

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 2 , 2020

Town Council held an Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers on March 2, 2020. The meetings were attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Ron Williams, and Steve Baker. Councilmember Todd Lyle was absent.

Staff members present were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, Police Chief Terrence Green, Transportation Director Randy Edwards, Planning, Building and Technology Director John Hanson, Utilities and Engineering Director Allen Lutz, Finance Director Kathy Pharr, Parks and Sanitation Director Dan Walker, Downtown Venue Promoter Walker Brewer, Events and Media Coordinator Laurin Barnes, Digital Media Coordinator Darrell Pritchard, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were approximately fifteen (15) citizens present for the Council meeting and no members of the news media were present.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor MacDougall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Members. He called on Mr. Bill Shanahan, Lexington County Blowfish, to give the invocation. Mayor MacDougall called on Boy Scout Xavier Gonzalez to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Mayor MacDougall reported that the *Executive Session* was called to order at 5:33 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (MacDougall, Livingston, Carnes, Williams). Council adjourned from the *Executive Session* at 6:30 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Williams. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (6). Mayor MacDougall reported that pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a) (1) and (2), Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: two legal issues regarding pending litigation and advice regarding an agenda item; and two contractual issues regarding Downtown Development and a sewer contract. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to ratify the Mayor's report. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (6).

DELETIONS ON AGENDA: None. Mayor MacDougall requested that Councilmember Maness read a Proclamation and Councilmember Carnes read New Business #1 in the absence of Councilmember Lyle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve the minutes from Council's February 18, 2020 Work Session as submitted. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (6).

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Presentation for Eagle Scout Xavier Gonzalez – Councilmember Carnes:** Councilmember Carnes read a letter of commendation for Eagle Scout Gonzalez commending him on receiving the rank of Eagle Scout. Councilmember Carnes congratulated Eagle Scout Gonzalez on his project to distribute Foster Care Bags to foster children in Lexington by assembling 122 duffle bags, with gender specific items included, for DSS to have when they need to remove a child. Councilmember Carnes added that as we know, the children sometimes have to leave in a hurry and do not have many personal hygiene items, plus it gives them a real duffle bag to use instead of a trash bag. Eagle Scout Gonzalez demonstrated that today's youth believe in character, honesty and integrity, all of which are critical for all of us to succeed in making our communities and our world a better place. Councilmember Carnes presented Eagle Scout Gonzalez with a gold lapel pin with the Town's seal as a token of the Town's appreciation for his hard work. (Copy of letter attached.) Councilmember Carnes added that the Gonzalez family lives in his neighborhood and they are all very active in the community and great citizens.

Eagle Scout Gonzalez thanked Councilmember Carnes. He added that he was grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community with his Eagle project.

2. **Census Day Proclamation – Councilmember Maness:** Councilmember Maness read a proclamation declaring April 1, 2020 as Census Day in the Town of Lexington. She directed that the proclamation be given to the Town's Advisory Committee who were appointed as the Complete Count Committee for the Town. (Copy of proclamation attached.)
3. **Presentation to the Lexington Police Department from Lexington County Chili Cook-Off – John Clinger, Old Mill Brew Pub and Bill and Vicki Shanahan, Lexington County Blowfish:** Mr. Shanahan stated that the Chili Cook-Off was John Clinger's idea which is now held at the Icehouse Amphitheater and has continued to grow each year. He also acknowledged Walker Brewer who has done an amazing job for the Town at the amphitheater. He also congratulated

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the Police Department for winning the People's Choice Award at the Chili Cook-Off. Mr. Clinger wished to present the \$2,000 check and a Chili Cook-Off t-shirt to Chief Green. He added that it represents the remaining proceeds after expenses for the Chili Cook-Off. He also introduced Lori Moroz as the Vice Chair of the Lexington Police Department Foundation. Chief Green stated that they would use the check to buy vests for the K-9 Officers.

Mayor MacDougall congratulated the Foundation and thanked Ms. Moroz for being such a great partner and for everything she does in the community. He added that he agreed that Walker Brewer was doing a fantastic job at the Icehouse.

4. **Presentation to LaVie Pregnancy Care Center from the Mayors' Prayer Breakfast – Mr. Bill Shanahan:** Mr. Shanahan stated that they have helped put on the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the stadium for the past three years, along with Mayor MacDougall, who cooks the breakfast for the event. He added that this year Jonathan Johnson was their speaker and it gave citizens an opportunity to get together and pray for the community. Mr. Shanahan asked Mayor MacDougall to join him to present a \$500 check to Ms. Linda Brown from the LaVie Pregnancy Care Center.

5. **Shamrock Parade Announcement – Mr. Bill Shanahan, Lexington County Blowfish:** Mr. Shanahan announced Lexington's 6th Shamrock Parade to be held on March 14th at 2:00 on Main Street in Lexington. He added that the first year was held with a goal to have a family friendly free event like many other great events in Lexington like the Snowball Parade. Mr. Shanahan stated that this is also the only "Shamrock Parade" in the United States because everyone else has a St. Patrick's Day Parade. They want to share the shamrock just like Patrick did when he went to Ireland as a missionary and shared the word using a three leaf shamrock to teach the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Mr. Shanahan stated that here we are in Lexington, South Carolina and who's getting all the credit – the Lord. He handed out poster to help promote the Shamrock Parade.

Mayor MacDougall stated that the Town couldn't thank the Shanahans enough for everything they do in the Town. He commended them for being such a great partner even though he was sad they were no longer on Main Street, they were always welcome to all the events in Lexington. He added that he has been around a lot of promoters, but Mr. Shanahan is the best he has ever seen.

VISION PLAN UPDATE

Mayor MacDougall announced: (1) The Town of Lexington is the winner of the 2020 Municipal Achievement Award for our Adaptive Signalization System project! The

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Achievement Awards program has three main objectives: to recognize innovative projects, to share those projects with other municipalities, and to demonstrate the value of cities and towns. The entry was judged on innovation, efficient use of resources, the role in the city's overall vision, effective use of partnerships, quantifiable results and adaptability to other hometowns. The award in the 10,000 to 20,000 population category will be officially presented by MASC in July in Charleston. Mayor MacDougall explained that these are the lights that run from Lexington to the hospital in West Columbia. He added that it was a great partnership with SCDOT, the City of West Columbia, and the Lexington Medical Center. He stated that the Town controls the lights from Jim Hudson Ford to the last light before you get into the City of Columbia. Mayor MacDougall stated that if there was a natural disaster, a green light tunnel could be initiated to get people to safety very quickly. He thanked Events and Media Coordinator Barnes for doing a great job in presenting it to MASC and writing it in a way that won it for the Town. (2) Have an idea for Main Street?! Be on the lookout for an exciting development opportunity that will be announced soon. The Town will have a Request for Proposal asking for ideas from developers for the open lot on West Main in front of Icehouse Amphitheater. (3) Speaking of Icehouse - tomorrow the Pavilion project bid will be opened at 2:00 p.m. Once awarded, construction is expected to begin soon after that. The goal is for the Pavilion to be completed late this year. In addition to the Pavilion, there will be additional women's restrooms and air conditioning added to the current facilities. This weekend there are two events at the Amphitheater. Visit the Amphitheater's Facebook page for details. (4) Mayor MacDougall stated that each month he announces events going on in and around Lexington, all of which are a result of the Town's Vision Plan which was reviewed and updated in 2017 and again this past summer. The entire Vision Plan can be read on the Town's website. Citizens were encouraged to call the Mayor, Council or Staff if they knew of something that would improve the quality of life for the community.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston gave the Traffic Update: (1) The SCDOT has begun patch work along S. Lake Drive between Fort Street and Gibson Road as part of surface rehabilitation plan. Please be aware of lane closures, lane shifts and use extra caution in and around this area for the next several weeks. (2) Along Columbia Ave. (Highway 378) between Reed Avenue and Old Chapin Road, the development of Andy's Carwash has begun. This work requires some intermittent lane shifts and possible closures as construction of a raised median is completed. (3) Work continues on the deceleration lane at the new Hampton Inn being constructed along Sunset Boulevard/378. Please use caution as periodic lane shifts will be used during this construction. The next Traffic Committee meeting will be held on March 11, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in the third floor

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conference room. (3) Citizens were encouraged to call 358-7273 if they were aware of a traffic signal issue, unsafe roadway situations, or a pothole that needs repair.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor MacDougall called the Public Hearing to order and requested that those wishing to speak limit their comments to five minutes.

1. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance to Authorize Issuance of General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes of 2020.
2. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance to Amend the Icehouse Tax Increment Financing Ordinance.
3. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance Rezoning Lexington County Tax Map #4300-04-167, 4300-01-076, and a Portion of 4300-01-064 located off of Caughman Farm Lane.

There were no public comments.

There being no further comments, Mayor MacDougall declared the Public Hearings closed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams to **approve Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #4323-05-011 located at 702 West Main Street as General Commercial**. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5). Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston was excused from the meeting due to illness at 7:02. (Copies attached.)
2. A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Baker to **approve Final Reading of an Ordinance to Authorize Issuance of General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes of 2020**. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5). (Copy attached.)
3. A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness to **approve Final Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Icehouse Tax Increment Financing Ordinance**. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5). (Copy attached.)
4. A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to **approve Final Reading of an Ordinance Rezoning Lexington County Tax Map #4300-01-167, 4300-01-076, and a portion of 4300-01-064**

located off of Caughman Farm Lane. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5). (Copy attached.)

NEW BUSINESS

1. **First Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #3500-03-014 located at 4532 Darby Ambrose Road:** Kenneth Shuler owns one (1) acre located at 4532 Darby Ambrose Road and petitioned to annex the property. The property is currently undeveloped. Properties in Town near this one are zoned General Commercial and Limited Commercial. Darby Ambrose Road is classified as a Limited Local Road. (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Baker to approve First Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #3500-03-014 located at 4532 Darby Ambrose Road as stated. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5).

2. **Resolution in Support of the National League of Cities Agenda for the 2020 Presidential Election:** The National League of Cities asked local leaders to introduce and adopt the 2020 Cities Agenda as an official mark of support for Leading Together to secure America's brighter future. Councilmember Maness stated that she has had the honor of serving on the NLC Task Force that developed the Resolution and she was happy to bring it to Town Council. A copy of the Resolution was provided to Council. (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to adopt the Resolution in Support of NLC's Cities Agenda for the 2020 Presidential Election as provided. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5).

3. **The Market at Icehouse Policy Update:** At the February 28, 2020 Council Work Session, Council discussed modifications to the Policy for The Market at Icehouse. A copy of the updated policy was provided to Council. (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve the policy update as provided. Councilmember Baker requested a brief update on the changes for the record. Downtown Venue Promoter Brewer responded that the policy update clarified some of the registration requirements, specifically around the booth, a deposit was added for the vendors to participate, and some language was cleaned up for edit purposes. Councilmember Maness

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asked for clarification regarding the deposit. Mr. Brewer responded that the deposit is similar to deposits when renting Town facilities in that if the vendors show up on time and do what they agreed to, they would get the \$75 deposit back. He added that the deposit is a once a season deposit. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5).

4. **Building Permit Fee Waiver:** Habitat for Humanity is planning to construct several homes in the Town. The estimated construction value of these homes is \$70,000 which creates a permit cost of \$512.15 for each home. Council was asked to waive the permit fees for all of the Habitat for Humanity homes to support the organization's mission of helping families build places to call home.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve the waiver of Building Permit fees for Habitat for Humanity as stated. Councilmember Carnes added that Habitat is to build 10 new homes and plan to up-fit multiple more in the downtown Lexington area. He encouraged church groups, civic groups, friend groups and all others to pick up a hammer and volunteer to help make our community better. Councilmember Carnes stated that this would be a great blessing to a lot of people in the community. He gave a shout out to some of the local churches who have already gotten involved. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5).

5. **Boards and Commissions Council Liaisons:** During Council's February 18, 2020 Work Session, Council discussed several options concerning Council Liaisons. A motion was made to discontinue the practice of assigning Council Liaisons since all meetings are open to the public and can be attended by any or all Councilmembers; and to continue Staff Liaisons for eight Boards with the exception of Central Midlands COG and the Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission; and to include the directive that each Councilmember be supplied with an email summary of each meeting so they can all relate to the Boards; all to be effective at the time of the vote. If approved, Staff Liaisons are to provide Council a summary, in bullet point format, of the Board or Commission meetings that do not currently produce minutes.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Williams to discontinue the practice of assigning Council Liaisons since all meetings are open to the public and can be attended by any or all Councilmembers; and to continue Staff Liaisons for eight Boards with the exception of Central Midlands COG and the Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission; and to include the directive that each Councilmember be supplied with an email summary of each meeting so they can all relate to the Boards; all to be effective with the vote. If approved, Staff Liaisons are to provide Council a summary, in bullet point format, of the Board or Commission meetings that they attend.

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Councilmember Carnes confirmed that the motion stated to “continue” Staff Liaisons. Town Administrator Poole stated, for clarification, that it was his understanding, but not the way the motion was read, that the report out mentioned would be for those Boards that do not have minutes produced. Mayor MacDougall agreed, that was correct. Councilmember Williams stated that was not the way the motion was read. Mayor MacDougall asked Councilmember Baker if he would like to restate the motion. Councilmember Baker responded that he stated it the way he meant to because he has enjoyed getting the bullet point updates from Staff since it was recently requested. Councilmember Williams confirmed that the motion he seconded was to receive a bullet point summary from the Staff Liaison soon after the meeting and minutes would follow at a later date. Councilmember Baker responded yes, that was the intent.

The motion carried with a vote of four (4) in favor and one (1) opposed (MacDougall).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Williams made the following announcements: (1) The American Legion welcomed Nicole Clapp to Lexington today by reading a Proclamation from the Mayor and Council to honor her. Ms. Clapp is the American Legion Auxiliary National President from Iowa and she will be visiting South Carolina for a few days. Welcome President Clapp! (2) This will be another busy spring at the Icehouse Amphitheater. The Lexington Live FREE Spring Concert Series runs for 7 weeks this year starting with Finesse Band on April 9th. Please visit icehouseamphitheater.com for a complete list. (3) Other upcoming events at the Icehouse Amphitheater include: The movie “Playing with Fire” will be showing this Friday, March 6th at 6:30 and it is free. Pack the Pantry is this Saturday at 1:00 with live bands and benefits Mission Lexington. Remember to bring a canned good for admission. The Eagles Tribute band – ON THE BORDER is sold out. Councilmember Williams commended Walker Brewer for selling out so fast. But there’s still time to get tickets for SISTER HAZEL on June 12th at 6:00 for \$28.00. (4) The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet this Thursday at 5:30 in the Council Chambers. (5) Don’t forget to SPRING FORWARD this weekend for Daylight Savings Time. (6) The Advisory Board will meet on March 10th at 6:00 in the Eli Mack Room. (7) The Traffic Committee will meet on March 11th at 8:00 a.m. in the third floor conference room. (8) The St. Patrick’s Shamrock Parade will be on Main Street in Lexington on Saturday, March 14th at 2:00. (9) Council will meet again on March 16th at 6:00 for Council’s Work Session in the Eli Mack Room. (10) The Planning Commission will meet on March 18th at 8:00 a.m. here in the Council Chambers. Councilmember Williams thanked everyone for watching their Town Council in action tonight.

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Councilmember Maness wished Councilmember Williams a Happy Birthday this Friday, March 6th.

Mayor MacDougall expressed the Town's condolences to the family of Bobby Bowers who passed away unexpectedly. He added that Bobby was a great "Lextonian" who served in the Lions Club and was always involved in the community. He stated that a

Staff member told him today that Bobby was always very helpful and he would certainly be missed by many.

NEWS MEDIA QUESTIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor MacDougall thanked the Council members and citizens for attending the Council meeting. He thanked those at home for viewing the Council meeting on cable channel 1301 which will also be replayed several times during the week.

Mayor MacDougall stated that without objection from Council, he declared the meeting adjourned. The Regular Council meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

Steve MacDougall
Mayor

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FOIA COMPLIANCE – Public notification of this meeting was published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Lexington requirements.