

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Lexington**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**June 3, 2019**

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Town Council held an Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Council Work Session (separate minutes), followed by the Regular Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers on June 3, 2019. The Council meeting was attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Ron Williams, Steve Baker and Todd Lyle. Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston was absent.

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 were approximately twenty-five (25) citizens present for the Council meeting and no members of the news media were present.

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**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor MacDougall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Members. Councilmember Carnes gave the invocation. Mayor MacDougall led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT:** (Ratified during Council Work Session.)

**DELETIONS ON AGENDA:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month Proclamation – Councilmember Ron Williams:** Councilmember Williams read a proclamation proclaiming May 15, 2019 through June 15, 2019 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month and June 4, 2019 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day. He presented the proclamation to Ms. Heather Ramsey, Director, Greater Carolinas Group Tourette Association of America.

**Ms. Heather Ramsey** thanked the Mayor and Council for their support. She added that this is personal for her in that she has Tourette Syndrome as well as both of her children. She started the support group, Greater Carolinas Group Tourette Association of America, to help bring awareness and to reach people so

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 3, 2019**

they would not have to suffer in silence. She introduced her six guests including her mother, Sherry Kimble and SC House Representative Paula Calhoun.

Mayor MacDougall thanked Ms. Ramsey and her guests and welcomed them to stay for the meeting.

**VISION PLAN UPDATE**

Mayor MacDougall announced: (1) The Lexington Live Free Spring Concert series was a big success with more than 1,000 people attending each concert. He looked forward to seeing everyone again at the Fall Concert Series. (2) Summer starts with free movies at the Icehouse Amphitheater beginning June 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 p.m. featuring The Secret Life of Pets. (3) The Town will help celebrate the nation's birthday and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Legion at the Icehouse Amphitheater on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. with the 246<sup>th</sup> Army Band featuring a variety of music from the decades and a fireworks display over Main Street. The event is free and open to the public. (4) The Town is excited to host country sensation Parmalee at the Icehouse on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets can be purchased at icehouseamphitheater.com for \$26.00. (5) The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lexington Wine Walk was big hit this past Friday at the Icehouse Amphitheater. (6) The Market at Icehouse is in full swing at the Icehouse Amphitheater. Come out every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. through September 28<sup>th</sup> with the exception of July 6<sup>th</sup>. To learn more about The Market at Icehouse visit Facebook page "Market at Icehouse".

**TRAFFIC UPDATE**

Councilmember Baker gave the Traffic Update: (1) Work for the new sign structure on the I-20 Exit Ramp at 378 has begun. Foundations are complete and the structure is expected to be installed by the end of the month. Once completed, travelers from I-20 wishing to access Ginny Lane will proceed to the ramp traffic signal and make a right hand turn onto Highway 378 westbound into the dedicated left turn lane. (2) Construction has begun on a new deceleration lane in front of Wal-Mart and Chick-fil-A Corporation as part of their building permit process. Construction is expected to last about 8 weeks. Please use caution in and around this area. (3) The next Traffic Committee meeting will be July 10th in the third floor conference room. 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.

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 3, 2019

1. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #4496-05-042 located at 156 Giaben Drive.
2. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map#3420-01-046 located at 113 Pilgrim Point Drive.
3. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance Adopting Alternate Election Years for Town of Lexington Municipal Elections.
4. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance for a Budget Amendment, Parks Department.
5. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance Adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget.
6. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance to Provide for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Tax Levy.

There being no 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 #4300-04-181 located at 339 Cherokee Trail**. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Copy attached.)
2. A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Baker to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #4496-05-042 located at 156 Giaben Drive**. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Copy attached.)
3. A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #3420-01-046 located at 113 Pilgrim Point Drive**. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Copy attached.)
4. A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Adopting Alternate Election Years for the Town of Lexington Municipal Elections**. Councilmember Williams confirmed that the cost to move the election would be approximately the same amount of \$5,000 or a little less than presently charged by the County of Lexington's Registration and Elections Office. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Copy attached.)
5. A motion was made by Councilmember Lyle and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance for a Budget Amendment, Parks Department**. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Copy attached.)

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 3, 2019

6. A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget**. Councilmember Baker confirmed that this was the 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the Town did not increase taxes. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Copy attached.)
7. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Lyle to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance to provide for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Tax Levy**. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Copy attached.)

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Sign Ordinance:** In September the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce presented the Town with several suggested amendments to the Sign Ordinance. From the suggestions, Staff presented five Sign Ordinance changes to the Planning Commission for their review. The Commission reviewed the recommendations and endorsed two of them. The two recommendations endorsed by the Commission would adopt a new Commercial Center definition for the Sign Ordinance and eliminate new billboard or off-premise sign placements in the Town Limits. Staff recommendations that did not receive a positive endorsement allowed additional signage at construction sites, established regulations for umbrella signs, and allowed additional signage in Commercial Centers. (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Baker to approve First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Sign Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission (adopt a new Commercial Center definition for the Sign Ordinance and eliminate new billboard or off-premise sign placements in the Town Limits). The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

2. **First Reading of an Ordinance Entering into a Mutual Aid Agreement with Pine Ridge Police Department:** The Lexington Police Department is entering into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Pine Ridge Police Department. (Copy of proposed agreement attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve First Reading of an Ordinance Entering into a Mutual Aid Agreement with Pine Ridge Police Department as stated. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

3. **Accommodations Tax:** The Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee met on May 1, 2019, to review Accommodations Tax projects requesting funds from the

MINUTES  
 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
 June 3, 2019

Fiscal Year 2018, 65% fund allocation. A spreadsheet listing the requests and the Accommodations Tax Committee's award recommendations was provided for Council's review and summarized below. (Copy attached). Award amounts equal this year's available funds of \$124,867. Additionally, a budget provided by the Greater Lexington Chamber & Visitor Center regarding the designation of FY 2018 30% Advertising and Promotion Special Fund was provided to Council. (Copy attached.) The FY 2018 Chamber designated 30% amount is \$57,357.60.

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Committee Recommended</u>
Capital City Lake Murray Country	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000.00
Columbia Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau	\$ 15,000	\$ 6,000.00
Columbia Museum of Art	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,867.00
Columbia Regional Sports Council	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000.00
Crossover Athletics/Run Hard	\$ 20,000	\$10,000.00
Lexington Chamber & Visitor Center	\$ 15,000	\$15,000.00
Lexington County Museum	\$ 10,000	\$10,000.00
Lex County Recreation (equipment).	\$ 15,000	\$15,000.00
Lex County Recreation (marketing)	\$ 10,000	\$10,000.00
MTC Foundation Harbison Theatre	\$ 15,000	\$ 0
The River Alliance/Tartan Day	\$ 10,000	\$10,000.00
Town of Lexington/Amphitheater	\$ 40,000	\$35,000.00
Town of Lexington/Snowball Festival	<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
	\$188,000	\$124,867.00

A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to approve the Committee's recommendations as stated. Councilmember Carnes stated that he serves as Council Liaison to this committee and he would like to thank them for their time and for a good investment of these funds. Mayor MacDougall stated that it was a well-earned thank you. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

4. **Boards and Commissions Reappointments:** The terms for the following Boards and Commissions members expire on June 30, 2019. Reappointments must be approved by Council.

*Advisory Committee:* Edith Harmon, Mary Stokes-Clark, Lauren Palkowski, and Latoya Reed. (Mr. Bill Reese did not respond to Staff communications in the past year.)

*Historic Preservation Board:* Chuck Corley, Jan Westmoreland

*Planning Commission:* John Bartlett

*Traffic Committee:* Susan Ruinen, Clyde Smith, Mark Churchill, Bob Ferrell, Jim Wigglesworth, Rosemary Wilson

*Current Boards and Commissions Vacancies:*

Advisory Committee: two vacancies

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 3, 2019

Board of Zoning Appeals: two vacancies  
Building Code Board of Appeals: two vacancies  
Historic Preservation: one vacancy  
Traffic Committee: two resident vacancies

A motion was made by Councilmember Lyle and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve the reappointments as stated. Councilmember Baker challenged citizens in Barr Lake, Settlers Point, and Palmetto Hall subdivisions to submit their application for Boards and Commissions vacancies. He added that they are all important and the Advisory Committee is currently working on a project with the US Census 2020, the Board of Zoning deals with people who are appealing decisions that have been made and Historic Preservation is currently a hot topic. He solicited citizens' engagement on the committees. Councilmember Baker confirmed that there are other neighborhoods but these are the first three that came to mind and his neighborhood already has several participates. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

5. **Boards and Commissions Applications:** A Boards and Commissions Application was received from Ms. Asheley N. Holmes who expressed an interest in serving on either the Advisory Committee or the Traffic Committee. Ms. Holmes is a Town resident. (Copy of application attached.)

A Boards and Commissions Application was also received from Mr. Adam DeLoach who expressed an interest in serving on the Advisory Committee. Mr. DeLoach is a Town resident. (Copy of application attached.)

Staff recommended placing Ms. Holmes and Mr. DeLoach on the Advisory Committee which has just begun work as the Complete Count Committee for Census 2020.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Lyle to approve the appointments of Ms. Holmes and Mr. DeLoach to the Advisory Committee as recommended. Councilmember Lyle stated that he knows Mr. DeLoach personally and he was excited that they both wanted to be on the Advisory Committee and he recommended them both. He added that as the Council Liaison to the Advisory Committee they have just started a new project with the Census. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

6. **Appointment to the Golden Hills Special Purpose Tax District Commission:** Scott Chamberlain resigned from the Golden Hills Special Purpose Tax District Commission. Harold Tuma was recommended to Town Council by the Golden Hills HOA to be one of the Town representatives on the Commission. Mr. Tuma has been a resident of Golden Hills for four (4) years and is active in the HOA.

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 3, 2019

Mr. Tuma is a local business owner with a background in higher education. Since retiring as Dean of Agriculture at the University of Wyoming he has opened restaurants in S.C., N.C. and Mississippi as well as owned commercial real estate in S.C. and Mississippi. (Copy of application attached.) Upon approval by Town Council, the recommendation of Mr. Tuma will be submitted to County Council for final approval. Additionally, the HOA has recommended directly to County Council the appointment of David Proctor as their HOA representative to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Tom Kosmata (the HOA representative does not require Town Council approval).

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve the appointment of Mr. Harold Tuma as the Town Representative to the Golden Hills Special Purpose Tax District Commission as stated. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

7. **Leadership Lexington County Project Funding Request:** The Leadership Lexington County Class of 2019 is raising funds for a project benefitting the Central Midlands Transitional Retreat, a 501(c)(3) organization in the Town of Lexington supported by Christ Central Ministries which provides housing specifically for United States Veterans. They requested a \$5,000 *Command Sergeant Major Sponsorship* donation towards the cost of constructing a pavilion recreation area and making improvements to the entrance of the facility. This sponsorship level would provide a plaque honoring the Town at the facility and two 8x8 bricks with the Town logo at the pavilion. (Copy of request letter attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Baker to approve funding a sponsorship for \$5,000 as requested by Leadership Lexington County for the Central Midlands Transitional Retreat. Councilmember Williams asked for clarification of how much had been raised so far for the project. Ms. Richardson, Fundraising Chair and Branch Manager at Ameris Bank in Lexington, responded that they have raised \$14,000 in sponsorships and \$30,000 for in-kind donations with a goal of \$50,000. She added that the retreat is a wonderful facility now and they currently house 86 veterans and help get them back into society. Ms. Richardson stated that she sees a lot of the veterans in her branch and helps them establish a bank account with direct deposit. She personally sees a lot of good things coming from these veterans. Mayor MacDougall stated on behalf of the Council that they were shocked to hear how many veterans are actually at the retreat facility, right here in Lexington, on a daily basis so they are honored to grant the funding request. Councilmember Williams stated that by his calculations they were short some amount of money. He asked if any other funds had been pledged. Mr. Richardson stated that they are working on \$2,500 from West Columbia and also made a request to

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 3, 2019

Lexington County. Councilmember Williams stated that he would give \$500 if she could get Councilmember Baker to give \$500. Councilmember Baker responded that he was in. Mayor MacDougall stated that they should also throw the gauntlet down for the huge County of Lexington and maybe they can get the amount over the top. He congratulated Ms. Richardson and Leadership Lexington for such a great project. Councilmember Baker stated that he was the Leadership Lexington Class of 2017 and he was the Project Leader so he knows how challenging it can be to put a project together, which can be like herding cats. He expressed his appreciation to the new class and the project. Councilmember Baker stated that Chief Green had taken him on a tour of the facility and he is grateful that they picked this project and grateful that Council is considering a sponsorship and standing with the veterans. The other class members that were present also expressed their appreciation to the Mayor and Council. Mayor MacDougall called for the vote. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Councilmember Maness** made the following announcements: (1) On behalf of the Mayor and Council, she extended condolences to the Caughman family in the loss of Hamp Caughman. Mr. Caughman was a great leader in Lexington and he will be missed by so many in our community. (2) Deepest sympathy was extended to Mayor Bobby Dyer and the City of Virginia Beach in the tragic loss of 12 people last Friday, 11 of whom were Municipal Utility employees. (3) The Mayor mentioned several Town events held at the Icehouse Amphitheater including The Market at Icehouse which is one of her favorites, where she and several Councilmembers have done live Facebook posts, but she also wanted to mention a few more events: This Friday, June 7th, WOMG 98.5 Columbia's Classic Hits Radio will host a free *Tribute to The Rolling Stones with The Delta Circus*. The concert starts at 7:00. This Saturday, June 8th, The Lexington County Museum will host a free *Haunted History Tour* at 8:00 p.m. and it will begin at the Icehouse Amphitheater. Attendees will learn about some of the murders, trails, and other crimes that occurred on Main Street in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Lexington Museum will also host their annual *Family Day* at the museum on Fox Street on June 22nd. This free event will feature children's activities and visitors will be treated to hot dogs and drinks. On June 15th there will be a *Sourwood Honey Tribute* with special guest The Ramblers. The concert starts at 7:00 and tickets are \$10.00. (4) This past Saturday was the kick-off for the Lexington County Library Summer Reading Program – "*Universe of Stories*". Go to [www.lexcolibrary.com](http://www.lexcolibrary.com) to find out how you can register for the summer reading program and weekly activities. Reading isn't just for kids – adults can also win weekly prizes at each local branch. (5) This Sunday, June 9th from 3:00 to 4:00, the Lexington Main Library and The Friends of Lexington Main Library will host New York Times bestselling author Patti Callahan Henry who will be reading from her latest novel *The Favorite Daughter*. For more information call 785-2680. (6) There will not be a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting in June. (7) The Planning Commission will meet on June 19th at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. (8) Some



MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 3, 2019

Boards and Commissions have State required training and the Town will hold its second date for training on June 21st from 2:00 to 5:00 in the 3rd floor conference room. (9) Council will meet again for the summer schedule on July 8th with the Council Work Session at 6:00 and Council Regular Meeting at 6:30. (10) Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. (11) Councilmember Maness congratulated all the new high school graduates in Lexington and wished them much success in their future endeavors. She wished everyone a fun and safe summer! She thanked everyone for watching their Town Council in action tonight.

**Councilmember Williams** asked Major Davis to extend his thanks to Officers Williamson and Klinsic for visiting his wife's class at Lexington Elementary School where they performed a magic show for the students and they did an outstanding job.

**Councilmember Baker** wished to recognize the McCutcheon family and Tammy Rikard's family and the terrible tragedy that happened this past weekend. He stated that Council had put a lot of time and energy into this year's farmers market and he wished to recognize Walker Brewer and thank him for all his hard work and what he is putting into it. He added that it is so much better than last year and he is very excited for what they are building. He stated that as someone who has been to the Town of Lexington's The Market at Icehouse and Columbia's Soda City, he would much rather stay on this side of the river and not have to fight the crowds. He added that the food options in Lexington are great, with live music and it's at the Icehouse Amphitheater, so we have a good thing going and can continue to build on it and keep the energy up. He thanked the citizens for coming out to The Market at Icehouse and encouraged everyone to come out on Saturdays and do a Facebook live video with him.

**Councilmember Lyle** wished to also extend his condolences to the McCutcheon and Rikard families and asked everyone to keep them in their prayers. He added that they are going through a very tough time right now.

**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 and it 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 7:25 p.m.

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
June 3, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC  
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

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.*