

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 3, 2022

Town Council held an Executive Session at 5:15 p.m. followed by a Regular Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 3, 2022. The meetings were attended by Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston and Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Steve Baker and Todd Lyle. Councilmember Ron Williams was absent.

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, Utilities Director Allen Lutz, Utilities Superintendent Billy Gunter, Finance Director Kathy Pharr, Parks and Sanitation Director Dan Walker, Communications Manager Laurin Barnes, Digital Media Coordinator Libby Dallis, I.T. Specialist Chris Boyd, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

Approximately five (5) citizens were present and no members of the news media were present.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor MacDougall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Councilmembers. He called on Councilmember Baker to give the invocation. Mayor MacDougall called on Veteran E. C. Murray to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Mayor MacDougall announced that Councilmember Williams was absent tonight because he was at the hospital waiting to become a Granddad. He added that everyone would look forward to seeing the pictures. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that she heard from Mrs. Williams and the baby arrived just a few minutes ago and she weighs 6 pounds and 11 ounces!

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Mayor MacDougall reported that the *Executive Session* was called to order at 5:18 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmember Lyle was not present for the vote.) Council adjourned from the *Executive Session* at 6:26 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Lyle. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. Mayor MacDougall reported that pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a) (1), (2) and (3) Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: routine personnel matters;

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three legal items regarding pending litigation, advice regarding agenda items and advice regarding a potential Town Ordinance; and one contractual item regarding an economic development contract. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Baker to ratify the Mayor's report. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

DELETIONS ON AGENDA: Mayor MacDougall stated that it was requested to defer Presentation #1 (Art Rish Employee of the Year, Corporal Grady Johnson) to Council's February meeting. There being no objections from Council, the item was deferred.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Lyle to approve the Minutes from Council's Regular meeting held on December 6, 2021 as submitted. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

PRESENTATIONS

1. (Deferred to February 7, 2022.) **Art Rish Employee of the Year, Corporal Grady Johnson**

VISION PLAN UPDATE

Mayor MacDougall reported the following: (1) The Virginia Hylton Park expansion and renovation project is expected to go to bid soon. The park is currently 6.5 acres and once updated, it will more than double in size to around 15 acres. The project will include: new walking trails, an all-inclusive playground, splash pad, performance pavilion, picnic shelters and more. We are all excited to get this much needed upgrade underway to this very popular park. (2) The wayfinding sign company has ordered initial materials to produce the signage for the Downtown area. More materials will be ordered once a final design selection is made. The initial phase of signage will point people to popular destinations Downtown. In time, additional signs will be placed in other corridors throughout Town. (3) Vision Plan Goals - These are just two of the projects that are a result of the Town's Vision Plan which can be found on the Town's website at lexsc.com.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston gave the following Traffic Update: (1) A portion of Dreher Street has been closed and traffic diverted to Harmon Street. The new signal is operational at Harmon Street and North Lake Drive. Work will continue around the intersection of Dreher and North Lake Drive. Citizens were asked to be aware of changes to the traffic patterns during this time. (2) Adaptive Signalization work progresses along Highway 378/Sunset Blvd./Augusta Road and West Main Street. (3) The next Traffic Committee meeting has been scheduled for January 12, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Citizens were asked to call the Town's Transportation Department at 803-358-

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7273 to report any traffic signal issues, unsafe roadway conditions or a pothole that needs repair.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

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 an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #4496-01-007 located at 5150 Sunset Boulevard.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Carnes for **Final Reading Approval of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #4496-01-007 located at 5150 Sunset Boulevard**. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Copy attached.)

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Baker made the following announcements: (1) He stated that we lost a very important Lexington citizen a couple weeks ago – Mr. Murray Price. Just last year some of us helped him celebrate his 100th birthday. Mr. Price’s dedication to his faith, family, country and community set the bar very high for the rest of us. He extended the Town’s condolences and gratitude to Mr. Price’s family. (2) He announced that the Town has several meetings lined up for January:

- The Traffic Committee will meet on January 12th at 8:00 a.m.
 - Council will meet again on Tuesday, January 18th at 6:00 for the Council Work Session. Monday the 17th is a Town Holiday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
 - The Planning Commission will meet on January 19th at 8:00 a.m.
- (3) Everyone still has time to plan for the next Icehouse Amphitheater event! On February 20th the Lexington Chili Cookoff is back! Tickets are \$10 and if you want your team to enter the contest – please register at john@oldmillbrewpub.net. He added that the Police Department has won two years in a row and someone should enter and knock them off their perch! This is always a great event and you’ll get to taste some of the

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best chili around! (4) On behalf of the Mayor and my fellow Councilmembers, Councilmember Baker wished everyone a very Happy New Year and thanked citizens for watching their Council in action tonight.

NEWS MEDIA QUESTIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CLOSING STATEMENT and 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 cable channel 1301 which will also be replayed several times during the week and a video will be available on the Town's website at www.lexsc.com.

Mayor MacDougall stated that without objection from Council, he declared the Council meeting adjourned. The Regular Council meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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.