

**MINUTES**  
*Town of Lexington*  
**Executive Session and**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 7, 2013**

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Town Council held an Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Regular Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 7, 2013 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, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

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

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**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 MacDougall and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmembers Maness and Shevchik were not present for the vote.) Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 6:34 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Frazier and seconded by Councilmember Maness. The motion was unanimously carried. Mayor Halfacre reported that Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: one routine personnel issue regarding a Municipal Judge reappointment; one pending legal matter; and, three contractual issues regarding economic development. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to ratify Mayor Halfacre's *Executive Session* report. The motion was unanimously carried.

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Halfacre wished everyone a great new year; introduced the Council Members; and, welcomed everyone to the Council meeting. Pastor Shane W. Parker, Columbia Crossroads – Lexington Campus, gave the invocation. Councilmember Shevchik led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Halfacre called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Recognition of Lexington Police Officers of 2012 – Major Jay Koon:** Major Koon presented the following officer recognitions in the absence of Chief Green who was having surgery:

Patrolman Steffonie Cockerill - 2012 Law Cadet Instructor of the Year  
Patrolman Grady Johnson -2012 Alive at 25 Instructor of the Year  
Corporal Earron Sturges - 2012 Officer of the Year

2. **Presentation of Donation Check to Blue Star Mothers – Major Jay Koon:** Major Koon presented a check in the amount of \$500.00 to the Blue Star Mothers Midlands Chapter. The funds were a result of another successful Police Department Fall Festival.

**VISION PLAN UPDATE**

Mayor Halfacre gave an update on the Town's Vision Plan: A big step in the Town's Vision Plan was announced in December with the purchase of Project Ice House at South Church Street and Main Street, along with another adjoining property. Mayor Halfacre gave several ideas for the property including a 500 to 1,000 seat amphitheater, retail shops, and restaurants, along with a connected 1.1 mile walking trail. Mayor Halfacre thanked the Councilmembers and Staff for their work on this project.

Mayor Halfacre read a thank you letter received by Councilmember Maness from the Director of NLC commending the Town on their Vision Plan which was showcased during the NLC Conference in Boston.

**TRAFFIC UPDATE**

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston provided an update on the Town of Lexington's continuing efforts to improve traffic. (1) Phase I is under construction, with the initial work being done on storm water infrastructure on Butler Street. The old location of Riley's Drug Store is part of the stormwater system which will become a green space. (2) The Traffic Committee requested that SCDOT conduct a speed study on Old Cherokee from SC Highway #6 to Pilgrim Church Road. (3) Staff met with traffic engineers conducting the adaptive signal study and the results are expected in March. (4) The Interchange Beautification Project has gone back to SCDOT for final approval. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston asked if anyone has any traffic issues to please contact 359-1027. The next Traffic Committee meeting will be held on January 15, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Reappointment of Municipal Judge:** Judge John Rakowsky has been on the bench for the Town of Lexington for 25 years and is currently up for reappointment. State Law allows for a Municipal Judge to be appointed to a term of not less than two years, but not more than four years. The position is part-time.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to approve the reappointment of John Rakowsky as a part-time Municipal Judge for the Town of Lexington. Councilmember Frazier requested that the motion include a two (2) year term. Councilmember Maness amended her motion to include a two (2) year term, which was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston. The amended motion was unanimously carried. (Oath of Office attached.)

**COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Steve MacDougall** announced that DHEC reports that flu cases in South Carolina have been classified as the most severe level. He encouraged everyone to do everything possible to prevent the flu. He expressed condolences to Amy Roll (Parks Department) in the loss of her father in December and to Town Administrator Poole in the loss of his grandmother yesterday. Councilmember MacDougall announced that the Town of Lexington is one of the sponsors for the Lexington Forum to be held this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. here at Town Hall. He added that Lexington Young Professional Lee Pitcovich will moderate and WACH-Fox TV host Tyler Ryan will emcee the event with community leaders. He stated that he attended last year and it is a very informative event. Councilmember MacDougall stated that there are several vacancies on various Town Boards and Commissions. He added that this is the year to get involved and he encouraged those wishing to apply to go to the Town's web page for a Talent Bank application. Councilmember MacDougall thanked Smokey Davis for 16 years of service on Lexington County Council. He added that Mr. Davis retired in December and Mayor Halfacre delivered the first "*Order of the Town*" to Mr. Davis for his outstanding service to the community. Councilmember MacDougall congratulated Mr. Johnny Jeffcoat on being sworn in last week to serve another term on Lexington County Council. He congratulated Mayor Halfacre for being elected to the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in December and wished him a Happy Birthday. Councilmember MacDougall stated that if you missed the first annual Snowball Festival to be sure to put it on your calendar next year. He thanked the many Staff members, especially Jennifer Dowden, who made the event such a success. He stated that Ms. Dowden got off a plane from Boston and immediately started working on the festival. He added that it was a great event for all ages and big plans are already being made for the 2013 Snowball Festival. Councilmember MacDougall congratulated the twelve (12) new Lexington County Fire Service graduates. He added that the Town is very proud of them and all the other Firefighters who do a fine job protecting the Town and the County. Councilmember MacDougall wished Councilmember Shevchik a

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Happy Birthday. He announced that the Friends of the Lexington Museum would hold their annual gala on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Town Hall from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

**Councilmember Shevchik** recognized Mr. Kyle Clampitt and thanked him for serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals. He wished Mayor Halfacre a Happy Birthday. He extended condolences to Town Administrator Poole in the recent loss of his grandmother from Spartanburg. He encouraged everyone to attend the Friends of the Lexington Museum Gala in February. Councilmember Shevchik predicted the BCS football score tonight as Alabama 38 and Notre Dame 10. (*Actual final score: Alabama 42, Notre Dame 14.*) Councilmember Shevchik thanked everyone for watching the meeting. He added that there are many great things going on in Lexington and he is proud to be a part of it and to be a resident of the Town.

**Councilmember Danny Frazier** congratulated all the Police Officers on their awards tonight. He congratulated Mr. Johnny Jeffcoat on being reelected to Lexington County Council. He added: Roll Tide!

**Councilmember Ted Stambolitis** congratulated all the Police Officers for their deserving awards tonight. He wished a Happy Birthday to Mayor Halfacre and Councilmember Shevchik. Councilmember Stambolitis thanked the citizens of Lexington for their generosity during the holidays which helped provide gifts to 678 foster children; 78 recipients of Meals on Wheels program; and, gifts for 12 kids at Nancy K. Perry Children's Home. He wished Chief Green a speedy recovery from his recent surgery. He wished his Mom a Happy Birthday on Sunday and as they say in Greek, χαρούμενα γενέθλια! Councilmember Stambolitis wished the citizens of Lexington a Happy New Year.

**Councilmember Kathy Maness** congratulated all the Police Officers for receiving awards tonight. She stated that they are fine examples of the wonderful men and women on the Lexington Police force and they work hard to keep Lexington one of the safest Towns in the United States. She thanked Chief Green and Major Koon for all they do for the Town. Councilmember Maness stated that it was hard to believe that it was only three weeks ago that 20 children and six educators were killed in a senseless shooting in Newtown, CT. She asked everyone to keep that community in their thoughts and prayers as they continue the healing process. She expressed her condolences to Town Administrator Poole in the recent loss of his grandmother. She wished a Happy Birthday to Mayor Halfacre and Councilmember Shevchik. She thanked Councilmember Shevchik for writing a wonderful article in Lexington Life magazine about the great speaker they heard at the NLC WIMG luncheon. Councilmember Maness stated that she looked forward to 2013 being the best year ever in the Town of Lexington.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston** congratulated the Police Officers on receiving their awards tonight. She added that she deals with the Police Department a lot on community activities and they are top-notch and she appreciates all they do for the community. She congratulated Mayor Halfacre for being named as one of the "Top 50

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Influential People in the Midlands”. She wished Mayor Halfacre and Councilmember Shevchik a Happy Birthday. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that she would miss the Lexington Forum, but she would be in Georgia celebrating her mother’s 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. She wished Chief Green a speedy recovery and thanked Major Koon for fielding all her telephone calls. She asked everyone for beautification ideas because within the next few weeks she would be looking at plans for planters and hanging planters on Main Street, which is a continuation of the Lexington Square beautification. She added that several events have already been held at the Lexington Square and it has been a very intimate location. She announced that she had received word today that her 7<sup>th</sup> grandchild will be a boy, Baby Boy Dooley, due in June.

**Mayor Randy Halfacre** recognized Lee Pitcovich, J. R. Fennell, Scott Adams and Mike and Judy Flack. He wished Happy Birthday to all employees celebrating birthdays in January, including Councilmember Shevchik. He announced the Martin Luther King Banquet to be held on January 19<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged everyone to participate in the Lexington Forum. He added that Mr. Jerry Bellune had done a great job for about 19 years with the Forum, but it was being turned over to the youth in the community. He thanked Councilmember Shevchik for his article about the waste water plant. Mayor Halfacre stated that LICS advised him today that they still need items as well as volunteers which could include Town Staff. He expressed his condolences to Sherry Brooks (Finance Department) in the recent loss of her grandmother and to Town Administrator Poole in the recent loss of his grandmother. Mayor Halfacre thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and Councilmember MacDougall for organizing the recent candlelight service in memory of the victims in Newtown, CT. He commended The State newspaper on their article today about the Town’s Historic Cell Phone Tour. He thanked Ms. Dowden, Mr. Crosby, and Mr. Fennell for coordinating this well received event. He agreed that it should be expanded to include the building at the museum. Mayor Halfacre stated that Time Warner recently announced a \$24 million expansion in Springdale which would result in 644 new jobs. He added that the average salary is \$40,000 and the project would benefit the entire community. He announced that he would have the State of the Town Address on February 4<sup>th</sup>, to be held in the conference center immediately followed by the regular Council meeting. He added that it could also be seen live on the Town’s Channel 2, the Town’s web page, and 107.9 radio.

**NEWS MEDIA:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**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.

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The Regular Council meeting was adjourned at 7:22 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.*