

**Belhaven Town Council
Regular Session - Minutes
Monday, August 24, 2009**

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The Town Council of the Town of Belhaven met in regular session on Monday, August 24, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the Boyette Civic Center at 257 W. Pungo Street. Adam W. O'Neal, Mayor called the meeting to order with the following Council members present: Steve W. Carawan, J. Nelson Guy, Mayor Pro-Tem; Howard D. Moore, McKee "Mac" Pigott and Robert L. Stanley. Town Manager, Dr. Guinn Leverett, Finance Officer Mr. Kyle J. DeHaven and Town Clerk Marie J. Adams were also present. Mayor O'Neal recognized and introduced Mr. Johnny Donnell Clark who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – August 10, 2009 Regular Session

Mayor O'Neal stated that the minutes of the August 10, 2009 regular session meeting were open for review and adoption. There being no corrections to the minutes, Councilman Moore made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Public Comments

Mayor O'Neal asked for any comments from the public. Mayor O'Neal recognized Mrs. Ellen Allen, resident of 519 E. Water Street, and a volunteer fire department member. Mrs. Allen showed the Mayor and Council pictures of the siding debris that had been removed from the front of the fire station and was laying in the drive ways in front of the trucks. Mrs. Allen stated that there was no way that the Belhaven Volunteer Fire Department could respond to any calls because of the debris making the ingress and egress of the to the building. Mrs. Allen further stated that mutual aid would have to be used for any fire calls. Mayor O'Neal told Town Manager Leverett to contact Mr. Paul Wood immediately for the removal of the debris.

Mayor O'Neal recognized Mrs. Elaine Hudnell of 435 E. Pungo Street who stated that the meter readings dates are not consistent as this past month the billing included 38 days, the month before 20 days and upon her review over the past year the days on the billing fluctuated as 23, 35 and 30 days. Mrs. Hudnell stated that meter readings are evidently not performed on a set date and asked who set the meter reading dates. Mr. Kyle DeHaven, Finance Officer stated that the reading schedules are set by the water and sewer departments with approval by the Town Manager. Mrs. Hudnell stated that the Town should have a set meter reading schedule and that work should be performed around that schedule. Councilman Carawan stated that the Town had a lot of out-of-town work due to the incompetent deals made with providing sewer in the county and specifically with the grinder pumps. Mayor O'Neal questioned the number of sewer customers. Mr. DeHaven stated that the Town had 858 sewer customers with 224 being out-of-town customers. Mayor O'Neal stated that the County had been reading the meters and that some customers were not being billed therefore the town was not billing for sewer. Mayor O'Neal also stated that there should have been thrust blockers on each line at the elbow in the line and that these were not in place. Mayor O'Neal stated that with the reading of meters in the County and the sewer problems in the County it monopolized the time of the water and sewer departments. Mayor O'Neal stated that it is a full-time job just to manage the out-of-town sewer.

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Mayor O'Neal recognized Mr. Phil Reynolds a resident of 548 E. Street who questioned why the Town accepted a sewer system from the County that did not include the thrust blockers. Mayor O'Neal stated that Mr. Reynold's questions would be answered in the future as the Town had a lot of sewer issues out of Town including the Pantego area sewer and Turnpike.

Mayor O'Neal recognized Ms. Linda Wilkerson, resident of 783 E. Main Street who questioned the condition of the widening of Old County Road in front of the post office. Ms. Wilkerson stated that there were no markings on the street and that there were steep ditches and was concerned that the barrels/safety cones marking the area get moved especially over weekends. Mayor O'Neal stated that the paving project was not complete and that the steep ditch area near Lee Street on Old County Road would be tiled and that final coat of asphalt will be added.

Mayor O'Neal thanked the citizens for their comments.

Land Use Plan Overview – Mr. Marty Overholt, Code Enforcement Officer

Mayor O'Neal introduced Mr. Marty Overholt, the Code Enforcement Officer with the Town who gave a brief overview of the Land Use Plan (LUP). Mr. Overholt gave the Mayor and Council a hand-out in conjunction with the entire Land Use Plan that had been distributed with their agenda packets. Mr. Overholt stated that the Land Use Plan is required to be updated every five years by CAMA (Coastal Area Management Act) and that over the past couple of updates the Town had joined in with the County for this update. Mr. Overholt overviewed the Belhaven portion of the Land Use Plan as follows: The plan shows a flat curve in growth for Belhaven over the next 25 years with the population being retirement and second homes. The county has only 17% of its land mass eligible for septic systems which makes Belhaven's out of town infrastructure economically valuable. Growth for Belhaven will take time but is showing some progress with the Wynne's Gut project and the breakwater replacement project. The Belhaven Land Use Plan Map shows two conservation districts (1) being the water masses and wetland (which is un-developable); (2) the overlay shows where the floodplain lies is which every square inch of the Town. Belhaven conforms with the LUP with the enforcement of the Flood Plain Ordinance. Mayor O'Neal stated that by keeping the LUP current it allows the Town to seek grants. There were no questions from the Council.

Naming of Ball Field – Linville E. Midgette

Mayor O'Neal stated that Mr. Linville E. Midgette, former John A. Wilkinson High School, principal, coach and teacher had such a history with students who he touched and inspired. Mayor O'Neal gave the following accolades for Mr. Midgette:

Born June 13, 1935 in Cary, NC

Graduated Cary High School 1953; lettering in Football, Basketball and Baseball

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Wake Forest University Football Scholarship one year

Joined the service for two years

AA Degree from Louisburg College; played on championship basketball team

BS Degree from Atlantic Christian College

MA Degree in Education from East Carolina University

1961 began his teaching career at John A. Wilkinson High School; coaching all sports for boys and girls

1989 Retired from John A. Wilkinson High School as Principal

February 2000 Passed Away

From 1961 to 1966; John A. Wilkinson did not loose a Tobacco Belt Conference Football Game, 32 consecutive wins, which was a state record at that time

Basketball State Champions 1978-79

Honors:

Educator of the Year – Belhaven Community Chamber of Commerce

1981 Citizen of the Year – Belhaven Community Chamber of Commerce

1986 Inducted into Cary, NC Hall of Fame

1988 “Principal Who Contributed Most to High School Athletics” from the North Carolina High School Athletics Association

2000 Received the first “Courage Award” from the White IMP Club of the Fifties (Cary, NC High School) the award is now the “Linville Midgette Courage Award”

Personal:

Wire Audrey, four children; Steve Midgette and wife Sonya; Cindy Midgette Knigge and husband Mark; Lee Midgette Armstrong and husband Dean; and Linville Midgette, III and wife Nikki; there are also seven grandchildren

Linville was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church where he was Sunday School Teacher, Lay Leader and Chairman of the Administrative Board.

Mayor O’Neal stated that personally, he attended John A. Wilkinson for two years and Mr. Midgette made an impact on him. Mayor O’Neal further stated that the Town suffered a great loss with the death of Mr. Midgette.

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Mayor O'Neal read the following resolution to memorialize Mr. Linville E. Midgette and to name the former John A. Wilkinson Football/Baseball Field in his honor.

**RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAL
OF
MR. LINVILLE E. MIDGETTE
AND THE NAMING OF THE FORMER
JOHN A. WILKINSON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL/BASEBALL FIELD
IN HIS
HONOR**

WHEREAS, Mr. Linville E. Midgette was a teacher, coach and principal for John A. Wilkinson High School from 1961 to 1989; and

WHEREAS, his athletic teams achieved some amazing successes, including a five-year undefeated run in football in the old Tobacco Belt Conference; and

WHEREAS, he touched the lives of literally thousands of those students, many profoundly; and

WHEREAS, he was also a devoted husband, father and grandfather; and

WHEREAS, he was also honored in the greater Belhaven Community both as Educator of the Year and Citizen of the Year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL AND MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF BELHAVEN HEREBY RESOLVE THAT IT IS FITTING AND PROPER THAT THE FORMER JOHN A. WILKINSON FOOTBALL/BASEBALL FIELD BE NAMED THE LINVILLE E. MIDGETTE FIELD IN HIS MEMORIAL.

This the 24th day of August, 2009.

Adam W. O'Neal, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk

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Councilman Carawan made the motion adopting the resolution naming the former John A. Wilkinson High School in his honor. Councilman Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0. Mayor O'Neal presented a framed copy of the resolution to Mr. Midgette's widow, Mrs. Audrey Midgette and copies were given to the family members present: daughter, Mrs. Lee Midgette Armstrong and her husband, Mr. Dean Armstrong, Mr. Steve Midgette, son and his wife Sonya and their daughter Kristina. The audience applauded the adoption and presentation of the resolution.

Mr. Doug Barnes, fellow teacher and coach, stated that he was hired by Mr. Midgette and he had a lot of respect for him.

Writers' Note: the following attached was used for information Washington News Article) concerning Mr. Midgette's character and is included for information;

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Coach, thanks for the memories

I really don't remember the first time I saw him. It may have been during the summer of 1961. He had moved to town sometime that summer which was the start of my freshman year in High School at John A. Wilkinson. He was tall and thin with a flat top, a quiet demeanor, and he smoked. I know I met him during my freshmen health class. He asked all of us freshmen boys if any of us were interested in playing football. I stood up along with a couple other guys and he just looked at me and smiled and asked how much I weighed. I said I weighed 145 pounds and I was 6 feet tall. (I really weighed about 90 pounds and was maybe 5 feet tall at the time.) He laughed out loud and told me to show up at the gym after school for practice.

Linville Midgette started his time in Belhaven as a coach of football, basketball and baseball. This was for both boys and girls and JV, if there was one, as well. To me he was just "coach," and I never called him anything else after that first day of football practice. We won our conference in football that first year in
see COACH, page 6A

Coach from page 4A

1961, again in 1962, 1963 and 1964. We were a football powerhouse in those days, at least in our conference. Much like Bath High School had been before they switched out of our conference.

I loved football. It gave me a chance to hit another player as hard as I could and not get in trouble. I never was very big or very good but coach would always let me play some position.

He said I had a "lot of heart," whatever that meant. I learned a lot during those four years. Values that one could take with them during their whole life: fair play, play by the rules, teamwork, honesty, integrity, faithfulness and many others.

Coach went on to serve many

years as head coach and eventually was principal of the High School. He served as mentor to hundreds of young adults and I am sure he had a positive impact on all of them whether they will admit it or not. He was not perfect.

He had his faults and vices just like the rest of us, but you won't see me looking for a stone to throw.

All of us have at least one person in our childhood that was instrumental in helping mold us into a better person. Most often this is a teacher. I had two teachers that greatly influenced my life and coach was one. I'll save the other one for a later date. I never took the time to thank coach for

what he had done for me. He died much too early. I had good intentions but never acted on them. You have the chance to act.

If you had a teacher, or anyone else, that helped you, take the time to give them a call or stop by and thank them personally.

Most teachers have selected a vocation that impacts so many of us but they are underpaid and most often under appreciated as well.

Thanks coach for the time you took away from your family to teach me about football, baseball and life. I hope I made you proud to know me.

Go Bulldogs.

—Ken Hawkins,
North Carolina resident

Mrs. Audrey Midgette thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition of her deceased husband and his contributions to the community; she stated that by "naming the field in his memory it will keep his name alive".

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White Oak EMS 24/7 Service – Mr. Ricky White

Mayor O’Neal recognized Mr. Ricky White, owner of White Oak Ambulance Service who provides the 24/7 paid EMS for the Town of Belhaven and the surrounding community. Mr. White gave the following report:

Month of July 2009 = 36 calls; 20 in-town and 16 out of town

Four full-time employees and 2 part-time employees; now has five local employees

Good response time

Truck restocked after every call and carries more than is required by the state

To date – month of August has had 38 calls

No complaints

Trained EMT Intermediate – can start IV fluids and can use D-50 for diabetics which makes a difference if the call is 15 miles from hospital

Mr. White stated that White Oak Ambulance Service had been welcomed into the community.

Councilman Pigott has Mr. White if the town could of any assistance. Mr. White stated that he had talked with Town Manager Leverett. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. White for his report and service to the community.

Town Manager’s Report

Town Manager Leverett reported briefly on the following items:

1. Opened sealed bids for the painting of the fire department on the steps of the Municipal Building; eight local contractors were given specifications to bid and the received four bids with Alton Boomer from Pantego being the lowest bid. (Writer’s note: the bids received were: Ted Carawan Painting \$8,750.00; Cooper Painting \$7,300; Marslender Painting \$9,760.00 and Alton Boomer \$7,225.00. Mayor O’Neal stated that the Town was displaying openness/fairness by opening bids on the porch. 2. Town Manager Leverett stressed the importance for residents to have their telephone numbers included on the Town’s Kwik Call in case of emergencies or notices that need to be distributed to the residents. 3. Town Manager Leverett and Electric Department employee Mr. Aaron Kennedy met with the electric distribution engineers from Dominion Power concerning protocol for outages and also learned that should Belhaven have radical damage to our substation that a portable substation could be trailed to Belhaven. Mayor O’Neal stated that it was good to have that communication with Dominion Power as the outages experienced town wide were Dominion Power’s responsibility not the Town’s as has been rumored. Mayor O’Neal extended a thank you to Town Manager Leverett and Mr. Kennedy. 4. Letters have been sent to Battalina Creek subdivision owners concerning the mowing of their properties with mixed responses.

Mayor O’Neal stated that the replacement of the breakwater is out for bids now and that work should begin in October.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neal declared the meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk