

**TOWN OF LELAND
EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006
8:30 P.M.**

ASSEMBLY

The Town of Leland Council held an emergency meeting on Monday, April 24, 2006 at 8:30 p.m. at Leland Town Hall, for the purpose of appointing an interim town manager.

Present were: Walter Futch, Mayor; Councilmen: Brenda Bozeman, Gordon Hobbs, Jimmy Medlin and Tommy Wallace.

Also present were: Carol Ann Floyd, CMC, Town Clerk; Lee Nichols, Development Services Director; Donna Strickland, CMC, Finance Officer; Tim Evans, Chief Building Inspector; Osey Sanders, Police Chief and Jimmy Strickland, Public Works Director.

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Futch called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. Councilman Medlin gave the invocation. A quorum was present. Everyone stood and gave Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

APPOINT – INTERIM TOWN MANAGER

Mayor Futch stated that Town Manager David Hewett has resigned. Mayor Futch read aloud the resignation letter of Mr. Hewett as follows:

Please be advised that I hereby tender my resignation from the position of Town Manager effective 12 May 2006 in order to pursue other personal and professional objectives. Until that time I will be using up several weeks of accumulated vacation time.

*Sincerely,
David W. Hewett*

Mayor Futch stated that is why he called an emergency meeting. Mayor Futch stated that since that time Mr. Hewett had appointed Mr. Nichols as Acting Town Manager. Mayor Futch stated that he had talked with Mr. Wessell and he stated that the Town Council needs to approve Mr. Hewett appointment or appoint someone else. Councilman Hobbs stated that it's business as usual and feels that Mr. Nichols is qualified. Mr. Wessell read G.S. 160A-149-Acting City Manager as follows:

By letter filed with the city clerk, the manager may designate, subject to the approval of the council, a qualified person to exercise the powers and perform the duties of manager during his temporary absence or disability. During this absence or disability, the council may revoke that designation at any time and appoint another to serve until the manager returns or his disability ceases.

Mr. Wessell stated that the council could approve Lee or appoint someone else. Mayor Futch stated that he had talked with Mr. Wessell and Chris May with the Cape Fear Council of Governments about an interim manager. Mayor Futch stated that Mr. Wessell knew two(2) and Chris May knew one(1) retired town manager that could come in as interim town manager. Mayor Futch stated that the North Carolina League of Municipalities has a list for interim town managers. Mayor Futch stated that he spoke with Lee briefly about an already full plate. Councilman Wallace asked about hiring an interim. Mr. Wessell stated that an interim could be hired on a contract basis until a

permanent person is hired. Councilman Wallace asked Mr. Nichols for his opinion. Mr. Nichols stated he comes with mixed emotions. Mr. Nichols stated that he had been with the town since 2002. Mr. Nichols stated that in working with the town he had met all of his responsibilities. Mr. Nichols stated that he wants to continue going forward with Leland. Mr. Nichols stated that in the last seven(7) months he has been in intense study with the Administration course in Chapel Hill. Mr. Nichols stated that they have hired a new planner and that with good organization and scheduling he thinks this could work. Mr. Nichols stated that he works with the finest people and great department heads. Mr. Nichols stated that the departments do all the work and with their help he thinks he would do a fine job as interim. Councilman Medlin stated that he had spoke with some of the employees and had spoke with Lee. Councilman Medlin stated that he is confident that he could be the interim town manager. Councilman Hobbs **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilman Medlin to appoint Lee Nichols as Interim Town Manager. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOSLY**. Councilman Medlin asked about the salaries. Mrs. Strickland stated that the base salary for the town manager was \$54,211 and that Mr. Nichols was making the base salary for Planning Director at \$41,504. Mayor Futch stated that salary could be discussed at a later time and that Mr. Nichols could be back paid when that decision is made. Mr. Wessell stated that Mrs. Floyd bought to his attention the length of Mr. Nichols appointment so that we aren't here again on May 12th making another appointment. Councilman Wallace **MOVED, SECONDED** Councilman Bozeman to appoint Lee Nichols as Interim Town Manager until the Town Council appoints otherwise. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOSLY**.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Hobbs **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilman Medlin to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Walter B. Futch Jr., Mayor

Carol Ann Floyd, CMC, Town Clerk

Approval Date: 05/18/06