

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 3, 2012

Town Council held an Executive Session on January 3, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the Regular Council Meeting held at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by Mayor Randy Halfacre, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Council Members Kathy Maness, Ted Stambolitis, Danny Frazier, Todd Shevchik and Steve MacDougall.

Staff members present were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Town Attorney Brad Cunningham, Police Chief Terrence Green, Director of Planning, Building and Technology John Hanson, Community and Economic Catalyst Johnny Jeffcoat, Utilities and Engineering Director Allen Lutz, Finance Director Kathy Roberts, Director of Parks, Streets and Sanitation Dan Walker, Events and Media Coordinator Jennifer Dowden, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were approximately thirty (30) citizens present and no reporters from the news media.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Mayor Halfacre reported that the *Executive Session* was called to order at 5:35 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember MacDougall and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmember Maness was absent for the vote.) Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 6:33 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Shevchik and seconded by Councilmember Maness. The motion was unanimously carried. Mayor Halfacre reported that Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: one contractual issue regarding the wastewater project and two legal items regarding pending legal issues. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Maness to ratify the Mayor's *Executive Session* report. The motion was unanimously carried.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Halfacre introduced the Council Members and welcomed everyone to the Council meeting. Councilmember Stambolitis gave the invocation. Councilmember MacDougall led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Halfacre called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Mayor Halfacre requested the following items: (1) Remove Old Business #1 (Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing County-owned land located at 121 Riverchase Way). (2) Postpone New Business #2 (Appointments of Council Liaisons to Town Boards and Commissions).

There being no objections from Council, the items were removed.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Halfacre welcomed former Councilmember Richard Thompson. He stated that the Town would like to recognize Mr. Thompson for his 14 years of service to the Town. He added that when Richard was his desk mate on Council he enjoyed working with him; he enjoyed his demeanor; and highly respected his decision making process which always included looking at how a decision could affect his own neighborhood. Mayor Halfacre welcomed Mr. Raymond Caughman, who along with Mr. Willie B. Caractor, had encouraged Richard to run for Town Council 14 years ago.

1. **Order of the Silver Crescent to Mr. Richard Thompson by Mr. Ted Pitts, S.C. Deputy Chief of Staff:** Mr. Pitts stated that the Governor wished she could be here, but he was pleased to be here on her behalf to present the award. He added that the Silver Crescent is the State's highest honor for community service and volunteerism. Mr. Pitts stated that Lexington is his hometown and the Governor, also from Lexington, considers herself a trailblazer on the State level. He added that Mr. Thompson was a trailblazer in Lexington on the municipal level, which is the best government and closest to the people.
2. **Richard Thompson Recognition Proclamation and Key to the Town – Mayor Randy Halfacre:** Mayor Halfacre read a proclamation honoring Mr. Thompson for 14 years of service on Town Council and for his contributions to the community. (Copy attached.) Mayor Halfacre also presented a Key to the Town to Mr. Thompson in honor of his service. He also presented him with a set of personalized engraved glasses. Mr. Thompson thanked the Mayor and Council and introduced his family and church friends.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston thanked Richard for his service to the Town and she misses him being on Council with her. She added that he taught her many things when she first came on Council. Councilmember Frazier stated that he enjoyed being on Council with Richard and he thanked him for always being there when he needed help cooking for various Town events. He added that Richard is a great individual, a hard worker, a true patriot and a man who deserves respect from everyone. Councilmember Frazier hoped that Richard would run again because he would vote for him. He also wanted to thank Senator Ronnie Cromer who helped work on the award from the Governor's office after he called him. He also thanked Governor Haley. Councilmember Shevchik told Richard that he

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enjoyed serving on Council with him and recently when they campaigned on Gibson Road. He wished him the best and hoped he enjoyed his retirement. Councilmember Stambolitis told Richard that it was a pleasure to work with him and he always looked up to him as a role model. He added that Richard always offered good wisdom and he hopes to continue their friendship. Councilmember Maness told Richard that when he served on Council he had a very quiet voice, but when he did speak, they listened. She thanked him for everything he did for the Town and for their friendship. She hoped he would come back to see them and she wished him much success. Councilmember MacDougall thanked Richard for his service to the Town and he deserved all the honors he was receiving tonight. He hoped he could call on him for his experience and he could certainly call on him anytime. Town Administrator Poole stated that he, as well as all the Town staff valued his friendship and everyone would genuinely miss him. Mr. Raymond Caughman stated that he and Richard worked together for 31 years, after Richard worked in Hamp Caughman's grocery store for nine years. He stated that Richard came to him and asked about getting into the banking business and he was a great employee. Mr. Caughman thanked Richard for being a great public servant for many years and he was great representative for the people. Mr. Caughman added that if you needed Richard you could probably find him at his headquarters – Consumer Feed and Seed.

3. **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from Mr. Steven Gibson, Vice-Chair GFOA Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy:** Mr. Gibson presented the award to the Town of Lexington which recognizes the preparation of high quality budget documentation. He added that the program has been in existence for 27 years and has become the premier indicator of excellence in governmental budget reporting. To earn this award the Town had to substantially conform to the program's demanding criteria of professionalism, commitment of numerous individuals, and a high degree of dedication and leadership. Mr. Gibson added that this is the third year the Town has won this award. He stated that the award is for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and serves as an example of high standards for others to follow. Mr. Gibson presented the award to Finance Director Roberts.

Mayor Halfacre thanked Mr. Gibson and he thanked Finance Director Roberts and her staff for a great job on earning this significant award. Councilmember Stambolitis commended Finance Director Roberts and her staff and suggested that all the Finance awards be displayed for the public to see.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston provided an update on the Town of Lexington's continuing efforts to improve traffic. (1) The Traffic Committee requested that SCDOT be contacted regarding a delay caused by the signal at Northwoods Blvd. and Highway 378. SCDOT reported that there was an issue with the signal and it has been repaired and it is now functioning as intended. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston asked if anyone has any

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traffic issues to please contact 359-1027. The next Traffic Committee meeting will be held on January 17, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in the Eli Mack, Sr. Room at Town Hall.

Mayor Halfacre asked for an update on the Town's Phase I plan. Town Administrator Poole stated that he had talked to the Project Manager who advised him that she expects the project to bid in late January or early February and she did not expect any further delays. Mayor Halfacre stated that when that happens, citizens will see some activity in the Columbia Avenue area after waiting for almost seven years. Mr. Poole stated that some of the work was already started which does not require traffic delays. He added that following the bids, it would take approximately a month to get started.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. (Removed.) **Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing County-owned Land Located at 121 Riverchase Way.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **First Reading of an Ordinance to Purchase .25 Acres of Property for a Force Main Interconnection:** The Utilities Department is acquiring easements to complete a force main interconnection in Cayce. The Town will have to obtain an easement of 0.25 acres, Tax Map #006821-01-020 on Mrs. Hattie Kinley's property which is located near Old Dunbar Road. Mrs. Kinley expressed to the Town that due to the size and location of the property, she would rather sell it to the Town. An appraisal was done for the Town on the property and the value was \$2,400.00. The Municipal Attorney recommended that the Town purchase the property and, at a later date, sell the unused portion to one of the adjoining property owners. The purchase of the property must be done by ordinance with funding from CIP.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve First Reading of an ordinance to purchase .25 acres of property for a force main interconnection as stated. The motion was unanimously carried.

2. (Postponed.) **Appointments of Council Liaisons to Town Boards and Commissions.**
3. **Martin Luther King Celebration Sponsorship:** The Lexington County Ministerial Alliance and MLK Celebration Committee requested Town sponsorship of the annual Martin Luther King Fellowship Banquet in celebration of the Martin Luther King holiday. In past years the Town has purchased a table at the banquet. A

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\$200.00 contribution reserves a table for eight with recognition as a sponsor. (Letter attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Shevchik and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to approve a \$200.00 sponsorship to the MLK Fellowship Banquet. The motion was unanimously carried.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- 1. SC Municipal Insurance Trust Participation Credit:** In October, 2011, the Town was notified that it complied with all 87 of the South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust (SCMIT) recommended guidelines for risk management policies and procedures. The Town received a score of 103 percent (103%) due to points received for extra credit. Compliance keeps the Town eligible for a contribution credit. At the SCMIT meeting in December, the Town received its certificate of compliance and was notified that the contribution credit for 2012 was \$40,228. The amount shows a reduction in the annual cost for the Town's Worker's Compensation premium.

A motion was made by Councilmember MacDougall and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to accept the above as information and direct that it be recorded in the Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Stambolitis confirmed with the Finance Director that the Town pays approximately \$250,000 a year. Mayor Halfacre stated that Worker's Compensation is one of the largest expenditures for any organization. He thanked Department Heads for keeping their employees safe. Town Administrator Poole stated that Municipal Attorney Cunningham deserves the credit in that he acts as the Safety Officer for the Town and reviews the compliance program. Municipal Attorney Cunningham stated that he does not often get to make an effect on the budget. The motion was unanimously carried.

COMMENTS

Mayor Randy Halfacre wished a Happy Birthday to all Town employees celebrating birthdays in January including his birthday and Councilmember Shevchik's. Mayor Halfacre expressed his sympathy to Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston in the recent loss of her brother. He also read a thank you card from her and her family. Mayor Halfacre extended condolences to the Longstreet family on the horrible and tragic death of their daughter this past Sunday. He hoped God's healing hands would reach out to both families. He expressed his sympathy to Lilnora White (Finance Department) in the recent loss of her grandmother. Mayor Halfacre wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. He sensed that the economy was going to breakout and it would be a better year for the Town. He plans to deliver his State of Town at the February Council meeting. He added that Council works very hard during the year and he plans to cover many of the Town's accomplishments and goals. Mayor Halfacre announced the 20th Annual Lexington Leadership Forum on January 5, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the

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Town's Conference Center where leaders will share their forecasts for 2012. He added that it is a partnership between the Town, the Lexington County Chronicle and the Lexington Chamber. The forum is taped and replayed on the Town's Channel 2. Mayor Halfacre invited everyone to attend the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on Friday at 7:00 a.m. at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$10.00 and the speaker is Mike Brennan, President of BB&T. Mayor Halfacre hoped everyone would attend the Friends of the Museum's Annual Memories of Lexington's Old Mill on January 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town's Conference Center and tickets are \$40.00. He later congratulated several departments for all doing excellent jobs.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston congratulated Finance Director Roberts and the Finance Department on their award and she was very proud of everything they do. She thanked Police Chief Green for hearing many great comments about his department during the holidays and how they handled different situations. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston encouraged everyone to go to the Town's Facebook page and post their events. She added that Jennifer Dowden does a great job keeping the page updated for the Town. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston thanked everyone for their support during the loss of her brother. She added that you know you have a true friend when five minutes before the funeral she looked up and saw Danny Frazier coming in the door. She stated that it showed her that he truly cares about her and his presence was overwhelming. She knew he had told several people that he did not know how she found her way out of Fitzgerald, Georgia because it is so far down there in the middle of nowhere. She stated that it is a great place even though her husband asked her during his first trip there if they were still in the United States. She thanked everyone for being so kind during this time. She later wished Constance Flemming a Happy Birthday on January 31, 2012.

Councilmember Kathy Maness wished everyone a Happy New Year and she hoped 2012 would be the best year ever for everyone. She thanked Richard Thompson for everything he did for the Town while he served on Council. She congratulated Finance Director Roberts and staff for their award and she added that the Town should have hired her in the first place, but the Town is glad to have her now. Councilmember Maness expressed her sympathy to Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston in the loss of her brother on Christmas morning. She would continue to pray for strength for them and for the Longstreet family. Councilmember Maness wished Councilmember Frazier a speedy recovery on his shoulder injury. She wished a Happy Birthday to Councilmember Shevchik and Mayor Halfacre.

Councilmember Ted Stambolitis wished a Happy Birthday to Mayor Halfacre and Councilmember Shevchik. He wished a Happy Birthday to his mom. He added "go Gamecocks"!

Councilmember Danny Frazier wished a Happy Birthday to everyone. He expressed his sympathy to Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston in the loss of her brother. Councilmember Frazier thanked Police Chief Green in that he also hears many great comments about the police department. And "go Gamecocks"!

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Councilmember Todd Shevchik wished all the citizens a Happy New Year. He wished Mayor Halfacre a Happy Birthday. Councilmember Shevchik stated that the accident on New Year's Day was at the entrance of his neighborhood and many residents were concerned about why we cannot put a camera at that intersection. He asked Chief Green to help explain the reason to the citizens. Chief Green explained that several years ago a camera was placed on the light at that intersection and when several Senators heard about it, a law was passed to make it unlawful to place any camera on any traffic lights. Councilmember Shevchik confirmed that it would take the State Legislators to overturn the law.

Councilmember Steve MacDougall congratulated Finance Director Roberts on her awesome award and the fact that it is on this year's budget when the year is not over makes it a nice award. Councilmember MacDougall wished everyone a Happy New Year and he looks forward to 2012 and working with everyone.

Town Administrator Britt Poole wished Mayor Halfacre, Councilmember Shevchik and Ms. Flemming a Happy Birthday. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated that he appreciates the Finance Department's hard work and we expect these awards to keep coming.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Halfacre thanked the Council Members and citizens for attending the first Council meeting in 2012 and for those at home for viewing the Council meeting on Channel 2 and it will be replayed several times during the week.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to adjourn the Council Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

The Regular Council meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

T. Randall Halfacre
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.