

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
Council Work Session

June 3, 2019

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Town Council held an Executive Session followed by a Council Work Session in the Eli Mack Sr. Room, followed by the June Regular Council meeting (separate minutes) in the Council Chambers on June 3, 2019 at 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, South Carolina (*Summer Schedule*). The meetings were attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston (present for Executive Session only), Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Ron Williams, Steve Baker and Todd Lyle.

Staff members present were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, Transportation Director Randy Edwards, Planning, Building and Technology Director John Hanson, Community and Economic Development Johnny Jeffcoat, Utilities and Engineering Director Allen Lutz, Finance Director Kathy Pharr, Parks and Sanitation Director Dan Walker, Assistant Parks and Sanitation Director Johnny Dillard, Special Projects Manager Wesley Crosby, Downtown Venue Promoter Walker Brewer, Events and Media Coordinator Jennifer Dowden, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There was one (1) citizen present and no members of the news media were present.

OPENING STATEMENT and CALL TO ORDER

Mayor MacDougall welcomed everyone to the Council Work Session. He read an opening statement to explain the procedures of a Council Work Session which stated: *“Work Sessions are less formal business meetings that enable Council to obtain and discuss information regarding Town issues from Staff members and/or consultants. Like Regular Council Meetings, citizens are encouraged to attend and observe Work Sessions; however, they do not include Public Hearings, but do allow for public comment at the end of the Work Session unless otherwise called on by Council. Council does not take an action vote on items during a Work Session other than to vote to place an item on Council’s next Regular Council Meeting agenda for consideration and an official vote. Council Work Sessions are taped for use by the Municipal Clerk only and Minutes are taken and posted on the Town’s web page following approval of Council.”*

Mayor MacDougall called the Council Work Session to order at 6:23 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 Lyle and seconded by Councilmember Maness to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried. Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 6:22 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Lyle. The motion was unanimously carried. 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 agenda items and three contractual items regarding a downtown economic development issue, an issue regarding a sewer contract, and a proposed contract for social media. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Lyle to ratify the Mayor's report. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (6).

DELETIONS ON AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve the minutes as submitted from Council's Regular meeting held May 6, 2019 and Council's Work Session held on May 20, 2019. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (6).

BUSINESS ITEMS: (For Discussion and Recommendation for Council's July 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting.)

1. **Icehouse Amphitheater General Policy Update – Downtown Venue Promoter Walker Brewer:** Due to the large crowds attending events at the Icehouse Amphitheater, Staff recommended that the amphitheater go to "no lawn chairs". Lawn chairs take up 1.5 to 2 times the amount of space that a person using a seat cushion or seat back would use. By removing lawn chairs it would allow for more attendees to be able to find seats. Also included was an update to include the new parking lots on Church Street and a revision of the weather policy. (Copy attached.)

Councilmember Lyle asked if there was a count of people turned away for over capacity due to lawn chairs and if Staff had considered a lawn chair section because some people may not come if they could not sit in a lawn chair. Mr. Brewer responded that he did not have a count but several people had witnessed it and the Town Administrator had received an email about it. He added that seat cushions and seats cushions with a back are allowed and provide support and take up less space. Town Administrator Poole stated that lawn chairs are currently not allowed at ticketed events. He added that this is a good problem to have because it means a lot of people are showing up to Town events.

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Councilmember Maness stated that she had two people make a comment to her about lawn chairs taking up space.

Councilmember Williams asked if lawn chairs could be allowed on the top level because a lot of handicapped people would not be able to go down the stairs. Mr. Brewer stated that he and Officer Mortenson had noticed at several events that chairs on the upper level create a safety issue. He added that if a medical emergency or police emergency happened to someone in the bowl of the amphitheater no one could get to them. Mr. Brewer stated that at the Tams event the chairs overtook the plaza or upper level area and that it is easier to move a standing crowd than a sitting crowd. He added that a sign lets people know that a chair will be provided for ADA issues.

Mayor MacDougall called for a motion if there were no further questions. A motion was made by Councilmember Lyle for some consideration to be given to determine a way to confine a section for lawn chairs. Town Administrator Poole asked Mr. Brewer if the Weather Policy update was a pressing issue. Mr. Brewer explained that it just gives more detail about “rain or shine”. Mr. Poole stated that Staff could look at Councilmember Lyle’s request and bring the policies back to Council at the next Work Session. The consensus of Council was to bring the item back to Council in July.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. **Shore Road Pump Station Site Improvements – Director of Utilities and Engineering Allen Lutz:** On April 8, 2019 bids were accepted for the Shore Road pump station site improvements. Bids were opened at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room C. There were four (4) bids presented to the Town. The highest bid was from NWF Utilities at \$114,800 and the lowest bid was from Shady Grove Construction at \$64,839.

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Williams asked if all the neighbors were notified of the Town’s fireworks event at the Icehouse Amphitheater on June 28th. Mr. Poole stated that one of the Police Department’s moving message signs would be placed on Hendrix Street a few days before the event as Council requested. Councilmember Maness asked if it could be put in the water bill too. Events and Media Coordinator Dowden responded that it would be too late for an event on the 28th but the event itself is listed as an event in the June water bill. Councilmember Williams asked Major Davis to also put a notice on the Police Department’s Facebook page and web site. Mr. Poole stated that it would be a huge event for the American Legion who will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary.

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Councilmember Baker asked Mr. Poole to contact County Administrator Joe Mergo and asked him to place a notice on the County's Facebook page too.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no objection from Council, Mayor MacDougall adjourned the Council Work Session at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC

APPROVED BY:

Steve MacDougall
Mayor

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.