

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 4, 2015

Town Council held an Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers on May 4, 2015. The meetings were attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Ted Stambolitis, Todd Shevchik, Todd Carnes, and Ron Williams.

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

There were approximately twenty (20) citizens present for the Council meeting and two members from the news media.

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

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 Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried. Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 6:30 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Maness. The motion was unanimously carried. Mayor MacDougall reported that Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: Two contractual matters related to downtown economic development and the lease of a Town owned property and one legal issue regarding road improvement options. A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness to ratify Mayor MacDougall's *Executive Session* report. The motion was unanimously carried.

DELETIONS ON AGENDA: None.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to approve the minutes as submitted for Council's Work Session held on April 20, 2015. The motion was unanimously carried.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Proclamation of May 10 – 17, 2015 as National Women's Lung Health Week,– Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston:** Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston read a Proclamation declaring May 10 – 17, 2015 as National Women's Lung Health Week. (Copy attached.) Ms. Melissa Goforth, Area Manager Midlands Office of the American Lung Association was present to accept the Proclamation. She thanked the Mayor and Council and encouraged everyone to go to lungsc.org to see more about the research that is being done.
2. **Proclamation of May 15, 2015 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day – Councilmember Todd Carnes:** Councilmember Carnes read a Proclamation recognizing May 15, 2015 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. (Copy attached.) Ms. Beverly Coates and Ms. Fran O'Dell were present to accept the Proclamation, both of whom lost their son during the line of duty. They thanked the Mayor and Council and briefly described the work they do with families of fallen officers through Carolina Concerns of Police Survivors. Councilmember Carnes stated that it was good to hear about the positive in a world where we usually only hear about the negative because we have a lot of great Police Officers in our Town and our State. Mayor MacDougall stated that the Council shares in their grief and applaud them for the work they do.
3. **Proclamation of May 16, 2015 as Kids to Parks Day – Councilmember Ron Williams:** Councilmember Williams read a Proclamation declaring May 16, 2015 as Kids to Parks Day in Lexington. Adults and children were urged to get out and enjoy the many parks in Lexington in order to lead more active lifestyles. No one was present to accept the Proclamation. (Copy attached.)
4. **Proclamation Recognizing Albert Robertson as Lexington District One Teacher of the Year – Councilmember Kathy Maness:** Councilmember Maness read a Proclamation honoring Albert Robertson as Teacher of the Year. (Copy attached.) She also commended Governor Haley for declaring May as Teacher Appreciation Month in the State of South Carolina. She also recognized Miss Lexington, Kelly Ragan, as another wonderful teacher. Mr. Robertson thanked the Mayor and Council and stated that he was happy to teachers get recognized for the good things that go on in the classroom not only by the Town and the District, but also by the State.
5. **Proclamation of May 4 – 8, 2015 as Small Business Week – Councilmember Ted Stambolitis:** Councilmember Stambolitis read a Proclamation recognizing May 4 – 8, 2015 as Small Business Week in the Town of Lexington. Several business leaders were present to accept the Proclamation including: Randy

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Halfacre, Lexington Chamber and Visitors Center; Scott Adams, and Pete Oliver, USC Office of Economic Engagement and Small Business Development Center. Mr. Halfacre thanked the Mayor and Council for recognizing the thousands of businesses in Lexington. He added that the Chamber membership represents 1,030 and includes 30,000 to 35,000 employees. He stated that they feel good about the direction of the Chamber and look forward to a continued great relationship with the Town. Mr. Halfacre encouraged everyone to “Shop Small” this week and as MASC says: “Cities mean Business”.

6. **Presentation of the CALEA Award to Chief Terrence Green – Mr. John Tucker, President of the S.C. Police Accreditation Coalition and State Accreditation Chairman:** Mr. Tucker read the letter of accreditation, which outlined the CALEA process, and then presented the third CALEA Re-Certification Award to Chief Green. Mr. Tucker stated that the Lexington Police Department had received accreditation either from the State or Nationally for the past 16 years due to their excellence in service and community service.

Mayor MacDougall congratulated Chief Green and commended him for leading by example every day and making the Town proud.

7. **Presentation to Lexington Fun Day Committee – Chief Terrence Green:** Chief Green commended the Lexington Fun Day Committee for giving back to the Town for the past 22 years and assisting over 350 kids to receive school supplies and health screening. Chief Green presented a check for \$1,000 to help plant a seed for their continued success. They encouraged everyone to come out this year on August 1st.

VISION PLAN UPDATE

Mayor MacDougall gave a brief review of the Town’s Vision Plan: (1) Project Icehouse will hold a bid opening on May 14th and anticipate that the bid would be awarded in May with construction to begin immediately after. Construction is slated to be 6 to 9 months, opening in Spring 2016. (2) The Lexington’s Farmers Market opens this Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00 at Lexington Square and runs through September 26th, with the exception of July 4th. (3) Wayfinding Signage will be new directional and identifier signs throughout the Town focused on tourist destinations, government buildings, etc. and will eliminate some of the old signs. The bid was awarded in March to National Sign Plazas with a kick-off held in April. The anticipated completion for the design is mid-summer.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston gave a traffic update: Phase I of the Adaptive Signal Project, including 19 signalized intersections, is in the early stages of the construction process. The contractor, German Technical Group of Mount Pleasant, S.C., is locating the right-of-way and utility locations for determining the new mast arm locations.

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Intermittent construction activity and associated lane closures will be experienced over the next several months. The system is planned to be operational by the end of the calendar year. The Town Traffic Committee and Staff continue to work with SCDOT to resolve a traffic safety issue related to left turn operations at Saluda Point Court and Ginny Lane. The next Traffic Committee meeting will be May 19, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the third floor conference room at Town Hall. Citizens were encouraged to call 359-1027 to report any specific traffic problems, unsafe situations, or just a pothole that needs repair.

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 Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #3500-03-031 located at 5100 Sunset Boulevard. No comments.
2. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance to adjust water and sewer monthly base and volume charges. No comments.
3. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance to approving Mutual Aid to the City of North Myrtle Beach and Richland County. No comments.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. A motion was made Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #3500-03-031 located at 5100 Sunset Boulevard**. Councilmember Stambolitis confirmed that a small commercial center is planned for the site. The motion was carried with a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed (Shevchik).
2. A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance to adjust water and sewer monthly base and volume charges**. Councilmember Carnes wished to state for the citizens that it is the fiscally responsible thing to do to take small incremental increases or the Town could wide up like some neighbor cities that have to make 10% to 12% increases. He added that water will cost more in ten years than it does today due to rising costs of construction, land acquisition and chemicals. He stated that the average consumer will see less than a \$2.00 increase in their bill. Councilmember Shevchik stated that he concurs with Councilmember Carnes and in addition a study was done to show the impact

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which also keeps the Town's Bond rates low. He added that the increase of 2.5% would pay dividends to the citizens in the years to come. Mayor MacDougall stated that 2.5% is across the board, but the average in-town citizen would pay approximately 1.4%. The motion carried with a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed (Maness).

NEW BUSINESS

1. **First Reading of an Ordinance Approving Mutual Aid to the City of North Myrtle Beach and Richland County:** At the request of Richland County and the City of North Myrtle Beach, amended Mutual Aid Agreements were provided to Council for approval. The agreements require approval by Ordinance. (Copy of Ordinance attached.) Additionally, emergency designation was requested for the North Myrtle Beach Ordinance so as to have it in place before Memorial Day Weekend.

A motion was made by Councilmember Shevchik and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve an Ordinance adopting an amended Mutual Aid Agreement with Richland County, and a temporary emergency Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of North Myrtle Beach. Councilmember Stambolitis confirmed that the Town usually sends four Police Officers to the Myrtle Beach area during Memorial Day weekend. He asked if the officers were prepared to provide a safe environment as there were several shootings last year. Chief Green responded that every day when an officer puts on their uniform a shooting can occur. He added that assistance was being doubled this year. Councilmember Stambolitis thanked Chief Green for taking on a sense of urgency in this matter. Councilmember Maness agreed and stated that she was glad to know that the Town's officers would be at the beach because she would be there and she would feel safer. The motion was unanimously carried.

2. **First Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the FY 2015-2016 Budget:** South Carolina law requires Town Council to adopt a balanced budget each year. (Budget Revenue and Expenditures and Draft Ordinance are attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to approve First Reading of an Ordinance to adopt the FY 2015-2016 budget. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. **First Reading of an Ordinance to Provide for the FY 2015-2016 Tax Levy:** South Carolina law requires Town Council to adopt the Tax Levy each year. (Draft Ordinance for the Tax Levy for FY 2015-2016 is attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to approve First Reading of an Ordinance to

provide for the FY 2015-2016 Tax Levy. The motion was unanimously carried.

4. **First Reading of an Annexation of Lexington County Tax Map #5422-02-004 and 013 located at 141 Parker Street:** Epworth Children's Home owns 13.08 acres on two parcels located at 141 Park Street and petitioned to annex the property. A single family home is currently on one parcel and a single family neighborhood is being contemplated for the entire 13 acre site. Properties in Town near these properties are zoned General Commercial (GC), High Density Residential (HDR) and Protected Residential (PR). Parker Street is classified as a Local Road. The Planning Commission will review this annexation during their May meeting to recommend a zoning and street classification for these parcels.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve First Reading of an annexation of Tax Map #5422-02-004 and 013 at 141 Parker Street as stated. The motion was unanimously carried.

5. **First Reading of an Annexation of Lexington County Tax Map #3500-03-092, 054, and a portion of #3500-03-015 and 116 located at the intersection of Park Place Trail and Darby Ambrose Road:** Mr. Kenneth Shuler owns 4.47 acres on four parcels and petitioned to annex the properties. A cosmetology school and future office building are being planned on the site. Properties in Town near these properties are zoned General Commercial (GC) and Protected Residential (PR). Park Place Trail is classified as a Collector Road and Darby Ambrose Road is classified as a Limited Local Road. The Planning Commission will review this annexation during their May meeting to recommend a zoning and street classification for these parcels.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to approve First Reading of an annexation of Tax Map #3500-03-092, 054, and a portion of #3500-03-015 and 116 located at the intersection of Park Place Trail and Darby Ambrose Road as stated. Councilmember Carnes requested clarification of why First Reading was done prior to the Planning Commission making a recommendation. Town Administrator Poole responded that the Town adopted the policy years ago to hear an item prior to Planning depending on the timing of when the annexation was requested in an attempt to speed up the process for the applicants. He added that Council also had the option to not have First Reading and request that the Planning Commission hear the item first. The motion was unanimously carried.

6. **Miss South Carolina Sponsorship Request:** Ms. Kelly Ragan, Miss Lexington, requested a Miss South Carolina program sponsorship from the Town of Lexington in the amount of \$300 for a full page ad. Ms. Ragan stated that the

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ads are also the way scholarships are funded through the Miss South Carolina organization. She added that each contestant is guaranteed at least a \$600 scholarship.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve a Miss Lexington ad sponsorship in the amount of \$300. Councilmember Maness supported the request and stated that last year when she was watching the pageant there was not a Miss Lexington. She added that she is happy to know that Lexington will be represented this year in the Miss South Carolina pageant thanks to Ms. Constance Flemming and her daughter. The motion was unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Shevchik made the following announcements: (1) He wished Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston a special Happy Birthday on May 22nd! (2) As mentioned in the Mayor's Vision Plan report, the Town's Farmers Market will be back in full swing this Saturday (May 9th) at Lexington Square from 9:00 to 12:00. The market is a great opportunity to come out and see local vendors and to meet your neighbors! (3) Next Saturday will be a busy day in Lexington - because next Saturday is also the Town's 6th Annual Wine Walk from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Main Street. You can go to www.lexingtonwinewalk.com to purchase tickets. (4) The Lexington Chamber Breakfast is next Tuesday, May 12th at 7:30 a.m. and the Town's very own Mayor MacDougall will be one of the guest speakers, along with County Council Chairman Johnny Jeffcoat. (5) The Lexington County Law Enforcement Memorial Service will be held on May 13th at 9:30 a.m. at the memorial located in Lexington Square. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving as law enforcement officers. (6) Council's next Work Session will be held on May 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Eli Mack Room. Council starts their summer schedule in June so a combined Work Session and Regular Council meeting will be held the second Monday (June 8th) at 6:00 p.m. (7) Also on May 18th is the Lexington Community Band Concert at 7:30 p.m. at River Bluff High School. If you missed their last performance you will want to come out and hear this great community band. (8) The Traffic Committee will meet on May 19th at 8:00 a.m. in the 3rd floor conference room. (9) The Planning Commission will meet on May 20th at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. (10) May 25th is a Town Holiday observing Memorial Day! (11) May 27th is opening day for the Lexington County Blowfish at the Lexington Stadium. Everyone was encouraged to come out and support the team. Councilmember Shevchik also expressed condolences to the family of Mike Parker who recently passed away very suddenly and he wanted to send respects to the family. He thanked everyone for watching Town Council in action tonight.

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Councilmember Maness announced that tomorrow is “Midlands Gives” which is a 24 hour day of giving to raise money for 257 non-profits in the Midlands. She encouraged everyone to go to Midlandsgives.org and make a contribution.

NEWS MEDIA QUESTIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Constance Flemming, 604 Hendrix Street, wished to address several items: (1) She congratulated Chief Green on receiving the CALEA Award. (2) She thanked Chief Green for supporting the Lexington Fun Day Committee. She added that the committee was started from the heart and they have assisted 1,000’s of children by going door to door for support. (3) She thanked the Mayor and Council for sponsoring Miss Lexington. She added that Miss Lexington and Miss Lexington Teen have enjoyed all the events they have attended in Lexington which also shows their commitment to their community. (4) She understood what Council was trying to do with the rate increase, but citizens are concerned that water and sewer charges are properly recorded. She added that a home in the neighborhood houses three adults and their bill was \$147.00, and one of them does not even take a bath very often. She encouraged Staff to make sure that the proper counts are taken to come up with the water bills. She stated that this had been an on-going issue.

Mayor MacDougall asked Town Administrator Poole to speak about high usage complaints. Town Administrator Poole assured the Council that any time some contacts the Finance Department, Meter Techs are sent out to check the meter and to check for leaks. Ms. Flemming appreciated the information and she would direct the citizens to call.

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 2 and it will also be replayed several times during the week.

There being no objection from Council, Mayor MacDougall called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to adjourn the Council meeting.

The Regular Council meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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.