

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Lexington**  
**Executive Session and**  
**COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
June 6, 2016

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Town Council held a Council Work Session preceded by an Executive Session on June 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eli Mack Sr. Room, followed by Council's Regular Meeting held at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers 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 Carnes and Ron Williams. Councilmember Todd Shevchik was absent.

Staff members present were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, 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.

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**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.”*

Mayor MacDougall called the Council Work Session to order at 6:00 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 by all those present (4). (Councilmembers Carnes and Stambolitis were not present for the vote.) Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 5:35 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmember Carnes was not present for the vote.) Mayor MacDougall reported that Council met in *Executive Session* to

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discuss: one contractual matter regarding the discussion of a proposed contract for software services. *(All pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70(a) (1). Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.* No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to ratify Mayor MacDougall's *Executive Session* report. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

**DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to approve the Minutes from Council's Work Session held on May 16, 2016; Council's Special Meeting held on May 16, 2016, and Council's Special Meeting held on May 23, 2016. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:** (Discussion and Recommendation for the July 11, 2016 Council meeting.)

1. **Discussion of LED Commercial Signs – Director of Planning, Building and Technology John Hanson:** During the March Work Session Town Council discussed LED commercial signs and requested additional information about the types of signs available. Council was provided a description of the different styles of available electronic signage taken from an online sales catalog. (Copy attached.) Currently the Town's Sign Ordinance does not allow any type of electronic signage. A change to the ordinance with a review by the Planning Commission would be required to permit these types of signs.

Councilmember Stambolitis stated that the electronic signs can be unattractive, a distraction to drivers, and are overly abused by flashing. He stated that maybe they could find a system that only allows the sign to change once or twice a day.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that some of the electronic signs are hideous and they have worked very hard for a particular image in Lexington and she did not want to now allow businesses to put up anything. She added that Lexington should look at other sister cities that they have used as references in the past and see what they do. She was not totally opposed to a change, but not just any type of change like those shown in the handout, because all the other businesses have been held to a standard. She added that the pictures in the handout go against everything they have worked for to keep a good standard in Lexington.

Councilmember Williams stated that a sign company owner told him that the Town's policy is in violation and a judge would have to determine what could be used.

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Mayor MacDougall asked if Irmo allows electronic signs. Mr. Hanson responded yes, and so does Richland County and Columbia.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston asked how the Town would keep up with all the color hues in an LED sign. She stated that she had Planning Commission members and citizens ask her if the Town just looked away on some signage. She also did not want any neon. Mr. Hanson responded that keeping up with the color hues would be an enforcement nightmare because there is only one person handling signs currently and they would not be able to keep up with it. He stated that they could consider just one style. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that she would agree to words only and only changed once a day.

Councilmember Stambolitis stated that he got rid of his changeable letter sign because it is a nightmare to change them by hand, they can be vandalized and words can be changed to something you don't want to say. He suggested finding a company that allows one message, no animation, words only, and no pictures. Mr. Poole responded that the type of sign described does not exist. He added that the LED signs are not different than a television screen. He stated that Council allowed mechanical signs to change prices only, but they are like the old alarm clocks that the numbers flip over and are not digital. Councilmember Williams confirmed that the billboards do it but they are all out of Town limits except one that is grandfathered.

Mayor MacDougall stated that it appeared more homework should be done on this topic. He added that it could open a Pandora's Box.

Councilmember Carnes asked if they want to differentiate because it is hard to monitor and legislate every time you change the Sign Ordinance. He added that the static from a change would be seismic when over 150 signs were installed this year and many did not like what they had to put up. Councilmember Carnes stated that he likes having a differentiator. He added that some brands are not allowed to keep their national colors.

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that many signs had to come down in 2012-2013. She added that staff worked with Dollar General and they had to tone down their neon yellow. Mr. Poole added that the original ordinance allowed 14 years to comply with the new Sign Ordinance and now it is 10 years once they are annexed. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated to let it sleep for now. Mr. Poole confirmed that Council wanted it to stay like it is and find other alternatives to messaging. Mr. Hanson stated that the Town cannot legislate content in signs.

Councilmember Stambolitis agreed to leave the topic open for further discussion because technology and LED signs can change and some people do not want LED signs in the Town. He added that he understands where Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston is coming from in that the LED signs would damage the beauty of Lexington.

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Councilmember Williams asked how would shopping centers determine who gets their ad on the sign. Councilmember Stambolitis responded that it is up to the center to decide. His businesses have to ask for certain dates and if the sign is available they can use it.

Mr. Hanson stated that the Appearance Board has a work session Thursday night to discuss ambiguity in appearance, not the Sign Ordinance. He added that they have come down to being more concerned with the amount of color on a building rather than the color. He stated that they have been fairly liberal with color issues on signs.

Mayor MacDougall stated that they would put the issue on hold for now unless there were more questions.

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**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

1. **Town Hall Cleaning Contract – Director of Planning, Building and Technology John Hanson:** The Town recently solicited RFP's for a new Town Hall cleaning contract. Proposals were received from the following companies:

(1)	Goodwill Services	\$ 39,600
(2)	American Facility Services	\$ 42,240
(3)	C & W Janitorial	\$ 43,536
(4)	B & C Associates	\$ 46,680
(5)	Defender Services	\$ 61,800
(6)	Wright For You	\$172,800

A Staff Committee reviewed the proposals and awarded the new contract to American Facility Services. They will begin working on July 1, 2016. Council was asked to accept this as information and direct the summary be recorded in the minutes of this Work Session.

**COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS**

Parks and Sanitation Director Dan Walker announced that the 14 Mile Creek Park would reopen without the ADA compliant mats. He added that it would cost \$90,000 to replace the mats that were destroyed by the October floods. Mr. Poole added that the Town is still waiting on FEMA's decision and this is as good as we can make the park for now. Councilmember Williams suggested that a sign be erected to state that the park is still under repairs. Councilmember Stambolitis stated that the Town needs to be careful because ADA issues are nailing people all over the country.

**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 Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to adjourn the Council's Work Session at 6:21 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.*