Town Council held an Executive Session followed by a Council Work Session in the Eli Mack Sr. Room, followed by the July Regular Council meeting (separate minutes) in the Council Chambers on July 8, 2019 at 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, South Carolina (Summer Schedule). The meetings were attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Ron Williams and Todd Lyle. (Councilmember Steve Baker was absent for the meetings.)

Staff members present were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, 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, Assistant Parks and Sanitation Director Johnny Dillard, Special Projects Manager Wesley Crosby, Downtown Venue Promoter Walker Brewer and Hazel 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 6:00 p.m.
EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Mayor MacDougall reported that the Executive Session was called to order at 5:30 p.m. after a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Williams to go into Executive Session. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmembers Carnes and Lyle were not present for the vote.) Council adjourned from Executive Session at 5:48 p.m. after a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Maness. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. 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; two contractual items regarding a downtown economic development issue and a sewer contract; and three routine personnel reviews. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Maness to ratify the Mayor’s report. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

DELETIONS ON AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve the minutes as submitted from Council’s Work Session and Council’s Regular Meeting, both held on June 3, 2019, and a Special Council Meeting held on June 13, 2019. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

BUSINESS ITEMS: (For Discussion and Recommendation for Council’s August 19, 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 a review of the Amphitheater’s lawn chair policy. Lawn chairs take up 1.5 to 2 times the amount of space that a person using a seat cushion or seat back would take up. By removing lawn chairs it would allow for more attendees to be able to find seats. Three options were provided for Council’s review. Also included was an update to include the new parking lots on Church Street and a revision of the weather policy. (Copies attached.)

Three options from Staff:

*Option A:* Small Blankets (3’ x 8’ or smaller) stadium seats and seat cushions are always welcome, and patrons are permitted 1 seat per person. Lawn chairs are prohibited, and are defined as a free standing chair. This includes but not limited to camp chairs, beach chairs, tri-fold chairs, and lounge chairs. Seats are defined at 20” of space on the concrete ledge.
Option B: Make the left section (closest to Church St.) for lawn chairs. Middle section and right section (closest to bathrooms) no lawn chairs. Also no chairs on the plaza. Also will have to mark ADA seating on the plaza. Markings will include painted lines and ADA logo. Marks will be 24 feet long for the outside sections and 18 feet long in the middle. All sections will be 4 feet deep with a 3 foot walk way behind the spots. There will also be painted walk ways leading to the seats. (Map attached.)

Option C: Keep lawn chair policy as event by event bases. Only allow one row on the plaza and mark ADA spots as outlined in Option B.

Town Administrator Poole stated that he had discussed this issue with Chief Green following the last event. He called on Chief Green to state some of the problems he saw. Chief Green stated that during the past event, if something had happened during the event that required EMS they would have had a hard time reaching the person in need due to the chairs and the crowd. He estimated that the event had 2,500 attendees.

Councilmember Lyle stated that the crowds are a good problem to have with a new amphitheater, but safety is most important. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston asked if the handicap spaces were marked. Mr. Brewer stated that the area needed to be marked with dedicated ADA spaces. He added that if someone uses the ADA spaces you cannot ask them if they are handicapped.

Town Administrator Poole stated that the Town provides chairs for the “companion” chair for the person assisting with a wheelchair. He added that the Town could purchase more chairs to sit at the top. Mayor MacDougall asked about spacing required if the Town marked 10 spots. Mr. Brewer responded that each space is 36 inches wide and 48 inches deep with 24 inches on each side. He referred Council to the diagram which indicated ADA spacing in blue and exits and walk areas and access to it marked in red at the top of the plaza. Mr. Brewer stated this is not a perfect solution but they have tried to have one row at the top of the plaza and it has not worked. He stated that another problem has been with people saving 10 seats by setting up chairs, then leave to go eat and come back. He recommended doing a social media campaign to inform the public once a decision is made.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston recommended allowing stadium seats but not big chairs. Councilmember Maness agreed and recommended putting the new policy in force with the first Fall Concert Series. Mayor MacDougall recommending changing the policy now and have effective dates. Mr. Brewer stated that the first concert would be Swingin Medallions and he expected a large crowd. He added that Tokyo Joe and The Root Doctors also bring a large crowd.
Town Administrator Poole confirmed that Council was leaning in the director of “no lawn chairs” and allow only stadium seats and seat cushions as outlined in Option A.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Maness to place the policy change on Council’s August 19, 2019 agenda for consideration.

2. **Boards and Commissions Application – Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand**: A Boards and Commissions application was received from Mr. Kenneth H. Robison who expressed an interest in serving on the Historic Preservation Review Board. The Board has one vacancy. Mr. Robison is a Town resident. (Copy of application attached.)

   A motion was made by Councilmember Williams to table the item. Councilmember Lyle wished to amend the motion to table the item until a new application with a new email could be obtained. There being no second to the amended motion, the motion failed. Councilmember Williams made a new motion to table the item until the Historic Preservation Review Board Liaison, Wesley Crosby, can verify information. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lyle and unanimously carried by all those present.

3. **Donation of Liverman Hospital – Special Projects Manager Wesley Crosby**: The Lexington County Museum requested the donation of the Liverman Hospital’s fascia sign and cornerstone. If donated, a permanent display would be installed at the museum.

   Councilmember Williams asked if the Town would incur any costs. Mr. Crosby responded that he had talked with J.R. Fennell, Museum Director and it was his understanding that the Town would not have any expenses. Mr. Poole confirmed that removing the fascia sign and cornerstone is part of the bid for the demolition of the building.

   A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness to place the item on Council’s August 19, 2019 agenda for consideration. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

**COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**: None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**: None.
MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
July 8, 2019

ADJOURNMENT: There being no objection from Council, Mayor MacDougall adjourned the Council Work Session at 6:22 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.