

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 11, 2016

Town Council held a Regular Council Meeting at 6:30 in the Council Chambers on July 11, 2016 located at Town Hall, 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, South Carolina which was preceded by an Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. and a Council Work Session at 5:30 p.m.

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 Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, Town Prosecutor Cliff Koon, 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, Events and Media Coordinator Jennifer Dowden, Downtown Venue Promoter Walker Brewer, Jr. Network Administrator Darrell Pritchard, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were approximately sixty (60) citizens present and one member of the news media.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor MacDougall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Members. He apologized for the late start of the meeting. Reverend Mandy Taylor Young, Faith United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Councilmember Shevchik led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT: (Reported at Council Work Session.)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS ON AGENDA: None.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Check Presentation to Kerry Powers and Lexington Leadership Class of 2016 and Tony Roof, Lexington County Arts Association for the Village Square Theatre – Mayor Steve MacDougall:** Mayor MacDougall presented a \$10,000 check to the Lexington County Arts Association (Village Theatre) on behalf of Lexington Leadership Class of 2016 from the Town of Lexington to help renovate and upfit the Village Square Theatre. Mayor MacDougall stated that the theatre is greatly needed in the community and his kids and Ms. Powers' kids both take advantage of the opportunities offered. Ms. Powers thanked the

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Mayor and Council on behalf of the Lexington Leadership class for the contribution to their class project at Village Square Theatre. She added that they could not do all the things that needed to be done without the Town's support. Mr. Roof thanked the Mayor and Council very much.

Councilmember Carnes asked if they could explain the extent of the upfits so everyone watching on Channel 2 would understand how the money would be used. Ms. Powers explained that the theatre is a working playhouse and was previously a movie theatre in the 1980's. Her class did a tour of the facility in January and they found that the metal exterior needed some help; the signage is dated; and the October floods caused additional damage. She stated that they have painted the green room, built a deck for overflow from the lobby, pressure washed, cleaned drains, added gravel to the parking lot. She added that the outside painting alone would be \$11,000. She stated that they are hosting a talent show on August 13th for a fundraiser and music showcase in October.

2. **Check Presentations by John Aun, Eggs Up Grill to Kassy Alia, Heroes in Blue and the Lexington Police Department, Adopt-A-Cop:** Mr. Aun stated that they saw a need in the community to support law enforcement because they don't always have the budget for everything. He stated that he recently found out about the Adopt-a-Cop program so one evening they held a pancake supper to raise money and within 3 hours they raised \$2,000 which they hoped would help. He presented a check in the amount of \$1,061 to Chief Green and the Lexington Police Department.

Mr. Aun stated that they recently heard of a new foundation, Heros in Blue, that was formed following the death of Forest Acres Police Officer Greg Alia by his wife, Kassy Alia, in order to help families deal with their loss and to help educate people about what police officers go through every day. Mr. Aun presented a check to Ms. Alia and her son for Heros in Blue in the amount of \$1,061. Ms. Alia thanked Mr. Aun for his contribution and added that seeing everyone here tonight is a strong demonstration of the unity in law enforcement. She thanked Mr. Aun and Mr. Drew Hampton for organizing the pancake supper and for being vocal supporters of law enforcement. She added that the success was no surprise because the community loves law enforcement. She has gotten to know the Lexington Police Department and their initiatives have transformed the community and it shines a light on what they do for the community.

VISION PLAN UPDATE

Mayor MacDougall gave a Vision Plan update: (1) Project Ice House is 70% complete. Footings and structural steel for the stage are complete and the roof installation is scheduled to begin this week. Restroom and green room building is being framed and will be substantially complete by the end of August. Parking lot construction is anticipated to begin toward the end of July. The project is expected to be substantially complete by late summer 2016. (2) Main Street Beautification is 95% complete which

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includes irrigation, brick pavers and planters. Protectors for the capstones will be installed by the end of August due to damage caused by skateboarders. (3) The Welcome Sign is now complete at I-20/Augusta Road Interchange. North Lake Drive at Old Cherokee Road is 98% complete. Palms trees are scheduled to be planted.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston gave a Traffic update: Construction work continues on Phase 1 of the Adaptive Traffic Signal Project. Signal installation work is ongoing at various locations throughout town. Please use caution as this work progresses. The next Traffic Committee meeting will be on August 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room at Town Hall. Citizens were encouraged to call 359-1027 if they were aware of a traffic signal issue, unsafe roadway situation, or a pot hole 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 the Local Transportation Improvement Plan.
2. Final Reading of an Ordinance Repealing §136.01 Regarding Loaded Weapons.
3. Final Reading of an Ordinance Regarding a Quit Claim for Interest in Property on Highway 378 West.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams for **Final Reading Approval of the 2016 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update.** (Copy attached.) The motion was unanimously carried.
2. A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Carnes for **Final Reading Approval of the Local Transportation Improvement Plan.** (Copy attached.) Councilmember Stambolitis asked if this grant was going out for bid. Mr. Poole responded that Mr. Edwards is working with several companies with the goal to use a local vendor so they would be familiar with Lexington's unusual traffic patterns. He added that since it is professional services it does not have to go through the bid process. Councilmember Stambolitis asked if the company would be working with SCDOT for approvals or would they be completely independent. Mr. Poole responded that the vendor would absolutely be involved with SCDOT and it would not be prudent

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for them to make recommendations that would not be allowed by SCDOT. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis for **Final Reading Approval of an Ordinance Repealing §136.01 Regarding Loaded Weapons**. Councilmember Stambolitis asked what prompted the repeal. Municipal Attorney Cunningham responded that it is redundant, or accumulative, in that the goal can be accomplished by enforcing the existing laws. The motion was unanimously carried.
4. A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness for **Final Reading Approval of an Ordinance Regarding a Quit Claim to Lexington School District One for Interest in Property on Highway 378 West, Tax Map #004199-03-041**. Councilmember Williams added that Staff had advised Council that the Town no longer needed the property. Councilmember Stambolitis asked the size of the property. Municipal Attorney Cunningham responded that the property is 6/100 of an acre. The motion was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting a Mutual Aid Agreement:** The Lexington Police Department is entering into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Multi-Agency Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET). (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Williams for First Reading approval of a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Multi-Agency Narcotics Enforcement Team. The motion was unanimously carried.

2. **First Reading of a Rezoning at 206, 208 and 210 Derrick Street:** Mr. Donnie Elgin, Sr. requested to rezone 206, 208 and 210 Derrick Street from Protected Residential (PR) to Limited Commercial (LC). The request was made to allow the property to be used for a bail bond company and additional office space. Properties adjacent to this one are zoned Limited Commercial and Protected Residential. The parcels are located in a transitional area bordered by Gibson Road and Derrick Street. Both roads are classified as Collector Roads. The Planning Commission reviewed this request at their June meeting and recommended against rezoning the property.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness for First Reading approval of the Planning Commission's recommendation. Councilmember Stambolitis seconded the motion. Mr. Poole stated that for clarity it may be easier to modify the motion to move to approve the request and then to not vote in the affirmative to the motion and then the motion would die. Councilmember Maness reworded her motion just to

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put the item on the floor was for First Reading approval to rezone 206, 208 and 210 Derrick Street as stated. There being no second to the motion, the motion died.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Stambolitis stated the glory be to God and made the following announcements: (1) Don't forget to visit the Village Market every Saturday from 9:00 to 1:00 at Lexington Square. (2) There will not be a Traffic Committee or Board of Zoning Appeals meeting in July. But they will meet again in August. Traffic will meet on August 2nd at 8:00 a.m. and Board of Zoning will meet on August 4th at 5:30. (3) The Planning Commission will meet on July 20th at 8:00 a.m. (4) Council will meet again on Monday, August 15th for our Council Work Session and Regular Council meeting which is the last combined meeting for the summer schedule. (5) Candidates who wish to run for Town Council in November must have their Signature Petitions turned in to the Municipal Clerk by August 15th no later than 5:00 p.m. He thanked everyone for watching Town Council in action tonight.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston wished to thank the Mungo Homes for the 15 gator bags they donated to the Town. She stated that as hot as it has been the water bags will help save the trees where there is no irrigation. She added that they can also be reused.

Councilmember Maness wished to thank Chief Green and the Lexington Police Department. She stated that with everything that is going on in the country she wanted to thank them for putting their lives on the line every day to keep us safe and for making the community a great place to live.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston wished to add that before all the recent events with law enforcement, she witnessed a wreck two weeks ago in Columbia. At the scene she was in contact with some of the higher up Fire Chiefs and Highway Patrol Officers and every one of them bragged on Lexington's Police Department and said our leadership here was "the elite of the elite" in the State of South Carolina and that we have some of the best around, especially Chief Green and the men and women he hires. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that was exactly what they said and she agreed with them that Chief Green is wonderful. She added that Chief Green is her third Chief and she remembered his appointment well and it was one of the smartest things they have done.

NEWS MEDIA QUESTIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. **Mr. Darrell Harmon**, representing his mother at 301 Plantation Drive and constituents of the AME Church located across from the property on Derrick Street, wished to thank the Mayor and Council for keeping the bail bond business out of their neighborhood. He stated that they do not belong in the area because there are already four of them.

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2. **Mr. Sherrill Harris**, 229 Silvercreek Drive, thanked the Mayor and Council for denying the rezoning on Derrick Street. He added that the traffic needs to be fixed first because it is very congested in that area and we should take care of a light first. He was also concerned how it would affect taxes. Mr. Harris stated that they would love to see some businesses come there but they want businesses that are economical and educational for the children. He added that to put a bail bond business there is putting a bad atmosphere for the children and it shows them that this is where you go when you go to jail.

Councilmember Maness commended all the neighbors for taking the time to come to the meeting tonight. She added that she was at the Planning Commission meeting where she heard them saying they would talk about it at church and have people come to the meeting and this is what you are supposed to do because elected officials need to hear from the community. She represents teachers all over the state and she would love to see the room packed like this if she called a meeting to address a problem. Councilmember Maness thanked them for coming out to speak on what they think is in the best interest for their neighborhood and for their children.

3. **Mr. Doug Jones** stated that in light of what is happening in the United States, we would do a disservice if we put our head in the sand and think that it cannot happen in Lexington. He asked the Mayor, Council, law enforcement, community leaders, and all others to join with them and help save our community. He added that we do not want an “us” and “them” because we can come together and talk sensible and rational about things and see what we can do to keep Lexington headed in the right direction like it is going. Mr. Jones stated that he has much respect for Chief Green and they communicate each week on problems in the community and he would like to keep that going but they need the help of Town leaders and County leaders to make Lexington a safe place for the children.

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.

Mayor MacDougall declared the meeting adjourned hearing no objections from Council.

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

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Respectfully submitted,

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC
Municipal Clerk

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.