

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Lexington**  
**Executive Sessions and**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 20 , 2018**

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Town Council held the Council Work Session in the Eli Mack Room preceded by an Executive Session, followed by the Regular Council Meeting and second Executive Session in the Council Chambers (*summer schedule*) on August 20, 2018 starting at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, South Carolina. The meetings were attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Council Members Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Ron Williams, Steve Baker and Todd Lyle.

Staff members present were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, Transportation Director Randy Edwards, Police Chief Terrence Green, Utilities and Engineering Director Allen Lutz, Assistant Finance Director Laraine Wieder, Parks and Sanitation Director Dan Walker, Assistant Parks and Sanitation Director Johnny Dillard, Events and Media Coordinator Jennifer Dowden, Digital Media Coordinator Darrell Pritchard, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were approximately thirty (30) 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 introduced the Council Members. He called on Councilmember Carnes to give the invocation. Mayor MacDougall asked all the gentlemen who were present who were former military or police officers to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**DELETIONS/ADDITIONS ON AGENDA**

Mayor MacDougall requested to delete Old Business #2 (Rezoning of 191 Caughman Farm Lane) per the applicant's request. There being no objections from Council, Old Business #2 was deleted as requested.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Keys to the Town for Raymond and Hampton Caughman – Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston:** Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that last week the Town of Lexington was named the 7th “Most Family-Friendly City in South Carolina” by Wallet-hub, and not to brag, but Lexington was in front of Columbia, Greenville AND Charleston. She added that it didn't come as any surprise to most that these two gentlemen – Hamp and Raymond Caughman – are probably two of the biggest reasons. Wallet-hub's methodology was to help families find the best place to put

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down roots - comparing 51 cities in South Carolina. The scores were based on: Family Life and Fun; Education and Health and Safety; Affordability; and Socio-Economics. Mr. Hamp and Mr. Raymond set all those wheels in motion a long time ago. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that if you look up “family roots” in the dictionary you would probably see their picture. Their family started with 12 – but, it goes way beyond their immediate family. She added that they are considered the First Fathers of Lexington because they helped so many people along the way including herself. Following their service to our country in World War II – Hamp and Raymond returned to Lexington to marry sisters, to raise a family, and continue serving the citizens of their hometown. So many Lexington residents tell stories of the assistance they received from the Caughman brothers. Many businesses would never have gotten off the ground if not for loans from Lexington State Bank or an advance at the Red and White Grocery Store. They lived by their own actions and knew that everyone deserved a fair chance. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that tonight, the Mayor and Council would like to recognize these gentleman so even the newest generations will know that Lexington is what it is today because of two twin brothers – Hampton and Raymond Caughman. She added that it is because of them and the vision they had for Lexington that the Town grew to a population of 20,000. Now others are recognizing what the Caughmans knew all along – that Lexington is family-friendly and it is the best place to put down roots. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that when she ran for office 20 years ago she was told that she needed to talk to the Caughman brothers. She added that she was new to the area at that time and didn’t really know them but she went to talk to them. She stated that it wasn’t too long ago that she went to talk to them again at Lizard’s Thicket about seeking re-election and to ask for their blessing again. They told her that she had to stay and do it again. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that one of her children married into the Caughman family so she considers herself part of the family too, plus she lives almost on the compound by living in Woodcreek. She stated that they are great men and have done so much for the community so she wanted all the generations, including the Caughman’s great grandchildren, to know what important roles these two men played for Lexington and special they both are to so many of us. On behalf of the Mayor and Council, Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston presented a Key to the Town to Mr. Hampton Caughman and Mr. Raymond Caughman in recognition of their lifetime foresight, dedication, and services to the citizens of Lexington which has resulted in positive growth and prosperity for all who have come here to make this their hometown.

**Mr. Hamp Caughman** thanked the Mayor and Council. He stated that he owned the first supermarket in Lexington and was the first white employer to hire a black employee who was Richard Thompson. Mr. Thompson was present and thanked Mr. Caughman. Mr. Caughman stated that his brother Raymond was the first lending institute to loan money to a black person, so they did not have many enemies along the way. He added that they have not been too lazy because they have been working most of their life until the last five years. He added that he was glad to still be here and to attend this meeting.

**Mr. Raymond Caughman** checked the crowd out for past employees. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition and expressed his deepest appreciation. He added that he has live in Lexington a long time – all 91 years, and he has enjoyed every day. He stated that he has been involved in business relations here and he has seen Lexington grow from a one horse town to a large town. Mr. Caughman stated that it has been a pleasure to be a part of it and to have the opportunity to live in Lexington and receive the many blessings. He thanked the Mayor and Council and told them that they have a lot of responsibility and they are doing a great job.

**Ms. Constance Flemming** wished to recognize the Caughman brothers. She stated that she was not an employee of the Red and White Grocery store but she was asked one year to come and entertain at one of their Christmas parties. She added that her Daddy took her to the party, which was a momentous occasion because it took place at Hite’s Restaurant where they were not usually allowed to come in the front door. However, that night there were a lot of wide eyes when she and her family walked in. She added that she has been singing for the Caughmans ever since. In their honor, she asked permission to sing the National Anthem for these two outstanding military men. Mayor MacDougall stated that he would of course grant permission for Ms. Flemming to sing if she would approach the microphone. Ms. Flemming’s presentation of the National Anthem was followed by a standing ovation.

Mayor MacDougall thanked Ms. Flemming. He also thanked Mr. Raymond Caughman and Mr. Hamp Caughman for being here tonight and the Town was very pleased to honor both of them.

2. **Proclamation Congratulating Hoda Abdalla, President of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation – Councilmember Kathy Maness:** Councilmember Maness stated that she has had the honor for the past 10 years to speak at Palmetto Girls State. She stated that Ms. Abdalla is a rising Senior at Lexington High School. She attended Palmetto Girls State in June where she was selected as a Senator to represent South Carolina at the ALA Palmetto Girls State. In July she was elected President of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington, DC. On behalf of the Mayor and Council, Councilmember Maness presented Ms. Abdalla with a Proclamation recognizing and congratulating her.

**Ms. Hoda Abdalla** thanked the Mayor and Council and stated that all the support she has received has shaped her experience this summer. She has lived in Lexington most of her life and she is honored to call Lexington her home. She thanked her parents, the American Legion, and the American Legion Unit 7 for all their support.

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Councilmember Maness stated that years ago she was with a Councilmember from Ohio who attended the Buckeye Girls State as a teenager and that is where she had learned the love of public service. She hoped that Palmetto Girls State, which is wonderful, will put the love of public service in the hearts of the many young women who attend. Councilmember Maness stated that she was very proud of Hoda and glad that she represents Lexington and the Town of Lexington.

Mayor MacDougall thanked Hoda and added that all the Lexington Wildcats in the audience were also very proud of her.

3. **Presentation by Mr. Steven Burritt, Executive Director, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, South Carolina State Office:** Mr. Burritt thanked the Mayor and Council and introduced his co-worker, Ms. Kimberly Cockrell. He stated that one of their most important partnerships is with their law enforcement heroes because they are our best protection against drunk drivers. He stated that tonight he wanted to let Council know that there may not be a more supportive law enforcement agency in the state than the Lexington Police Department. He stated that they include MADD in all their events and they are passionate about enforcing DUI laws and preventing crashes. Mr. Burritt stated that this type of dedication only happens with the support of leadership at the top. He stated that Chief Terrence Green has demonstrated that consistently and it is worth recognizing tonight. Mr. Burritt stated that Lexington needs this type of leadership right now because this county is having a terrible year for traffic fatalities and recent sentences for felony DUI offenders have been unusually low. He described a recent sentence hearing where Chief Green took the relatively unprecedented step to address the Judge before the sentence and in part he told the Judge that we in law enforcement are doing everything we can to prevent drunk driving crashes and you need to do your part. Mr. Burritt presented Chief Green with two meaningful tokens of appreciation from MADD including the MADD Hero pins and a MADD Challenge coin.

Following a standing ovation, Chief Green thanked Mr. Burritt and MADD and stated that you couldn't do this without a great Staff and he wished to thank all of them.

Councilmember Carnes stated that a young lady was critically injured in an accident two to three months ago by someone who stands accused of driving under the influence. He stated that Exit Realty had a huge fundraiser at Radius Church and between that and GoFundMe they have raised over \$70,000 for a young couple going through a life changing event. Councilmember Carnes stated that these incidents are violent, tragic and heart wrenching and it makes you proud of our community because we rally together when things are bad. He thanked the community for their support.

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Councilmember Maness stated that she was not able to attend the event at Radius Church, but she went by Exit Realty this week and left a donation. She encouraged anyone in the community who wished to help to go by Exit Realty.

Mayor MacDougall called for a *five minute recess* at 7:27 p.m. before the next presentation. Council reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

4. **One-Way Pair Presentation – Town Administrator Britt Poole:** Mr. Poole presented a video of real time traffic flow from the new One-Way Pair project. He added that the video would be made available for viewing on the Town’s web site after Council sees it. Mr. Poole stated that the video speed has been increased to allow everyone to see the pattern of cars as they approach the different intersections. He added that all the video was taken during the a.m. peak or p.m. peak times on August 9, 2018 which was the day after Adaptive Signaling went live. The video included the model before and after the One-Way Pair project followed by live video showing how traffic clears out after one cycle.

Councilmember Maness asked if someone was at Church Street headed to Town Hall, how long would they have to wait at the light and what can he tell parents about school traffic tomorrow. Mr. Poole stated that there is no good answer because it would depend on the time of day, but the longest time should only be 60 to 90 seconds. Mr. Poole stated that school traffic tomorrow will be faster but there will be delays because it is school traffic in Lexington, especially for the first two weeks. He encouraged everyone to follow the speed limits and use caution. He added that the system can only be so efficient and the next step in the overall project is widening Highway 6 from Main Street to the Middle School. He added that portion of the project goes to bid in January 2019.

Councilmember Baker thanked Mr. Poole for the video and for putting it on the Town’s web site and/or Facebook for the citizens to see. He added that in light of all the new traffic projects, he would like to see more social media information posted.

**VISION PLAN UPDATE**

Mayor MacDougall announced: (1) Moves In the Park will wrap up with The Darkest Hour on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 p.m. and free admission at the Icehouse Amphitheater. He thanked the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission for their partnership. (2) The Town of Lexington’s Farmers Market continues on Saturdays through September from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Lexington Square Park. For more information visit [farmersmarket@lexsc.com](mailto:farmersmarket@lexsc.com). (3) Lexington Live Fall Concert Series kicks off on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at the Icehouse Amphitheater from 6:30 to 9:30 with The Fantastic Shakers. The five week series will run on Thursday evenings on September 13<sup>th</sup> with The Men of Distinction; September 20<sup>th</sup> with Fantasy; October 4<sup>th</sup> with Finesse and October 11<sup>th</sup> with The Root Doctors. For more information visit

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[www.icehouseamphitheater.com](http://www.icehouseamphitheater.com). (4) The Icehouse Amphitheater welcomes South Carolina native, singer-songwriter sensation Noah Guthrie on Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Noah, also known as Roderick Meeks from the hit TV show Glee; is a current contestant on NBC's America's Got Talent and has performed on NBC's Today Show, Hallmark Channel's Home and Family, and ABC's Dancing with the Stars. Joining Noah on stage will be Chasing Vixen and Tyler Boone. Advance tickets are \$10 at Old Mill Brew Pub or at [www.icehouseamphitheater.com](http://www.icehouseamphitheater.com).

**TRAFFIC UPDATE**

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston gave the following traffic update: (1) The SC-6 One-Way Pair Project has been completed and traffic is moving better through downtown as daily drivers have learned the new pattern. The Town will continue to adjust the Adaptive Signal System to optimize traffic movement. There will be periodic lane closures during the coming weeks to address minor punch list items from the construction. (2) The next phase of downtown traffic improvements include widening the northbound direction of North Lake Drive from the end of the One-Way Pair up to Dreher Street. The work is expected to start the first part of 2019. (3) Intersection improvements are set to begin at both Ginny Lane and the I-20 West exit ramp near Corley Mill Road. The work is expected to take approximately six months to complete. (4) SCDOT has started a sidewalk installation project along US 1/Augusta Highway. The work should be completed near the end of September. Please expect lane closures and use caution in and around the area. (5) The next Traffic Committee meeting will be Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the third floor conference room in Town Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston asked if anyone was aware of a traffic signal issue, unsafe roadway situation, or a pot hole that needs repair, please call 358-7273 to alert the Transportation Department.

**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 Consenting to the Establishment of the FILOT Agreement on the Tidewater Boats Property.
2. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance Rezoning 191 Caughman Farm Lane.
3. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #3500-03-118 and 127 located at 221 Corley Mill Road.

There being no comments, Mayor MacDougall declared the Public Hearings closed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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1. A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Lyle to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Consenting to the Establishment of the FILOT (Fee-in-Lieu of Tax) Agreement on the Tidewater Boats property.** The motion was unanimously carried. (Copy attached.)
2. (Item removed per applicant's request.) **Final Reading of an Ordinance Rezoning 191 Caughman Farm Lane.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **First Reading of an Ordinance to Sell Town Property at 103 West Main Street:** The Town received an offer to buy its property at 103 West Main Street. This is the parcel adjacent to Alodia's. Negotiations are still ongoing, but the Town anticipates use restrictions similar to those contained in the agreement wherein the Alodias's parcel was sold. The parcel has been recently used as a "lay down" area for the construction of the amphitheater and the One-Way Pair Project. A complete contract will be available for Final/Second Reading.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve First Reading of an Ordinance to Sell Town Property at 103 West Main Street as stated. The motion was unanimously carried.

2. **Donation of Used Patrol Car:** The Town of Lexington Police Department would like to donate a 2009 Ford Crown Victoria with 98,000 miles on it to the Law Enforcement Program at the Lexington Technology Center. It has the most mileage of any "patrol" spare vehicle and does not have any other equipment other than the old Watchguard System which would not be re-used and the rifle mount.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lyle and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve the Police Department vehicle as described. Councilmember Williams asked about the value of the vehicle. Mr. Poole responded that it would probably be a few thousand dollars at auction. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. **Main Street Loading Zone:** At the July 25, 2018 Traffic Committee meeting the committee heard from Main Street Merchants who asked for the two new parking spots being created by the One-Way Pair Project on Church Street beside the new pizzeria be designated as a loading zone for commercial deliveries. The Traffic Committee reviewed this request and recommended that the parking spots be designated for loading and unloading on Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve designation of the two new parking spaces on Church Street as a commercial loading zone Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as stated. The motion was unanimously carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Councilmember Lyle** made the following announcements: (1) The Town of Lexington's Farmers Market is every Saturday from 9:00 to Noon at the Lexington Square Park until the last Saturday in September. This will give you plenty of time to still see your favorite kick-off so please come out and support all the local vendors. (2) The Planning Commission will meet Wednesday, August 22nd at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. (3) This Friday (August 24th) at 8:30 pm the Icehouse Amphitheater will feature the movie: The Darkest Hour. This is a 2017 war drama starring Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill and his early days as Prime Minister. If you are a history buff you will want to come out and see this movie. (4) Town Hall will be closed Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day. Labor Day became a Federal Holiday in 1894 and pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. We also think of it as the end of summer and start of a new school year. (5) Council will return to our regular schedule next month: The regular Council meeting will be held on Tuesday (due to the holiday), Sept. 4th at 6:30 and the Council Work Session will be held at 6:00 on Sept. 17th. (6) The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on September 6th at 5:30 in the Council Chambers. (7) That same night – September 6th – will start the Lexington Live Concerts as the Mayor addressed during his Vision Plan update. (8) The Traffic Committee will meet on September 12th at 8:00 am in the 3rd floor conference room. (9) On September 14th RESURRECTION (a Journey Tribute Band) will be back at the Icehouse Amphitheater! If you missed this last year – be sure to come out for a great night of music. The doors open at 6:00 and tickets are \$19. (10) Later in September – we would like to wish Councilmember Carnes a Happy Birthday on the 28th. (11) And thanks to Darrell Pritchard for working tonight on his birthday! Happy Birthday Darrell! Councilmember Lyle wished good luck to all the kids who start school tomorrow and he asked all drivers to be careful with the start of a new school year. He thanked everyone for watching their Town Council in action tonight.

**Councilmember Carnes** thanked Transportation Director Edwards for all his hard work on the One-Way Pair Project.

**NEWS MEDIA QUESTIONS:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mr. Todd Shevchik**, 124 Deerglade Run, stated that he is a candidate for Town Council in November. He added that he previously served on Council for 10 years. He congratulated Councilmember Lyle on becoming the newest member of Council. He



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commended Council and Staff on the road projects and he could see on the video how smooth traffic is flowing. Mr. Shevchik stated that his concern is public safety because of break-ins around the area. He spoke to Chief Green who was very thankful to get two new officers this year, but as a citizen he has concerns with growth and if that is enough. He also heard about the stabbing at Town Hall's rental facility and he would feel better if there were more officers. He asked Council to look at the budget before it is final to see if they could add more officers.

Mayor MacDougall stated that Council would be glad to look at Mr. Shevchik's request at the next budget.

**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 Channel 1301 (formerly Channel 2) 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 8:01 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lyle and seconded by Councilmember Carnes for Council to return to Executive Session to discuss three remaining contractual items that were earlier deferred due to time. The motion was unanimously carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT (continued from 6:30 p.m.)**

Mayor MacDougall reported that the continued *Executive Session* was called to order at 8:02 p.m. to discuss three remaining contractual items. Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 8:55 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness. The motion was unanimously carried. Mayor MacDougall reported that pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a) (1)(2) Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss three contractual items pertaining to a potential source of fundraising for parks and trails, and economic development issue and a pending SCDOT contract. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Baker to ratify the Mayor's report. The motion was unanimously carried.

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.*