

**Town of Milton**  
**Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 3, 2003**

**7:15 p.m. OPEN FLOOR:** Don Post spoke regarding keeping the Historical District in mind when the Comprehensive Plan is being re-written. Mayor Bushey invited him to attend the Advisory Zoning Board meeting tomorrow evening (March 4, 2003).

Mr. Post asked if the pipe was going to be moved from the property on Atlantic Avenue. Mayor Bushey noted that the property owner is putting up a fence. Councilman Hudson noted that the stones are too frozen to spread.

Judith Fisher of 410 Federal Street spoke in favor of the effort to support George Moore. She presented a petition with 40 names and signatures. She also dropped copies off for each Council member, and it was placed in their mailboxes. She has been very impressed with the comments people have made. He was forced to quit. He lives in Town and all will benefit from him being re-hired.

Rich Moonblatt of 322 Reed Street recapped. George Moore worked for the Town for 19 years. He has lived in Town for 46 years. He asked that George be granted an interview. Florence Balentine worked with him. Mr. Moonblatt read excerpts from his letter. Mayor Bushey stated that this will be taken under consideration.

Bernice Edwards spoke representing the Mulberry Street residents. She asked for Council updates regarding funding arrangements with DeIDOT. Mrs. Edwards gave pictures of the standing water on Mulberry Street. She asked when the work is going to begin. It is appalling that the street money always goes to other streets. She has problems with that. These residents have asked repeatedly when something is going to be done. Union, Federal, and Mulberry Streets are all main entrances to Town. Union and Federal Streets are kept beautiful. Council finds money for other streets and other things. She asked why Suburban Street funds can't be used for Mulberry Street. These residents need a date for the work. It has been two years (more honestly, 3 years). The last time she was here, she was told to call Nathan Hayward. Do others call Nathan Hayward? This looks like discrimination. She doesn't want that. Her house might not cost \$350,000, but she has worked every day for the way she lives.

Mayor Bushey noted that the State has taken over that project. He will call Nathan Hayward and follow-up.

Mrs. Edwards also made reference to the street lights only being on every other light pole. Why is that? The residents on Mulberry Street have been awful quiet. Those days are over. Mayor Bushey stated that the street lights need to be looked at by the Street Committee.

Hattie Bull stated that people walk along Mulberry Street all the time. Mrs. Edwards recommended looking at the street lights all over Town for the safety of the residents. Milton is not getting any smaller. All citizens need to be protected.

Councilman Wright will get the Committee together to look at lights and see what can be done about it.

Denise Hope suggested that the Committee wait until after Goff's closes and visit the Street around 11:30 p.m. or midnight. It is really dark.

Jim Welu asked if the three minutes is for discussing items on or off the agenda? Mayor Bushey stated both. Mr. Welu noted that it is not fair not to give the public time to speak during the meeting on a specific agenda item. The way it is structured, it holds people back from getting involved. There should be one session before the meeting for non-agenda items and one during the meeting for a specific item.

No one else was present to speak during the open floor portion of the meeting.

Mayor John F. Bushey called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. at the Fire Hall on Front Street.

Councilman Wright offered the opening prayer.

Mayor Bushey called the roll.

PRESENT: Mayor John Bushey  
Councilman Charles Fleetwood  
Councilman Jerry Hudson  
Councilman Robert Blayney  
Councilman William Wright  
Councilwoman Stephanie Parker

ABSENT: Councilwoman Leah Betts (in hospital for tests)

Others Present: Jocelyn Jenkins, Town Clerk  
Dawn Johnson, Town Secretary  
Eric Evans, Code Enforcer  
Stephanie Coulbourne, Finance Clerk  
William Phillips, Chief of Police  
Allen Atkins, Town Maintenance  
Tim Willard, Town Attorney

### **Presentation and Approval of Minutes**

#### December 16, 2002 special meeting minutes

Councilman Fleetwood made a ***motion***, seconded by Councilwoman Parker to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2002 special meeting.

Motion carried – “Aye”

#### February 3, 2003 regular meeting minutes

Councilman Fleetwood made a ***motion***, seconded by Councilwoman Parker to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2003 regular meeting.

Mayor Bushey asked if the Sunset Clause has been placed in the ordinances.

Mr. Evans stated that is has.

The question was called on the ***motion*** to approve the minutes.

Motion carried – “Aye”

#### February 24, 2003 special meeting minutes

Councilman Fleetwood made a ***motion*** to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2003 regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Wright.

Motion carried – “Aye”

### **Approval of Treasurer’s Report**

Councilwoman Parker made a ***motion*** to approve the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Councilman Hudson.

Motion carried – “Aye”

### **Presentation and Approval of Monthly Bills**

Councilman Fleetwood made a ***motion*** to pay the bills as money becomes available (with the additional bill from Wal-Mart for the new computer for me (printer, CPU, monitor) in the amount of \$698. Councilman Wright seconded the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

### **Committee Reports**

#### Sewer & Water Committee – Councilman Hudson

Councilman Hudson asked Mr. Atkins if the levels have been better since we met with Dogfish Head? Mr. Atkins stated that Dogfish Head is “treading water”. Councilman Hudson asked Mr. Atkins when the smoke test will be done? Mr. Atkins stated that it will be done within the month once the weather steadies.

Streets & Sidewalks Committee – Councilman Wright  
Nothing to report.

Ordinance Committee – Councilman Bushey  
Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – Councilman Blayney  
Nothing to report.

Pension Committee – Councilwoman Betts  
Nothing to report.

Parks & Recreation Committee – Councilman Fleetwood  
Councilman Fleetwood noted that there are a series of concerts scheduled for the park thanks to corporate sponsors. A notice will be going out in the mail. In case of rain, the Theater building will be used. Councilman Fleetwood went over the schedule of concerts.

Economic Development Committee – Councilman Fleetwood  
Councilman Fleetwood reported that he will be setting up a meeting within the next month regarding Town Center.

Planning & Zoning Committee – Linda Rogers  
Nothing new to report. They are still working on the Zoning Ordinance.

Election Committee  
Mayor Bushey thanked the candidates for their interest in the Town. William Wright was re-elected and Ronda Melson was elected.

Risk Management Committee – Councilman Fleetwood  
Nothing to report.

Tourism Committee – Councilwoman Parker  
Nothing to report.

Milton Development Corporation – Councilman Blayney  
Nothing to report. Karen Kelly is on the agenda later this evening.

Board of Adjustment – John Collier  
The Board of Adjustment met last week to hear variance requests.

## **Written Reports**

### Maintenance Report

Councilman Fleetwood made a ***motion*** to approve the maintenance report as written, seconded by Councilwoman Parker.

Councilwoman Parker asked Mr. Atkins how the DNREC inspection went. Mr. Atkins stated that it went great.

Mayor Bushey asked the status of the Marshall Street lift station. Mr. Atkins stated that it is okay right now. We are waiting for some parts.

Mayor Bushey thanked the staff for their work during the recent snowstorm.

Councilman Fleetwood asked Mr. Atkins if Maintenance needs a snow blower? They will think about it next year.

The question was called on the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

#### Code Enforcer Report

Councilman Fleetwood made a ***motion*** to accept the Code Enforcer’s report as written, seconded by Councilwoman Parker.

Councilman Hudson asked Mr. Evans if Food Lion had pulled their permits? Mr. Evans stated that they should be getting them soon.

The question was called on the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

#### Police Department Report

Councilman Fleetwood made a ***motion*** to approve the report of the Police Department, seconded by Councilman Blayney.

Mayor Bushey asked Chief Phillips how long before the new hires are off FTO. Chief Phillips stated that they will be off FTO after 3 months (March 21).

Reference was also made to a letter written by the Police Department on behalf of the Maintenance guys.

The question was called on the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

#### Town Clerk Report

Councilwoman Wright made a ***motion*** to approve the Town Clerk’s report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hudson.

Councilman Hudson asked Mrs. Jenkins when the map would be shipped? Mrs. Jenkins stated that her last two messages have been unanswered.

Mayor Bushey asked that Mrs. Jenkins follow-up on the Mulberry Street issue. Mrs. Jenkins stated that she spoke to him at a conference, but there was a time/staffing issue.

Mayor Bushey asked that Mrs. Jenkins set up a meeting with Dave Petrosky (Mrs. Jenkins and himself).

Mayor Bushey asked if reimbursement has been received for the rip rap? Mrs. Jenkins stated no.

The question was called on the motion to approve the Town Clerk's report.

Motion carried – “Aye”

### **Correspondence**

Letters were read from the following:

- A. Chief Phillips regarding the maintenance crews work during the snowstorm; and
- B. Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge regarding an Open House on March 15 to celebrate 100 years.

### **Old Business**

#### Proposed Ordinance Changes - Chapter 16, Section 16-20 – Definition of new construction

Mayor Bushey reported that Council has three choices to consider. They will discuss this further at the next meeting.

#### Purchase of New Police Vehicle

Chief clarified that he never asked for a new car. The Department can settle for a used. This can wait until next year's budget.

Councilman Wright asked how many police cars we have now? Chief stated that we have six (6) not counting the blazer. The blazer is not safe to drive. Chief noted that it has been well over five (5) years since the blazer was seized, so the Town could sell it.

Councilman Fleetwood made a **motion** to sell it; advertise for bids and open them at the next meeting. Councilwoman Parker seconded the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Councilman Fleetwood made a **motion** to advertise the trash truck and open sealed bids in April, seconded by Councilman Hudson.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Councilman Fleetwood made a ***motion*** to spend the money made on the two (2) vehicles and buy police cars. Councilwoman Parker seconded the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Councilman Hudson reminded all Department Heads to put things they may need in the budget. He understands this is “growing” pains due to take home cars, etc.

**New Business**

Karen Kelly of Milton Development Corporation – Status of Milton Theater Project

Karen Kelly presented the budget. They have a 10 member Board of Directors. In 2000, the MDC received non-profit status as a 5013(c)

She gave a presentation and handed out some materials.

Councilman Fleetwood suggested that the Town consider a “phase in” donation in next year’s budget like they did for the library.

VHB Presentation of Plan for Environmental Shoreline Stabilization in the Municipal Park

Neville Reynolds from VHB was present. He gave a power point presentation. DNREC is participating in the project. It should take three (3) months to complete. Councilman Fleetwood suggested that if it can’t be completed by Memorial Day that it wait until after Labor Day.

Partition of 409 Hemlock Street

Mrs. Dutt was here on behalf of the application.

Mayor Bushey noted that the Board of Adjustment approved the lot size and side yard setback.

Councilman Fleetwood made a ***motion***, seconded by Councilman Blayney to grant the partitioning.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Mrs. Dutt thanked the Council. She looks forward to living in Town.

Kathy Clark of Garden Club Regarding Garden Tour

Mrs. Clark stated that she is the new president of the Garden Club. She asked to be on the agenda tonight to let Council know what they do. They have 25 members now to beautify the Town. Everywhere that people see flowers, they did it. They meet once a month. Last year during the Garden Tour, they had a problem getting water to Magnolia Square. The Garden Club asks that the Town get that fixed by the Tour this year.

Mr. Atkins will take care of this.

Mrs. Clark stated that they are a non-profit group. They use all the money they get in to buy flowers. They hire Boys 2 Be Men every year to clean up the sidewalk and pick up trash. It needs to be maintained better. All of the members are 40+ women.

Chief Phillips and Bernice Edwards suggested trying to get the SCI prisoners to assist.

Mrs. Clark also stated that they need good soil in the beds.

Mayor Bushey thanked Councilman Blayney for the years and hours of service to the Town. Mayor Bushey noted that Councilman Blayney has taken a lot of corrective criticism. He thanked Councilman Blayney for his time.

Councilman Blayney made a **motion** to pay the Council salaries, seconded by Councilman Fleetwood.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Councilman Hudson made reference to Mrs. Edwards’ question about Mulberry Street. Mayor Bushey answered that DeIDOT took over the project. Councilman Hudson suggested that Council get DeIDOT here in the next month to explain to these people; not just a “spokesperson”, but someone with some knowledge of the project (and some authority).

Councilman Hudson asked that the election, absentee ballots, and election hours be put on the April agenda. Mayor Bushey stated that several years ago, the Town had longer poll hours, but changed them because no one showed up. Council also changed the Charter to be open two (2) Saturdays in January and put it in the paper. The same thing happens every year.

Councilman Wright told Mrs. Edwards that he plans to address the problem with DeIDOT.

Mayor Bushey told Mr. Evans that with regard to the letter about the ordinance about snow removal, the Street Committee is to look at that.

Councilwoman Parker made a **motion** that the Employee Handbook mileage be changed to the current federally approved rate. The motion was seconded by Councilman Blayney.

Motion carried – “Aye”

**Executive Session**

Councilman Fleetwood made a *motion* to go into Executive Session after a five (5) minute recess, seconded by all other members.

Motion carried – “Aye”

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Council went into Executive Session at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Johnson  
Administrative Assistant

dmbj:4/15/03