

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
April 20, 2015

Town Council held a Council Work Session preceded by an Executive Session on April 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eli Mack Sr. Room located at Town Hall, 111 Maiden Lane, Lexington, South Carolina. The meetings were attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Council Members 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, Police Chief Terrence Green, Utilities and Engineering Director Allen Lutz, Finance Director Kathy Roberts, Economic Development Catalyst Johnny Jeffcoat, Parks, Streets and Sanitation Foreman Johnny Dillard, Planning, Building and Technology Director John Hanson, Transportation Director Randy Edwards, I.T. Manager Bea Daniels, Network Administrator Darrell Pritchard, Events and Media Coordinator Jennifer Dowden, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were approximately eight (8) citizens present and one member of the news media was present.

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. Mayor MacDougall led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the Council Work Session to order at 6:30 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 Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmembers Shevchik and Stambolitis were absent for the vote.) Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 6:25 p.m. after a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Maness. The

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motion was unanimously carried. Mayor MacDougall reported that Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: one personnel matter regarding a routine personnel review; a contractual issue regarding a lease of property; and one legal matter regarding the discussion of road improvement options. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to ratify Mayor MacDougall's *Executive Session* report. The motion was unanimously carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA: Councilmember Maness requested to add an item requesting a sponsorship in the Miss South Carolina program for Miss Lexington, Kelly Ragan. There being no objections from Council, the item was added.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to approve the Minutes as submitted for Council's Regular Council Meeting held on April 6, 2015. Councilmember Williams requested one correction on page 7. The motion was unanimously carried.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **USC Small Business Development Center – Mr. Pete Oliver:** Mr. Oliver requested the Town's financial support in the amount of \$8,000 a year for a Small Business Development Center to be located at the Lexington Chamber office. He asked two veterans to speak on behalf of the work that SBDC provided to them. Veterans Walt Wood and Phil Roberts spoke in favor of the SBDC and stated that as Veterans, they received assistance in opening businesses when they were unable to find work after leaving the military service. Mr. Wood stated that the SBDC helps put veterans and minority business owners to work. Mr. Roberts added that he could not put a price on the value of the advice and help he received. Mr. Oliver stated that they have a development center in Newberry and the County contributes \$5,000 a year and the Town of Newberry contributes \$5,000 a year where 30 jobs were created. Mr. Oliver stated that they also do a great job in Columbia, Sumter, and Beaufort. He added that Beaufort County contributes \$25,000 each year. He confirmed that he had not yet solicited financial assistance from Lexington County.

Councilmember Stambolitis stated that he liked the idea of helping veterans. He recommended that the item be placed on the agenda for consideration. Councilmember Williams recommended that statistics from Newberry and Sumter County be provided to Council first. Mr. Oliver agreed to send the information. He added that in Newberry County there were 12 businesses created, \$1.4 million in loans, and in excess of 30 jobs created. He stated that two businesses closed and two of the employees reopened it with the assistance of SBDC

2. **Update on Old Courthouse Arts and Events Center – County Councilmember Ned Tolar and Mr. Scott Adams:** Mr. Adams introduced Councilmember Tolar and stated that the Arts and Events Center would be a

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wonderful economic development project which would be good for the citizens. Councilmember Tolar apologized to the Mayor and Council for not bringing the information to them earlier, but since his first community meeting regarding the project, it had taken wings. He assured them that he was not asking for financial support because the project would be funded by private groups. He presented a slide show of a similar project in Shelby, North Carolina (The Earl Scruggs Center) which was previously a courthouse and Greenwood, South Carolina, an old Federal Courthouse and Post Office. (Copy of 33 page presentation attached.) Councilmember Tolar stated that the arts center project would complement the Town's amphitheater. Councilmember Tolar stated that it was a vision of Judge Westbrook's to use the old courthouse in a way that the citizens could use it and revive Main Street. He added that wedding planners are already calling them. Councilmember Tolar stated that the South Carolina Shag Music Hall of Fame had indicated an interest in making the art center their permanent museum and performing arts venue. He outlined additional plans for the facility and confirmed that the Old Courthouse Foundation would be a 501(c) established for the purpose of promoting, funding and operating the center. He confirmed that the project may take 2 to 2 ½ years to complete. He added that there are currently 14 County employees underutilizing the building which also has a bomb shelter built during the Cold War. Councilmember Tolar requested that the Town Council come out in favor of the project.

Mr. Adams stated that when businesses look at Lexington to locate their facilities, they look for arts and cultural opportunity. He added that Lexington needs a larger meeting facility. He stated that the Rotary Club had outgrown the Lexington Country Club facility and there is nowhere else to go. He anticipated that other groups would use the facilities such as churches and business development groups. Mr. Adams stated that they want people to stop in Lexington, not just drive through.

Mayor MacDougall thanked Councilmember Tolar and Mr. Scott for their presentation.

BUSINESS ITEMS: (For Discussion and Recommendation for Council's May 4, 2015 Regular Council Meeting.)

1. **The Chronicle/Blowfish Special Edition Sponsorship Request – Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand:** The Chronicle will prepare a special Blowfish Collegiate Baseball edition for publication on May 21, 2015, telling the story of the team and presenting the season schedule. They requested sponsorship support from the Town of Lexington for one of three levels: (1) Diamond - \$1,500, two-page center spread in color 21" x 10.25" only 1 available; (2) Gold - \$1,000, color back cover 10.25" x 10.25" only 1 available; or (3) Silver - \$700, color inside page 10.25" x 10.25" only 12 available. Municipal Clerk Hildebrand added that the Chronicle suggested that the Lexington Chamber would be in agreement to split the cost of a sponsorship.

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A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis to place the item on Council's May 4, 2015 agenda for consideration to split the cost of a \$700 sponsorship with the Lexington Chamber. There being no second to the motion, the motion failed.

2. **Mutual Aid Agreements – Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham:** At the request of Richland County and the City of North Myrtle Beach, amended Mutual Aid Agreements were provided for Council's review. (Copy of agreements attached.) The agreements need to be approved by ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to place the item on Council's May 4, 2015 agenda for Public Hearing and First Reading approval with emergency designation for the ordinance approving Mutual Aid to the City of North Myrtle Beach. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. (Added.) **Miss Lexington Sponsorship Request – Councilmember Kathy Maness:** 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 ads are also the way scholarships are funded through the Miss South Carolina Organization. (Copy of request letter attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to place the item on Council's May 4, 2015 agenda for consideration. The motion was carried with five (5) in favor and two (2) opposed (Shevchik, Stambolitis).

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. **Emergency Procurements – Finance Director Kathy Roberts:** A summary of emergency procurements was provided to Council for their review and request to accept the summary as information and direct the summary be recorded in the minutes of this Work Session. (Copy attached.)

COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Maness asked Economic Development Catalyst Jeffcoat if the County was paying for the study regarding the art center. Mr. Jeffcoat responded that a space study was done prior to building the new courthouse which indicated space available for 25 to 30 years; however, the building is full in just 10 years. He added that there is a law on the books giving the Clerk of Court the authority to assign rooms in courthouses.

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 Williams and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to adjourn the Council's Work Session at 7:25 p.m. The motion was unanimously carried.

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.