endeavor.

Mayor Lewis reported that he, Dale Bachmann, and Jeff Waddell went on the town hall roof to inspect and found that the only roof sprayed with foam a few

months back was the beauty salon building at 10226 S. Nash Street and only some spots were sprayed on the town hall and the rental building next to the town hall, not the entire roof as originally thought. Mayor Lewis reported that the south wall of the town hall and the next building were two separate eight foot walls with a gap between and a cap that covers both walls. Administrator Bissette advised that Glen with All County Contracting Roofing has been on a job in Mississippi, but is scheduled to be here next week. Mayor Lewis also added that the facial boards on the rear of the building were rotten and need to be replaced and aluminum placed over them. Administrator Bissette will find out if Glen does this type of roofing repair and also get prices from another roofer who can repair the facial boards and the leaking town hall roof.

Administrator Bissette recommended to close a \$75,000 General Fund CD (paying only 1.7% interest) and pay \$48,500.82 on the \$80,000 Wellness Park Loan, which would save the town approximately \$36,625.18 in interest and leave only six more payments. She also recommended to use the remaining funds from this CD to pay off two state loans, one for Well #4 for approximately \$16,618 saving \$1526.68 in interest, and a second loan for NC 231 Sewer for approximately \$11,585, which would save approximately \$1585.50 in interest. Total interest savings would be close to \$40,000, versus making the payments over time as scheduled. Commissioner Bissette said he agrees this is a good idea. Commissioner Hough asked if we could afford to pay off these loans and also pay the money to the Bailey-Middlesex Park. Mayor Lewis added that \$100,000 was budgeted and already planned to be spent towards the purchase of the land and to begin work on the park. Administrator Bissette asked if the town could pay \$50,000 per year as originally agreed instead of paying \$100,000 in this fiscal year, stating that this is the first year since the grant was approved and that the citizens needed some relief from the water and sewer bills and the fifty thousand dollars could be used this year to help relieve some of the burden of the water and sewer bills, and that she felt like the board ought to consider keeping the money into instead of spending it out of town. Commissioner Bissette moved to close the \$75,000 General Fund CD and pay off the debt as recommended by Administrator Bissette.

Mayor Lewis brought to the attention of the Board that the Dual Appointment of Jennifer Lambert as Town Clerk and Finance Officer has been approved by the NC State Local Government Commission.

Administrator Bissette advised that she called the U.S. Department of Labor requesting information regarding benefits for exempt employees. She was instructed to search their website. After searching the website for several hours, she could find nothing regarding benefits for exempt employees. Commissioner Bissette recommended she contact Regina Lugenball at the Department of Labor adding she had been very helpful to him in the past.

Commissioner Bissette moved to approve the following 2009 Property Tax Releases and Discoveries:

- (1) Kathleen Edwards- Release Value \$27,828, Tax Amount \$153.05
(Veterans Exemption)
- (2) Chrysler LLC-Release Value \$75,677, Tax Amount \$416.22
(not in our jurisdiction)
- (3) Monroy G. Sevilla-Discovery Value \$910, Tax Amount \$5.00
(mobile home)
- (4) Compass Group Vending-Discovery Value \$3979, Tax Amount \$21.88
(machinery and equipment)

His motion was seconded by Commissioner McClenny and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson moved to go into Closed Session under G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter in the police department, Commissioner Hough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Back in Open Session, Commissioner Bissette moved to fire Police Officer Joey Webb effective immediately. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Chief Ferrell advised that he would call Officer Webb in because he was not scheduled to work until Wednesday.

Commissioner Bissette asked what would happen to outstanding violations Officer Webb has written. Chief Ferrell advised that Webb would still be required to go to court. If he does not appear, ultimately it will be up to the District Attorney and the Judge if they want to subpoena Webb to appear, or just drop the charges.

Administrator Bissette stated that Thursday, November 12th, was scheduled to be her last day, but if the Board, as a whole, wishes her to complete the well drilling project, the Future Graphics grant, and meter installation project, she is willing to stay a little longer. After a brief discussion regarding all the projects that were in midstream, the Board agreed that Bissette should stay until the end of December and see how far along the projects are at that time. Administrator Bissette asked the Board if they are still planning to hire a Town Administrator. Mayor Lewis stated that it appears that we will muddle our way through. Clerk Lambert added that the various departments of the town need someone to get answers as issues arise on a day to day basis.

Commissioner Bissette added that we should hire someone to install the remainder of the new meters, that the project had been prolonged enough. Everyone agreed to hire Dale Bachmann to install the meters, if he is willing,

assign one utility department employee to work with him, and get the project completed.

Being no further business, Commissioner Meacombs moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert
Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.
Commissioners
Harold Meacombs
Fred Hough
Luke Robinson
Derek Bissette
J.W. McClenny