

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
Special Council Meeting
December 2, 2013

Town Council held an Executive Session on December 2, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Eli Mack, Sr. room followed by a Special Called Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. The meetings were attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, and Council Members Kathy Maness, Ted Stambolitis, and Todd Shevchik. Councilmember Danny Frazier was absent.

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

Others Present: Mr. Kyle Clampitt, Alliance Engineering.

There were approximately two (2) citizens present and no members from the news media.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Mayor MacDougall reported that the *Executive Session* was called to order at 5:30 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Shevchik and seconded by Councilmember Maness to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 6:22 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Shevchik and seconded by Councilmember Maness. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. Mayor MacDougall reported that Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss one legal update, three contractual items related to the sale and purchase of Town property, and one personnel matter regarding Board and Commission appointments. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to ratify Mayor MacDougall's *Executive Session* report. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor MacDougall welcomed everyone to the Special Called meeting. He introduced the Councilmembers and called on Councilmember Maness for the invocation. Councilmember Shevchik led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the Special Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Pennies for Progress Proposed Projects for the Town of Lexington – Town Administrator Britt Poole:** Mr. Poole stated that he would go through all the proposed projects for Council using computer maps in order to show the exact location of a specific proposed project. He added that he would go through all the proposed projects as submitted by the Town’s Traffic Committee (copy attached) followed by any other projects they wished to discuss. Mr. Poole stated that the Traffic Committee submitted their project list in three categories: Sidewalk Project Priority, Intersection Projects; and Large Project Prioritization all for Council’s consideration. He confirmed that there were no questions on the **Sidewalk Project List** which included:

- (1) *Connect existing sidewalks on the east side of Old Chapin Road between Columbia Avenue and Scarlett Oak Apartments.*
- (2) *Extend sidewalks on US 1 eastward to the Town limits.*
- (3) *Connect sidewalks on the west side of SC 6 from Gibson Road northward to the bridge at the Mill Pond. (This would be dropped if Project 4 below is selected.)*
- (4) *School Street – Corley Street to Harmon Street - \$72,000*
- (5) *Corley Street – North Lake Drive to Creekside Farms - \$152,000*
- (6) *Pilgrim Church Road – Deer Run Lane to North Lake Drive - \$152,000*
- (7) *Hope Ferry Road – 14 Mile Creek to Sunset Boulevard- \$48,000*
- (8) *Roberts Street – South Lake Drive to Gibson Road - \$156,000*
- (9) *Swartz Road & Parker Drive – East Main Street to South Lake Drive - \$156,000*
- (10) *Park Road – Palm Court to Parkside subdivision - \$170,000*

Mr. Poole stated that he would address the **Intersection Projects** one at a time as follows:

- (1) *US 1 at SC 6 (new courthouse corner) – Improve radius, install longer mast arm signal pole at new location.*

Mr. Poole stated that the radius needed to be increased at the intersection due to trucks damaging the mast arm. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston confirmed that the new traffic signaling would use the existing traffic arms if they were already in place. Councilmember Stambolitis confirmed that a right turn lane could be added, but one to two parking spaces may be lost.

- (2) *Turn lanes at SC 6 and Parker Street (This would be dropped if Project 4 below is selected.)*

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Mr. Poole confirmed that this is at the entrance of Middlebrook subdivision. He added that it is not a high accident intersection and this could be removed from the list if another larger project is selected.

- (3) *Turn lanes at US 378 and Mineral Springs Road. (This would be dropped if Project 1 below is selected.)*

Mr. Poole stated that this is a high accident intersection with 67 accidents in the last three years. He added that additional stacking capacity was needed which would provide better traffic flow. Mr. Poole stated that the intersection is over capacity much like the intersection at Palmetto Park Boulevard. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that some smaller projects could be grouped together.

- (4) *Add turn-lanes at various intersections to improve operation.*

Mr. Poole stated that SCDOT could provide suggestions and analyze each intersection.

Mr. Poole stated that the following prioritization was recommended by the Traffic Committee for Council's consideration:

Large Project Prioritization

- (1) ***Relocations of Mineral Springs Road to align with Hope Ferry Road: --Provides relief to three severely congested intersections in the Town (US 378 and Palmetto Park Blvd, Mineral Springs Road and Hope Ferry Road.) --Addresses the weaving issues between Hope Ferry Road and Mineral Springs Road. --Has little impact on property compared to the advantages it provides. It will actually improve access to the parcels behind McAlister's. --It is likely this project would be widely supported by citizens and businesses.***

Mr. Poole stated that the County is considering this project because it would reduce Mineral Springs Road traffic. He added that Hope Ferry Road is the second highest accident intersection. He stated that cost estimates were not yet available. He stated that other events would also improve traffic in the area such as the adaptive traffic signaling, Phase I Traffic Plan completion and the new high school had actually split traffic going east and west of Town. Mr. Poole added that Phase III of the Traffic Plan may not be the highest priority once all the new traffic plans are done. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston confirmed that when the Phase I Traffic Plan was put in place they did not know that the new high school was

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planned. Councilmember Stambolitis confirmed that the Town should revisit Phase III since it usually takes 10 to 20 years start on a proposed project and the Town started in only seven years. He added that people take US 378 by default but they can learn other routes to take around Town.

- (2) ***Relocation of Dreher Street:*** --*Dreher Street would be relocated to tie into Azalea Drive. --Previously identified in the Town's Traffic Improvement Plan. --Improves operations at the SC 6 and Columbia Avenue and the US 378 split. This could segue into a project Lexington County may pursue to improve the corridor. -- This project could also include improvements along Azalea Drive that would benefit Lexington Elementary School.*

Mr. Poole stated that SCDOT and the Traffic Committee recommend the relocation of Dreher Street regardless of signalization. He added that the relocation of Dreher Street entering into the 378 intersection would also improve Azalea Drive. Councilmember Stambolitis asked how those citizens would get to the middle school. Mr. Poole stated that the school has multiple curb cuts on 378. Mayor MacDougall stated that the concern is putting all the traffic out at the middle school.

- (3) ***Landscaped medians on SC6 from US 378 to the dam and on US 378 from Hope Ferry Road to I-20:*** --*Identified in the Vision Plan and would include several sidewalks, bike lanes and roadside landscaping. --Medians would improve operation through these corridors. --Development in these areas is less dense and would be ideal to control future access. --Would address the current issues on US 378 including locking left turns in front of McAlister's. -- The Town would have to commit to maintenance of the landscaping.*

Mr. Poole stated that raised medians had the most potential to influence traffic because they can create a right-ins and right-outs. He stated that they should be installed before a development goes in so they can preplan their access. He added that there are fewer accidents when the speed limit is higher with fewer curb cuts which had been experienced near Lowes and Publix. Councilmember Stambolitis asked if US 378 would be widened. Mr. Poole responded, "not while I'm alive". Mayor MacDougall stated that he liked raised medians and they can preserve the land for later public transportation. He added that when they were in Seattle at the NLC conference they saw how medians can make a safer highway. Mr. Poole stated that connectivity was important which was recently accomplished at the new Aldi's location with John Hanson's insistence. Councilmember Stambolitis stated that

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medians limit developers and when they try to sell a property. He asked if there would be a deceleration lane. Mr. Poole stated that Greenville and Mount Pleasant had good results when placing the medians before development because then the developer knows ahead of time how to plan. He added that the space is already there for a deceleration lane. Mr. Poole stated that the current plan is to go as far as Hope Ferry Road and once the area is built out there would not be much of a median. He added that they want as much impact as possible without affecting existing businesses. He stated that US 378 has approximately 45,000 vehicles on it per day and I-20 has approximately 65,000. Councilmember Stambolitis confirmed that these projects are not on SCDOT's radar because funds are not available. Mr. Poole confirmed that is why it is important to look at the 1 cent tax because SCDOT will not discuss a project unless you come to the table with some of your own funding.

- (4) ***Corridor Improvements to SC 6 from the railroad to Roberts Street:*** --Provide turn-lanes at intersections throughout the corridor. --Provide sidewalks on both sides of the street. --This would improve operations along this segment of SC 6 by providing refuge for turning vehicles.

Mr. Poole stated that this project is from the Vision Plan and has a low priority due to cost. He estimated it to be \$30 million. He added that it could be placed on the Town's list but with such a high cost, he recommended it not be included in the first round of projects. He further recommended that once some of the projects are complete that Phase III and IV may be discontinued, but they should be re-evaluated. Councilmember Stambolitis confirmed that SCDOT did not have any funds to expand Old Chapin. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that one of the County's engineers is on the Town's Traffic Committee.

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Stambolitis wished to discuss Main Street as a project. He requested that right turn lanes be put back at the intersection of US 6 and 1 in front of the old court house and remove some parallel parking. Council discussed Greenville as a comparison. Mr. Poole stated that Greenville's 45 degree parking is not ideal to move traffic because when anyone backs out, traffic is stopped. Councilmember Stambolitis stated that the one-way pairs would not work.

Councilmember Shevchik stated that traffic on Main Street should be slowed down to encourage walking traffic. He compared it to the Boulevard at Myrtle Beach where everyone drives slowly to enjoy the sights. He recommended that Butler Street be used to move traffic around. Councilmember Shevchik also

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thanked the Traffic Committee for preparing the list of ideas and for all their hard work.

Town Administrator Poole stated that the fourth project could include rerouting commercial and through traffic off Main Street by routing them through Swartz Road, but the cost would be high to eliminate the curves.

Mayor MacDougall asked when Council would prioritize the projects. Mr. Poole recommended that Council get back together as soon as possible to prioritize the projects so Staff could get them ready to submit to the County Pennies for Progress Commission. He suggested that Council email him their recommended priority list by December 19th. He hoped to have a list to Council to vote on by Council's January meeting and then submit to the County. Poole confirmed that projects would be prioritized before cost estimates were obtained.

Mr. Kyle Clampitt, Alliance Engineering, stated that for large projects it could take them three to four weeks to apply cost estimates and two to three weeks for small projects.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston asked if sidewalks would be included in the priority list. Mr. Poole stated that sidewalks would be included and he estimated the cost at \$2M. He added that the Town always gets positive feedback from sidewalk projects. He confirmed that there are other sidewalk projects in the West Lexington area which are included in a CDBG grant. Mr. Poole stated that capital improvement, such as water and sewer, could also be included in the projects.

Councilmember Stambolitis asked if "safety" was a category in ranking projects because the Town has more issues and should get the lion share. Mr. Poole responded no, safety was not part of the scoring process. Mr. Clampitt stated that Alliance Engineering only prepares the documents for the project and they do not assign priority or vote on the projects. He added that they have to look at the County as a whole and apply each project to an 80 point scale.

Mayor MacDougall suggested that individual questions could be directed to Mr. Clampitt at a later time. He asked Councilmembers to get the information back to Mr. Poole as soon as possible.

Councilmember Maness asked if the performing arts center could be included. Mr. Poole stated that it could be considered, however, that type of project incurs ongoing costs and the projects they have discussed do not have ongoing costs. Mayor MacDougall stated that the Town does not have any information on a performing arts center.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that if you want people to vote in favor then the projects need to be something that affects them every day. Mr. Poole stated that overall when a project is listed with cost and benefits it usually does well

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with citizens for a positive vote. He added that it also builds trust in the event there is another round of penny tax.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT: Mayor MacDougall thanked the Council Members, Mr. Clampitt, and citizens for attending the Special Council meeting.

There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Maness to adjourn Council's Special meeting.

The Special Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

Steve MacDougall
Mayor