

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

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**June 15, 2020**

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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 15, 2020. The Council meeting was attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Ron Williams, Steve Baker and Todd Lyle.

Staff members present and/or available for questions 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, Utilities Superintendent David Patton, Finance Director Kathy Pharr, Parks and Sanitation Director Dan Walker, Assistant Parks and Sanitation Director Johnny Dillard, Special Projects Manager Wesley Crosby, Events and Media Coordinator Laurin Barnes, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were no citizens or news media members 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. He stated that Council was meeting in the Council Chambers, which was open to the public, and proper spacing was provided in order to meet the recommendations of the CDC during the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilmember Lyle gave the invocation. Councilmember Williams led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m.

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

**DELETIONS ON AGENDA:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**VISION PLAN UPDATE**

Mayor MacDougall announced: (1) Construction started on the Icehouse Amphitheater Pavilion along South Church Street and should be completed later this year. There will also be women's restrooms and air conditioning added to the current facilities. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, concerts have not yet resumed; however, the Market at Icehouse runs each Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon, with the exception of July 4<sup>th</sup>. (2) Gibson Pond Park will officially close to the public on June 22, 2020 in order to rebuild the dam which was destroyed in the 2015 flood. It is expected to take less than a year to

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complete. Citizens were encouraged to visit the Town's website for a list of other parks to visit. (3) Each month the Mayor announces what is going on in and around Lexington. All items are a result of the Town's Vision Plan which was reviewed and updated last summer. The entire Vision Plan is on the Town's website. Citizens were asked to share their thoughts with Council of any ideas that would improve the quality of life in the Lexington community.

**TRAFFIC UPDATE**

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston gave the Traffic Update: (1) There is a new temporary traffic pattern turning out of Whiteford Way onto Sunset Boulevard where you can now use both lanes to turn left any time. New signs have been installed at the intersection. Further improvements will be forthcoming which will add an additional lane exiting Whiteford Way. (2) Along Columbia Avenue (Highway 378), between Reed Avenue and Old Chapin road, the development of Andy's Carwash has begun. The work requires some intermittent lane shifts and possible closures as construction of a raised median is completed. (3) The next Traffic committee meeting has not yet been rescheduled. A new date and time will be decided soon. (4) Citizens were asked if there were aware of a traffic signal issues, unsafe roadway situations or a pothole that needs repair, to please call 358-7273 and let the Transportation Department know.

**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 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget.
2. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance to Provide for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tax Levy.
3. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #430-01-018 located in the 200 block of Caughman Farm Lane.

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 Carnes to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Adopting the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget**. The motion was unanimously carried. (Copy attached.)

2. A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Baker to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance to Provide for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tax Levy and Rollback for Reassessment**. The motion was unanimously carried. (Copy attached.)
3. A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #430-01-018 located in the 200 block of Caughman Farm Lane**. The motion was unanimously carried. (Copy attached.)

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ratification Emergency Ordinance #4, Temporary Suspension of Sign Permit Requirements for Temporary Signs:** The May 15, 2020 Emergency Ordinance #4 provided for the suspension through June 30, 2020 of the requirement to apply and receive a permit for signs otherwise allowable under the temporary sign ordinance. Emergency Ordinances under state law require one reading, are valid for up to 60 days, and require a 2/3 vote from Council. On May 15, 2020 an emailed poll of Council elicited a unanimous vote in favor of approving an Emergency Ordinance. (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Lyle to ratify Council's email poll vote as stated. Councilmember Carnes wished to bring attention to the particular ordinance as it relates to businesses and commerce in the Town. He added that it was put in place as businesses were reopening, understanding that so many had been closed, and Council wanted to give businesses every opportunity to advertise their services, such as new hours, and help them get up to speed as quickly as possible because Council always wants to look out for the Town's business community. The motion was unanimously carried.

2. **Ratification Emergency Ordinance #5, To Provide Safety Precautions During Unrest:** The June 2, 2020 Emergency Ordinance #5 provided for the Town Administrator to declare a curfew for the Town or any portion thereof in the event of state emergency involving riots or civil unrest moving into the County of Lexington. Emergency Ordinances under state law require one reading, are valid for up to 60 days, and require a 2/3 vote of Council. On June 2, 2020 an emailed poll of Council elicited a six (6) in favor of and one (1) opposed (Lyle) to approving an Emergency Ordinance. (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Lyle and seconded by Councilmember Williams to ratify Council's email poll vote as stated. Councilmember Lyle clarified that he had opposed the ordinance because

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what was communicated to him was there was a plan for a potential protest, all fictitious, and his response was he would be happy to institute the authority for a curfew if conditions arose that would warrant it. He added that all that was given to him was an advisory or hypothetical plan in the future and not sure if it would materialize, and as a person elected to help make that decision, he would be happy to cast his vote in favor if conditions warranted it. The motion was unanimously carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Councilmember Baker** made the following announcements: (1) The Market at Icehouse is open every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon with over 25 vendors. Extra precautions are being taken to ensure everyone's safety and to encourage social distancing. Those interested in being a vendor were asked to email [market@lexsc.com](mailto:market@lexsc.com). (2) The Planning Commission will not meet this month. (3) The Board of Appearance will meet at 9:00 a.m. on June 23, 2020 in the Council Chambers. (4) Board Training will start again on June 26, 2020 in the third floor conference room. Councilmember Baker thanked all the Board members who volunteer on the Town's various Boards and Commissions. Citizens were encouraged to go to the Town's website to obtain an application if they were interested in serving on a Board. (5) Just announced today – the Town will host the Annual Fireworks Show on Friday, July 3, 2020 at approximately 9:15 p.m. Fireworks will launch from the grass parking lot on Church Street and can be viewed from Main Street. It will also be a great night to visit your favorite restaurant on Main Street. (6) Due to the continued restrictions on concert venues from COVID-19 the Sister Hazel show scheduled for July 17, 2020 had to be cancelled. Online ticket purchases will be automatically refunded and tickets purchased at Old Mill Brew Pub can be refunded in person starting today during their regular business hours. (7) Council will meet again on July 6, 2020 at 6:00 for Council's Work Session and 6:30 for Council's Regular meeting. Councilmember Baker thanked everyone for watching their Town Council in action tonight.

Councilmember Maness wanted to make sure that all the neighbors near the fireworks location have been notified. Mr. Poole responded that notifications are already in place. He added that the Town had great success with the message boards last year in a couple places.

Councilmember Maness encouraged citizens to mail in their receipts for their water sewer rebate. Mayor MacDougall added that to date the Town has had over 700 citizens send in receipts and they received their \$25 rebate. He stated that means if a citizen shops in Town and save the receipt, it can be mailed to the Town to receive \$25 off their water bill. Mayor MacDougall added that Council approved a \$250,000 budget for this program and have only spent \$17,600. He encouraged citizens to participate because it helps the local businesses get back on their feet and it helps the residents. Receipts can be mailed in with the water bill or it can be sent to [rebate@lexsc.com](mailto:rebate@lexsc.com).

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**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 7:04 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.*