

MINUTES
Town of Lexington

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 5, 2012

Town Council held an Executive Session followed by a Regular Council Meeting on November 5, 2012 in the Eli Mack Sr. Room and Council Chambers. The meetings were 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, 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, IT Manager Josh Emory, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were approximately thirty (30) citizens present for the Council Meeting and one (1) member of the news media.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Mayor Halfacre reported that the *Executive Session* was called to order at 5:30 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Frazier and seconded by Councilmember Maness to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmember Shevchik was not present for the vote.) Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 6:30 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik. The motion was unanimously carried. Mayor Halfacre reported that Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: two legal issues regarding Channel 2 and economic development, one contractual issue regarding the purchase of real estate and one routine personnel matter. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to ratify Mayor Halfacre'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 on the eve of an election. Sr. Pastor Ralph Schneck, First Baptist Lexington, gave the invocation. Councilmember Shevchik led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Halfacre called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

1. **Resolution Supporting a Community Development Revitalization Plan:** Mayor Randy Halfacre requested that the Resolution be added to Council's

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agenda as item #9 for consideration. There being no objections, the item was added as requested.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **United Way and Community Health Charities – Town Administrator Britt Poole:** Mr. Poole stated that the Town has had a combined charity campaign for a number of years and each year surpassed the previous year's donations. He added that this year the Town employees again surpassed their goal and raised \$18,000 to the two charities which represents a 14% increase. He wanted to point out that the Police Department increased their department's contribution by 85% which was attributed to great leadership. He stated that 100% of Town employees donated to one or both charities.

Mr. Dan Hanfland, Executive Director Community Health Charities, thanked the employees of the Town of Lexington for their generosity. He stated that it is remarkable to find a little town with such a big heart.

Mr. Mike Grey, United Way, thanked the Town of their contribution of \$9,990.50. He thanked the Mayor, Council and Town Administrator for their leadership.

Mayor Halfacre thanked the employees for 100% participation. He added that staff has a big heart and truly cares about their fellow man.

2. **Presentation of the United States of America Flag to the Lexington Police Department – Staff Sergeant (and Lexington Patrolman) Dennis Meyers:** Chief Terrence Green introduced Patrolman Meyers and his daughters who were present to present a flag to the Lexington Police Department. Patrolman Meyers was deployed to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from April 8 to August 20, 2012. He is a Staff Sergeant (SSgt) in the 169th Fighter Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron of the South Carolina Air National Guard at McEntire Joint National Guard Base and served as an Avionics Technician. During his 120 day mission, their planes completed 20 flying missions per day and delivered over 250 bombs to targets and fired thousands of rounds in support of close air support for the American ground troops without any loss of aircraft or personnel. Patrolman Meyers presented an American flag which had flown with the aircraft during the Afghanistan missions to Mayor Halfacre and the Lexington Police Department in appreciation for the Town's support during his deployment.
3. **Proclamation for French Week – Councilmember Kathy Maness:** Councilmember Maness read a Proclamation declaring November 8 through November 14, 2012 as National French Week. She stated that students at Meadow Glen Middle School would display flags, along with other educational information to help educate the school and the community on the importance of the French language. Councilmember Maness presented the Proclamation to the French

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teacher, Delandris Jones; the French Club President; and the Principal of Meadow Glen Middle School Dr. Bill Koon.

4. **Proclamation for Pulmonary Hypertension Month – Councilmember Ted Stambolitis:** Councilmember Stambolitis read a Proclamation declaring November 2012 as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and encouraged citizens to recognize the seriousness of this disease and the work of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association to find a cure. Mr. Doug Taylor requested that Jim and Ginny Weiss accept the Proclamation.
5. **Proclamation for Women Veterans – Mayor Randy Halfacre:** Mayor Halfacre read a Proclamation recognizing the service of women veterans. Members of the Lexington Women’s Club were present to accept the Proclamation.

VISION PLAN UPDATE

Mayor Halfacre gave an update on the Town’s Vision Plan including (1) Façade Program will award five \$5,000 awards in December which will be focused on the Main Street area. (2) The Town will revitalize the famous Snowball Dance which was held in the 60’s and 70’s. This year the Town will expand the Christmas activities to a weekend in December to include a 5K run, tree lighting and concert in Lexington Square, Snowball Dance, parade and cell phone historic walking tour.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston provided an update on the Town of Lexington’s continuing efforts to improve traffic. (1) A preconstruction meeting for Phase I will be held this week and then construction will begin within the next few weeks. Citizens and business owners affected will receive a visit from the contractor and SCDOT. (2) The Traffic Committee requested a speed study on Old Cherokee Road. (3) Several roads will be closed on December 1st during the Snowball 5K race and on December 2nd for the parade. The next Traffic Committee meeting will be held on December 4, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston asked if anyone was aware of specific traffic problems to please contact 359-1027 and let Town staff know. The request could be about an unsafe situation or just a pothole that needs to be repaired.

Mayor Halfacre stated that the Town had done a great job to obtain funding for road improvements. He added that when he and several Councilmembers ran for reelection they committed to improve traffic. He asked citizens to be patient during road construction because it would improve traffic when it is finished.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that she did want everyone to be aware that some trees would come down at the Wells Fargo office. She added that some trees would be re-planted, but it would take years for them to be as beautiful as the trees that would have to come down.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Halfacre called the Public Hearing to order and requested that those wishing to speak limit their comments to five minutes.

1. An Ordinance Keeping Domestic Chickens in Residential Areas.

Ms. Susanne Buege, 105 Cheshire Road, Lexington, SC, spoke in opposition of the chicken ordinance. She stated that two years ago she had a very bad experience with chickens in a neighbor's yard. She opposed changing the setback from 500 to 250 feet. She added that chickens are cheap to buy in the store and once an ordinance changes, it is hard to change it back.

Town Administrator Poole confirmed that chickens are currently allowed in the Town with a 250 foot buffer on all sides which would limit most properties. The new ordinance would reduce the buffer to 25 feet which can be reduced if your neighbors sign in agreement. He added that the Town limits the number of chickens to four. He confirmed that previously there was no number limitation and it still prohibits roosters. He stated that this ordinance does not override any Homeowner Association covenants that do not allow chickens.

Mayor Halfacre stated that this ordinance is in place in some other municipalities. He stated that he has received a lot of support for the ordinance. He originally thought it was for adults, but has found that many youth are interested in raising chickens. Councilmember Stambolitis did not think that 25 feet would be enough buffer.

Ms. Kathleen Vail, 809 Corley Street, Lexington S.C., stated that she was new to the area and wanted to confirm that the ordinance would allow domestic chickens. She added that once it is in place it is hard to change. She questioned why Council would allow domestic chickens in a Town like Lexington. She added that Council would soon be involved in litigation if the ordinance passed. She stated that if chickens venture onto her property, she would be back.

2. An Ordinance Annexing 125 Pilgrim Point Drive, Lexington County Tax Map #3420-01-049.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember MacDougall to approve the minutes from Council's Work Session held on October 15, 2012. The motion was unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Councilmember Shevchik and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Keeping Domestic Chickens in Residential Areas**. Councilmember Frazier requested that the item be reconsidered and made a motion to send the item back to Council Work Session. Councilmember Stambolitis seconded the new motion. Councilmember Stambolitis was concerned that many Homeowner Associations do not have covenants. Councilmember Frazier stated that he agreed with the citizen that this is for residential areas and people may not realize how bad the smell would be and he was not in favor of it whether they send it back to Council Work Session or not. Mayor Halfacre stated the Town was only considering four chickens, not a chicken farm. He added that they had already discussed the item several times and he was not sure what else they could change, but he was open to either way. Councilmember MacDougall stated that the 25 foot setback precludes a lot of property in the Town limits. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston had several citizens contact her in favor of the ordinance. She suggested that this be announced on the Town's web page or Facebook and ask for opinions. Councilmember MacDougall stated that Patch.com had already run a blog on the topic. Ms. Tiffany Barkley, Patch.com, stated that they had received primarily negative comments about the chicken ordinance.

Mayor Halfacre stated that he was sensing a divided Council and he could support returning the item to a Work Session. He called for a vote on the amended motion to return the item to the next Council Work Session. The motion carried with a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed (Shevchik).

2. A motion was made by Councilmember MacDougall and seconded by Councilmember Frazier to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing 125 Pilgrim Point Drive, Lexington County Tax Map #3420-01-049**. The motion was unanimously carried.
3. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Portions of TMS #5497-04-005 and 5497-04-034 located near the Intersection of South Lake Drive and Glassmaster Road (Avtec)**.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that she attended the ground breaking of Avtec and it was a great ceremony for the Town of Lexington. She thanked Chief Green for having a great Police Department which played into Avtec's decision to come to Lexington.

Councilmember Stambolitis stated that the Mayor and Staff worked very hard behind the scenes to shepherd this project through to help bring 170 high end jobs to Lexington. He added that it will open up the market for other high tech jobs.

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Mayor Halfacre stated that this is a unique situation in that towns usually do not attract manufacturing companies because of the tax structure. He thanked Johnny Jeffcoat, Bill Banning, Chuck Whipple, Town Staff and many others for helping to bring this company to the Town of Lexington. He stated that Avtec is already looking to enlarge with the adjoining property. He added that the visit to see the CEO also made a difference in the decision.

The motion was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution – Future Annexations and Billboards:** The Town Sign Ordinance currently regulates billboards in reference to their time, place and manner of delivery. However, it of course does not apply outside the Town limits. There are many “pocket areas” or “doughnut holes” around Town which are not physically within the Town’s jurisdiction. Even though they are not in the Town, activity in these areas can have a direct effect on the welfare of Town citizens. The Town is looking to the county for help in this regard. Town Council was asked to pass the attached Resolution and forward it to the county. The Resolution asks the County Council for help in controlling billboard permitting in specified areas that have been identified as having potential for annexation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to approve a Resolution regarding future annexations and billboards. Councilmember Stambolitis thanked the Lexington County Council for their cooperation with an overlay ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston thanked Johnny Jeffcoat and the Lexington County Council. She stated that there are several requests that have not yet been permitted, but she wanted the citizens to know that Town Council is doing everything they can to resolve the issue. Mayor Halfacre stated that this is another great example of the great partnership between the Town and the County. (Resolution attached.)

2. **First Reading of an Ordinance Rezoning 147 Hamilton Street:** Brian and Catherine Thornton requested to rezone 147 Hamilton Street from Protected Residential to Office Commercial (OC). The Planning Commission reviewed the request during their September meeting and Town Council requested that it be reconsidered during the October Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission recommended against rezoning the property.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to vote against rezoning of the property at 147 Hamilton Street. Mayor Halfacre stated that citizens had already had several opportunities to speak about the issue. Councilmember Frazier

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confirmed with Keith Frost, Chairman Planning Commission that all the Commissioners were against the rezoning. The motion to deny rezoning was unanimously carried. Several citizens from the neighborhood were present and asked if they had to come back next month for another reading. Town Administrator Poole confirmed that there would not be another reading and the item would die at First Reading.

3. **First Reading Amendment to Business License Ordinance Provisions for Insurance Companies:** The 2012 General Assembly passed legislation which requires all cities and towns in South Carolina to amend their Business License Ordinance for insurance companies and non-admitted insurance brokers. Cities and towns must also renew their agreement with the Municipal Association of South Carolina to collect these taxes on their behalf. There is now, pursuant to State Law, a single tax rate of six percent (6%) for broker's premium tax in South Carolina and a municipality may not impose any additional license fee or tax based upon a percentage of premiums. The new law requires the SC Department of Insurance to collect the broker's premium tax and deposit all revenue collected into a special fund, separate and distinct from the General Assembly's general fund. The law also authorizes the MASC to serve as the municipal agent to receive the funds from the Department of Insurance and distribute the funds to municipalities. An ordinance passing these changes must be enacted and provided to the MASC by Wednesday, December 12, 2012.

A motion was made by Councilmember Frazier and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to approve First Reading of an Amendment to Business License Ordinance Provision for Insurance Companies. The motion was unanimously carried. (Ordinance attached.)

4. **Temporary Capital Contribution Fee Policy:** Council approved a Temporary Capital Contribution Fee Policy initially on February 2, 2009 to encourage development during the recession. The policy allows for the purchase of individual sewer certificates instead of the minimum required under the applicable Sanitary Sewer Agreement. The temporary policy expired October 1, 2012. A developer requested that Council consider an additional extension of the temporary policy. At the October Work Session, Council indicated a desire to extend the policy and for Staff to work with representatives of home builders to develop a plan to transition from the temporary policy.

A motion was made by Councilmember Shevchik and seconded by Councilmember Frazier to approve the renewal and extension of the Temporary Capital Contribution Fee Policy through May 1, 2013. The motion was unanimously carried. (Policy attached.)

5. **Reappointments to Board and Commissions:** The following volunteers are up for reappointment in 2012:

Advisory Committee

Terry Samuels
Andrew Streit

Historic Preservation Review Board

Bob Britts
Mandy Derrick

Board of Zoning Appeals

Mary Watts
Royce Lehman
Reve' Richardson

Planning Commission

Roscoe Caughman
Brian Amick
Edwin Gerace

Building Codes Board of Appeals

Gene Smith
Bill Lafferty

A motion was made by Councilmember MacDougall and seconded by Councilmember Frazier to approve all reappointments as listed. The motion was unanimously carried.

6. **Appointment to the Advisory Committee:** Ms. Madison Rogers submitted a Talent Bank application to serve on one of the Town's Boards and Commissions. There is a vacancy on the Advisory Committee that Ms. Rogers could fill. (Talent Bank application attached.)

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve the appointment of Ms. Madison Rogers to the Advisory Committee. The motion was unanimously carried.

7. **2013 IIMC Meeting Sponsorship:** The International Institute of Municipal Clerks Region III Annual Meeting will be held in January 2013 in North Charleston, S.C. Ms. Donna Young, North Augusta City Clerk, is one of the planners and has asked other municipalities to assist with the costs to allow South Carolina to take their turn to host the event. Clerks from Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida will be in attendance. The conference provides valuable continued training for Municipal Clerks. South Carolina cities are contributing various amounts as shown below. It was recommended that Council contribute \$400 from the Town of Lexington toward the cost of the Region III meeting.

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| Greenville | \$500 | N. Augusta | \$500 |
| Isle of Palms | \$500 | Mt. Pleasant | \$1,000 |
| Summerville | \$500 | Saluda | \$100 |
| Folly Beach | \$500 | Bluffton | \$200 |
| Fountain Inn | \$100 | Jackson | \$100 |
| N. Charleston | \$2,000 | (Opening Reception Host) | |

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A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded Councilmember Frazier to approve \$400.00 to the IIMC Region III January 2013 conference. The motion was unanimously carried.

8. **Rental Fee Waiver Request for the American Cancer Society – Relay for Life:** Ms. Debbie Alexander, Staci Little and Lisa Couture with the American Cancer Society – Relay for Life Lexington County requested a rental fee waiver for their monthly meetings for the Eli Mack, Sr. Room as indicated below. (Copy of request letter attached.)

Eli Mack, Sr. Room - \$150 (in town) or \$200 (out of town) for each meeting.

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Tuesday | January 22, 2013 | 5 – 8 pm | Conf. Center Suite A |
| Tuesday | February 26, 2013 | 5 – 8 pm | AVAILABLE |
| Tuesday | March 26, 2013 | 5 – 8 pm | AVAILABLE |
| Tuesday | April 23, 2013 | 5 – 8 pm | AVAILABLE |
| Tuesday | May 7, 2013 | 5 – 8 pm | AVAILABLE |

A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve the rental fee waivers as stated. The motion was carried with a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed (Shevchik).

9. (Added) **Resolution Supporting a Community Development Revitalization Plan:** A developer requested support of a residential revitalization project for five (5) proposed areas. (Copy of Resolution and map attached.)

A motion was made by Mayor Halfacre and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to approve the Resolution in support of a community development revitalization plan. Councilmember MacDougall stated that the property listed on West Main Street and South Church Street should include one more piece of property to the left. Town Administrator confirmed that the map would be updated and added to the minutes. The motion was unanimously carried.

COMMENTS

Mayor Randy Halfacre wished a Happy Birthday to all Town employees celebrating birthdays in November. He wished a speedy recovery to Sergeant Sooter's wife who recently had emergency surgery. He expressed his sympathy to Chapin Mayor Stan Shealy in the death of his wife Vickie Shealy. He added that Vickie was a very good reporter and she will be greatly missed. He expressed sympathy to Constance Flemming and Ebony Bowers in the death of their grandmother and great grandmother. Mayor Halfacre thanked Jennifer Dowden and Darrell Jones for all their work on this year's Town Farmers Market. He thanked Chief Green and his staff for another successful Fall Festival. Mayor Halfacre welcomed Karen Hanner as the new Assistant Municipal

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Clerk. He thanked Lexington's Young Professionals and Town Staff for a fun Oktoberfest last weekend. Mayor Halfacre announced that the Town's Historic Preservation Review Board recently held the annual Historic Awards reception and the three properties honored this year were: (1) Jean Derrick Law Office at 205 West Main Street – Circa 1875; (2) Simmons-Harth Gantt House at 105 Gantt Street – Circa 1830; and (3) Rhoten's Store at 720 East Main Street – Circa 1932. He announced that Veterans Day is on the 11th and the parade was yesterday. He thanked the Councilmembers for coming out and participating to honor of all Veterans. Mayor Halfacre announced the grand opening and tour of the Cayce Sewer Plant on the 14th which is a huge joint partnership with the Town of Lexington, the Lexington County Joint Water and Sewer Commission, and the City of Cayce. He added that the added capacity purchased by the Town will enable the Town to continue to grow. Mayor Halfacre stated that later in the month the National League of Cities will hold their annual conference in Boston. He stated that the Town won a spot in the NLC City Showcase for the second year in a row and he and several Councilmembers would be attending the conference. Mayor Halfacre asked everyone to stay tuned for all the details of the Town's Snowball Festival to be held December 1st and 2nd. He thanked Lexington County Council for planning the Strategic Plan meeting for all municipalities in Lexington County to attend. He added that it was very important for everyone to attend. Mayor Halfacre read a thank you note from the Simon family for honoring Speedy Simon who was the coach at the Rosenwald School. Mayor Halfacre commended the Police Department for being recently honored by the Berkshire subdivision.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston encouraged everyone to attend the Lexington County Strategic Planning meeting because it is a great way to continue to grow and improve municipalities in Lexington County. She thanked the Lexington construction companies for doing a great job in building the fence at Lexington Square. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that all three recipients of the Historic Preservation awards were very deserving for all the work they have done on their properties. She thanked the Police Department for handling a situation recently with some citizens. She commended them for resolving the issue so fast and thanked them for their leadership. She wished a Happy Birthday this month to her husband and her son-in-law.

Councilmember Kathy Maness commended Police Chief Green on being recently appointed as the President of the State Police Chief Association. She added that it was a great honor for him and the Town and thanked him for his leadership. Councilmember Maness wished all the Veterans a great Veterans Day. She thanked all the employees for their generous donations to the United Way and Community Health Charities. She added that it was another great way for people to see the generosity of Town Staff. Councilmember Maness encouraged everyone to get out and vote tomorrow because it is a very important election for the community and for the country. She expressed her sympathy to the family of Vickie Shealy. She added that Vickie was a great lady and her death is a huge loss to Lexington County. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and she is thankful to live in Lexington and thankful for all the citizens.

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Councilmember Ted Stambolitis expressed his sympathy to Vickie Shealy's family. He stated that Vickie was a great reporter and did not have a personal agenda and only wanted to get the facts and report them. He added that he had many conversations with her and she was very interesting to talk with about politics and many other topics. Councilmember Stambolitis encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow. He added that several Councilmembers would be up for reelection next year and they would be at the polls tomorrow gathering signatures to be placed on the ballot. He wished his wife a Happy Birthday on November 17th. He wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Danny Frazier thanked all the Veterans for everything they do to allow us to live in a free society. He wanted to remember Vickie Shealy who was a very fair individual and reporter. Councilmember Frazier welcomed Greg Wingard who had recently moved his towing company to the Town and they also have a business in West Columbia.

Councilmember Todd Shevchik expressed his condolences to Vickie Shealy's family. He stated that he had many long conversations with Vickie, some so long that his cell phone battery would fail. He added that she was extremely fair in reporting, she made him laugh, and she would be greatly missed. Councilmember Shevchik wished to explain why he voted no to the Cancer Society's rental fee waiver request. He stated that they were asking for five days and he thought that was excessive. He added that the Town has expenses associated with the facility rentals and the rooms also need to be made available to other people. Councilmember Shevchik stated that he is trying to button down on some of the things that the Council gives away and the Cancer Society could pay rental fees to other businesses in Town. He added that it is not an indictment against the Cancer Society or the great work they do, he just wants to be more conservative. Councilmember Shevchik stated that regarding chickens, he did some research on the coops and how they are maintained and people want chickens primarily because of the eggs. He wanted to push this through tonight with the limit of four chickens. Councilmember Shevchik wanted to encourage more Town citizens to attend the Veterans parade next year. He added that the Veterans parade yesterday was a great way to show appreciation and support for our soldiers.

Councilmember Steve MacDougall thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting tonight. He thanked Chief Green and the Police Department for another great Fall Festival.

NEWS MEDIA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kathleen Vail, 809 Corley Street, Lexington S.C., wished to address several issues all under the Vision Plan. She added that this was the first meeting she had attended since moving to Lexington and she found a high level of decorum which you did not always see in New Jersey, but she did love their Governor. She disagreed with changing

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the name of the Town's Christmas activities to the Snowball Festival including the words, "Christmas is for the kid in all of us" because this is such a Christian community with many magnificent churches and she thought Christmas should have been expressed more appropriately. She added that she was previously an English teacher and principal of a middle school so the words had caught her attention. She discussed the Town's Christmas decorations with Councilmember Stambolitis last year because she thought the decorations were dismal and lacked direction for a Town the size of Lexington, unless she was giving the Town too much credit. She thought the wonderful people of Lexington deserved more of a "splash" on their Main Street at Christmas time. She requested to see a map which designates high density housing areas. She added that she came from a community that gave into that concept and she knows the impact that it can have on schools, medical services, and traffic, which is already a problem. She would come back for further discussion on this topic since she has experience in it. She stated that some of the older communities do not have associations so they have no regulation to impose on each other. She had driven through several areas of Town which need updating and she would like for Council to consider an ordinance that would require residents to keep up their property; not allow business trucks in residential areas, etc. She added that this Town is at a crossroads and we can talk about chickens forever, but the impact of neighbor upon neighbor is more important. She did not want the older communities to be ignored because they did not have a mini-government. She asked Councilmember Shevchik if he would like for the chickens to be next door to him. Councilmember Shevchik responded that he and his kids are considering chickens at their house if the ordinance is passed. He offered to cook her an omelet and bring it over. Ms. Vail declined the offer and stated that she preferred her eggs from Publix. She concluded that this is Lexington and she likes it here.

Mayor Halfacre thanked her for being so complimentary and he advised her that she was looking at the governing body that had gotten Lexington to this point for the last eight years. He stated that she had referred to neighborhood associations which are sometimes hard to form because no one wants to be "the mayor" of that individual association. Mayor Halfacre stated that she seemed very informed and held a wealth of knowledge and it would help her to obtain answers to her questions if she would request a meeting with the Town Administrator or the Assistant Town Administrator to learn more about the Town's ordinances. He thought it would help her understand where we are and where we are headed since she has only lived here for three years. Mayor Halfacre stated that there is not a person in the room that does not remember him saying that he has always said he would keep "Christmas" in Christmas as long as he is the Mayor. He added that the Snowball Dance was an old tradition that was held in Lexington in the 60's and 70's and was a premier event held in January. He thought Staff had done a wonderful job to bring that element back into the Christmas events. He added that the "Snowball" name in no way took away from the real meaning of Christmas.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Halfacre thanked the Council Members and citizens for attending the Council meeting. He thanked those at home for viewing the Council meeting on Channel 2 and it will also 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 8:24 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.