

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
November 17, 2014

Town Council held a Council Work Session preceded by an Executive Session on November 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eli Mack Sr. Room. The meetings were attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Council Members Kathy Maness, Todd Shevchik, Todd Carnes, and Ron Williams. Councilmember Ted Stambolitis 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, Economic Development Catalyst Johnny Jeffcoat, Director of Parks, Streets and Sanitation Dan Walker, Planning, Building and Technology Director John Hanson, Director of Transportation Randy Edwards, Events and Media Coordinator Jennifer Dowden, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were approximately twelve (12) citizens present and two (2) news media members were present.

OPENING STATEMENT and CALL TO ORDER: Mayor MacDougall welcomed everyone to the Council Work Session. He read an opening statement to explain the procedures of a Council Work Session which stated: *“Work Sessions are less formal business meetings that enable Council to obtain and discuss information regarding Town issues from Staff members and/or consultants. Like Regular Council Meetings, citizens are encouraged to attend and observe Work Sessions; however, they do not include Public Hearings, but do allow for public comment at the end of the Work Session unless otherwise called on by Council. Council does not take an action vote on items during a Work Session other than to vote to place an item on Council’s next Regular Council Meeting agenda for consideration and an official vote. Council Work Sessions are not tape recorded, but Minutes are taken and posted on the Town’s web page following approval of Council”*.

Councilmember Carnes gave the invocation. Councilmember Shevchik led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Williams to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmember Shevchik was absent for the vote.) Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 5:58 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember

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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: two contractual issues regarding economic development in downtown Lexington; one contractual issue related to the sale of Town property; and one contractual issue related to a Town Park. 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.

DELETIONS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Mayor MacDougall requested that an item be added to the agenda for a contribution to the Martin Luther King Banquet. There being no objections from Council, the item was added as Business Item #5.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to approve the Minutes as submitted from Council's November 3, 2014 Regular Council meeting. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Memorial for Jones Children – Mr. Shawn Doeing, President of Bikers Against Abusing Children:** Mr. Doeing (124 Tea Olive Avenue) and Mr. Ron Clamp (1373 Track Road, Pelion) requested Council's assistance in constructing a monument in Lexington Square in memory of the five Jones children who were recently tragically murdered. Mr. Doeing stated that his association wanted to bring awareness to abused children. Mr. Clamp stated that the monument would also bring a piece of art to downtown Lexington. He presented a draft drawing and a model for Council's review. (Copy of drawing attached.) He added that the five children proposed in the monument are not specifically the Jones children, but represent all children who have been abused. He stated that there are 11,000 abused kids in South Carolina and more that are not reported. Mr. Clamp stated that they are currently raising money for the project, which looked promising, but they needed a home to place it. He recommended Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston's beautiful Lexington Square park, specifically the corner of dirt located at the intersection of East Main Street (Highway 1) and South Lake Drive (Highway 6). He estimated the monument to be 10 feet by 10 feet with the angel being 6 feet 6 inches tall. He added that it would not look like a cemetery, but would be something that would be fun for young children.

Mayor MacDougall thanked Mr. Clamp for the information. He confirmed that the monument would be made out of granite. He told the presenters that Council would take the request under advisement of Staff and it would take some time.

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BUSINESS ITEMS: (For Discussion and Recommendation for Council’s December 1, 2014 Regular Council Meeting.)

1. **Funding Request for Promotion of New Baseball Stadium – Mayor Steve MacDougall:** Mr. Tommy Frazier contacted several members of Council to request \$1,000 in funding to help with expenses to travel to Orlando, Florida to attend the American Baseball Coaches Association Conference in January. Over 4,000 coaches will be in attendance. Mr. Frazier would like to attend the conference in order to promote the use of the new Lexington County Baseball Stadium. Currently teams go to Florida and Myrtle Beach for spring training and Mr. Frazier would like to get at least 10 teams to come to Lexington and use the new stadium during the Blowfish off season.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to place the item on Council’s December 1, 2014 agenda for consideration. Councilmember Carnes confirmed that Lexington County would also donate \$1,000. Mr. Frazier confirmed that a group from Lexington would attend. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

2. **Underground SCE&G Lines – Town Administrator Britt Poole:** At the Vision Plan retreat it was requested that Staff explore the cost of underground utility services in the Town. The example area chosen was on US Highway #1 from the Columbia Avenue intersection down to just past the intersection with Swartz Road. The project was divided into three phases: (Map attached.)

Phase I: Columbia Avenue to 3 rd Avenue	\$1,135,200.00
Phase II: 3 rd Avenue to South Lake	\$431,150.00
Phase III: South Lake to Swartz Road	\$1,329,500.00
Street Lighting	<u>\$159,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,054,850.00

The Town currently has \$1.3 million in credit with SCE&G for matching this type of project; therefore, the Town’s estimated cost for the work would be \$1,755,000.00. These estimates do not take in to account the cost of right-of-way (if any), moving other utilities (Time Warner, Windstream, Comporium, and etc.) which would add a few \$100,000 to the estimate. Mr. Poole added that Columbia Avenue would be more expensive due to high tension lines.

Mayor MacDougall stated that the project could be done in phases and they could pick one of three phases to start while getting better numbers together. He added that this is a big part of the Town’s Vision Plan and he would like to see the Town without the telephone poles. Councilmember Carnes stated that Phases I and II have a priority, with Phase III being more expensive.

3. **Donation of Property – Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham:** The SCDOT offered to Deed a piece of Right-of-Way to the Town to support parking for the 14

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Mile Creek Trail. The Right-of-Way is between the Exxon Station and Old Cherokee Road. The station sits near the intersection of Old Cherokee and SC Highway 6. The “extra” right-of-way is available since Old Cherokee Road was re-routed years ago.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to place the item on Council’s December 1, 2014 agenda for consideration. Mr. Cunningham confirmed that an Ordinance would have to be passed by Council to accept the property. Mayor MacDougall confirmed that the property is beside the Exxon station where the Town shares some parking now. Mr. Poole confirmed that the Town could create a parking pad if needed. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

4. **Issuance of General Obligation BANs of 2015 – Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford:** The Town’s General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) of 2014 mature in January, 2015. The BANs total \$3.3 Million and provided interim funding for road projects, property acquisition, and other capital improvements. The BANs will be rolled until such time as the projects are completed and permanent financing is finalized. Franchise Fee proceeds of approximately \$664,000 will be utilized to reduce the outstanding balance of the Series 2015 BANs to approximately \$2.64 Million. Council was requested to approve a Resolution for the issuance of General Obligation BANs, Series 2015.

A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to place the item on Council’s December 1, 2014 agenda for approval. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

5. **Request for Funding for the Martin Luther King Celebration – Councilmember Kathy Maness:** Council received a request from the Martin Luther King Celebration Committee requesting the Town to be a sponsor of the Martin Luther King Fellowship Banquet. Sponsorship levels are: Platinum at \$1,500; Gold at \$1,000 and Silver at \$500 to \$900; or a reserved table for eight (8) at \$250. In past years, Council has been a reserved table sponsor for \$250. The event will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at 6:45 p.m. at the Rosenwald Community Learning Center.

A motion was made by Councilmember Shevchik and seconded by Councilmember Maness to place the item on Council’s December 1, 2014 agenda for consideration. Mayor MacDougall stated that he attended the event last year. Councilmember Maness stated that she supported the sponsorship in that the Town had participated for the past 10 years. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

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COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Williams read a letter from the President of the Lexington Elementary Student Council thanking Town Council for their recognition and lapel pin. He added that many parents had also thanked him and the students were doing great work in their new leadership roles.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Teresa Addy stated that she and her sons owned Craig-Reagin's on Main Street and she wanted to know why there is still no progress on Main Street. She added that there is no landscape, no bark around the trees, and no Christmas lights in the trees. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston confirmed that the Town would be placing Christmas lights in the trees on Main Street this year. Ms. Addy stated that the medians are in place now and she encouraged Council to not destroy Main Street again. She stated that Mr. Bert Dooley had blocked off his property on Main Street so they had less parking now. She also needed space for delivery trucks. She added that she had stood in the middle of Main Street to block traffic for her delivery truck. She asked Council for help on Main Street. Ms. Addy announced that she had given a portion of her building to the Lexington County Blowfish for a ticket office. She felt strongly that they would help bring business to downtown. She stated that they needed the problems on Main Street fixed. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that a study was being done to determine if the trees and medians should be left on Main Street. She stated that there is a difference of opinion on Council. Ms. Addy responded that meanwhile Council was just letting Main Street go downhill. She added that there is grass in the medians up to her knees and she did not understand why she had to come to Council to ask about it. She stated that three people had fallen on Main Street, including Ms. Caroline Bryson, because the sidewalks are so bad. Ms. Addy stated that there is no handicap parking and she has a customer who calls her to go out front and save her a parking space so she could come shop in her store. Ms. Addy stated that she hired a boy to cleanup around her store and she got one of the attorneys to pave the parking lot in the back.

Councilmember Shevchik stated that the Town is working on the parking problem with other parking on South Church Street. He added that Council knows it is a problem and they are taking steps to fix it. He added that Mr. Walker can take care of the overgrown grass in the medians. Councilmember Williams added that mulch does not cost that much and Mr. Walker and his Staff could improve the medians.

Mayor MacDougall thanked Ms. Addy for coming to the meeting and he stated that the Town will address the problems.

Councilmember Ron Williams welcomed a student and thanked him for attending the meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT: There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Williams to adjourn the Council's Work Session at 6:41 p.m. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

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.