

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Special Council Meeting

May 16, 2016

Town Council held a Special Council Meeting on May 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Eli Mack Sr. Room. The meeting was 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 Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, Transportation Director Randy Edwards, Police Chief Terrence Green, Planning, Building and Technology Director John Hanson, Economic Development Catalyst Johnny Jeffcoat, Utilities and Engineering Director Allen Lutz, Finance Director Kathy Roberts, Parks and Sanitation Director Dan Walker, Parks and Sanitation Assistant Director Johnny Dillard, Special Projects Manager Wesley Crosby, Events and Media Coordinator Jennifer Dowden, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. following Council's Work Session.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **First Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the FY 2016-2017 Budget (Title Only):** South Carolina law requires Town Council to adopt a balanced budget each year. Budget Revenue and Expenditures were provided to Council along with a Draft Ordinance.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to approve First Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the FY 2016-2017 Budget (Title Only).

Councilmember Williams asked if \$25,000 to \$50,000 was still in the budget for Tuition Reimbursement. Mr. Poole responded yes, the budget has \$50,000, but the program has not yet been established. Finance Director Roberts confirmed that one-half of the amount is under Administration and one-half is in the Enterprise Fund. Councilmember Maness asked for an explanation of the program. Mr. Poole stated that it would be an Employee Reimbursement Program. He added that he had looked at other municipalities that offer this as a benefit. He stated that a policy

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would be brought back to Council for approval and the budget shows the total expenditure for all employees. Councilmember Maness asked if the program would be for advanced degrees. Mr. Poole stated that it would not be for conferences, but it could include any advanced education that falls in the scope of their position. He added that a poll completed by employees several years ago stated this as a requested benefit.

Councilmember Williams asked if a Cost of Living increase, in the amount of 1 ½%, was still in the budget covering two years and if it was just this year it would be .8%. Mr. Poole responded yes, the budget allows for a 1 1/2% COL increase which represents .7% from last year when an increase was not given and .8% for this year, both of which are tied to CPI. He added that there was a time when it was not tied to CPI, but in the past 7 to 8 years it has been tied to CPI-U index as of the end of December. Mr. Poole stated it was not done last year because of austerity year and the budget had to be balanced and it was removed. He added that it was important to point out that in the past two years in a row the State has changed withholdings for retirement so employees have lost 2% of their take home pay and this COL increase does not make up for that amount. Mr. Poole stated that the promise of retirement benefit is the same but more is being taken out of take home pay. Councilmember Maness stated that if the Senate passes the new bill it will be another .5%.

Mayor MacDougall called for a vote on the motion to approve First Reading as stated. The motion carried with a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed (Williams).

2. **First Reading of an Ordinance to Provide for the FY 2016-2017 Tax Levy:** South Carolina law requires Town Council to adopt the Tax Levy each year. Council was provided a Draft Ordinance for the Tax Levy for FY 2016-2017.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to approve First Reading of an Ordinance to provide for the FY 2016-2017 Tax Levy. The motion carried with a vote of six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed (Williams).

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA: None.

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ADJOURNMENT: There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to adjourn the Council's Special meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC

APPROVED BY:

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.