

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
August 17 , 2020

Due to State Restrictions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, Town Council held a Zoom Virtual Meeting. Citizens were invited to view the meeting LIVE on YouTube or on the Town's Spectrum Channel 1301. If citizens had any questions during the meeting regarding agenda items, they were directed to call 803/808-4219 or email wcrosby@lexsc.com.

Town Council held an in-person Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. followed by a virtual/in-person Regular Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. on August 17, 2020. Town Council did not hold a Work Session during August. The Executive Session was attended in-person by Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Ron Williams and Steve Baker. Councilmember Lyle was absent for the Executive Session. The regular Council meeting was attended in-person by Mayor MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston, Councilmembers Maness, Carnes, Williams and Baker and virtually attended by Councilmember Lyle.

Staff members present who attended in-person were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, Police Chief Terrence Green, IT Manager Bea Daniels, Digital Media Coordinator Darrell Pritchard and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

Staff members present who attended virtually were: 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 to the Town Administrator Wesley Crosby, Communications Manager Laurin Barnes and Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner.

There were four (4) 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 Town Council's virtual meeting and introduced the Council Members. Mayor MacDougall thanked everyone for the way they have handled the impact of COVID-19 which continues to affect all of us.

Mayor MacDougall addressed the rules of procedure for the Zoom virtual meeting as part of the Town's Emergency Ordinances adopted in part to provide for the temporary suspension of rules related to Town Council meetings and to provide for continuity of operations during the COVID-19 emergency.

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As an order of procedure, Mayor MacDougall would read each item, call for a motion and a second followed by discussion and a roll call vote to allow each Councilmember to vote regarding an item. The meeting would be replayed several times during the week on the Town's Spectrum Channel and would be available on the Town's website. He encouraged citizens to call in on the number provided if they had a question regarding an agenda item and Wesley Crosby would answer any citizen calls and relay them to Council. Laurin Barnes would answer any media calls during the meeting. He reminded Council that many Staff members were virtually attending the meeting via Zoom and could be called on if Council had any questions for them.

He called on Councilmember Williams to give the invocation. Mayor MacDougall led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Mayor MacDougall reported that the *Executive Session* was called to order at 5:32 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. Council recessed from the *Executive Session* at 6:15 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams to recess due to time and conclude the Executive Session following the regular Council meeting. 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; three contractual issues regarding downtown development, a sign contract and a loan program; and four routine personnel reviews. Mayor MacDougall reported that no vote was taken and Council would not call for a vote when the Executive Session concluded. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to ratify the Mayor's report. The motion was unanimously carried.

DELETIONS ON AGENDA: None.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **100th Anniversary of the Adoption of the 19th Amendment Proclamation – Councilmember Kathy Maness:** Councilmember Maness read the Proclamation honoring the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. She stated that the August 18, 1920 vote came down to a Tennessee State Legislator, 24 year old Harry Burn, who was originally against ratification, but received a letter from his mother stating “*vote for suffrage and don't keep them in doubt and don't forget to be a good boy*”. Mr. Burn voted in favor of the ratification but angered the General Assembly members and had to sneak out of a window and hide after his vote. (Copy of Proclamation attached.) Councilmember Maness welcomed several women from the League of Women Voters in South Carolina including SC

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House Representative for District 87, Paula Calhoun, and Ms. Debbie Dickerson. Councilmember Maness announced that the SC State Museum is also having a special exhibit, “A Voice of Her Own” on SC women in politics which will be held through September 23rd. She encouraged citizens, especially those with girls, to attend the exhibit. She added that it was hard to believe that her grandmother could not vote, and she talks about women voters and public servants when she speaks to Palmetto Girls State every year. Councilmember Maness encouraged everyone to get out and vote in November so Lexington County would have a good turnout.

Ms. Debbie Dickerson, 347 Daylily Drive, Lexington, representing the League of Women Voters in SC, thanked the Mayor and Council for the proclamation honoring the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment and the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters in SC which was founded in 1920 on the efforts to gain women the right to vote. She added that since then they are a non-partisan grassroots organization to help improve government, engage citizens in our democracy, and register and educate voters. She stated that they host a voter’s registration website, *vote411.org*, which provides all the information voters need for upcoming elections, including sample ballots. Ms. Dickerson stated that they also provide candidates an opportunity to tell voters where they stand on key issues.

Mayor MacDougall thanked Representative Calhoun for bringing this item to the attention of Town Council and for allowing them to be a part of it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Baker to approve the minutes from Council’s July 6, 2020 meeting as submitted. *Roll Call Vote Results: Mayor MacDougall, yes to the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston, yes to the motion; Councilmember Maness, yes to the motion. Councilmember Carnes, yes to the motion. Councilmember Williams, yes to the motion. Councilmember Baker, yes to the motion. Councilmember Lyle (via Zoom), yes to the motion.* The motion was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ratification of Emergency Ordinance #7:** Emergency Ordinance #7 provides for the temporary suspension of rules related to Town Council meetings to allow for remote attendance and participation in public meetings and to provide for continuity of operations during the COVID-19 emergency. Emergency Ordinances under State Law require one reading, are valid for up to 60 days, and require a 2/3 vote of Council. On July 21, 2020 an email poll of Council elicited

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a unanimous vote in favor of approving Emergency Ordinance #7. (Copy of ordinance attached.)

Mayor MacDougall read the item and called for a Roll Call vote for ratification of the email poll vote. *Roll Call Vote Results: Mayor MacDougall, yes. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston, yes. Councilmember Maness, yes. Councilmember Carnes, yes. Councilmember Williams, yes. Councilmember Baker, yes. Councilmember Lyle, yes.* The vote was unanimous.

NEWS MEDIA QUESTIONS: Mayor MacDougall called on Ms. Barnes who was available to answer calls from the media. Ms. Barnes reported that she had not received any questions from the news media.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor MacDougall called on Mr. Crosby who was available to answer calls from the public. Mr. Crosby reported that he had not received any questions from the public.

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Maness requested that a Census update be given at the next Council meeting to include response percentages for the state, the county and the Town of Lexington.

CLOSING STATEMENT and 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 and a video will be available on the Town's website at www.lexsc.com.

Mayor MacDougall stated that without objection from Council, he declared the Council meeting adjourned and Council would reconvene to conclude the final discussion from the Executive Session and no vote would be taken. The Regular Council meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC
Municipal Clerk

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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.