

MINUTES
Town of Lexington

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 14, 2021

Town Council held an Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Council Work Session (separate minutes), followed by the Regular Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers on June 14, 2021. (*Summer schedule.*) The Council meeting was attended by: Mayor Steve MacDougall, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Ron Williams, Steve Baker and Todd Lyle.

Staff members present were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, Police Chief Terrence Green, Planning, Building and Technology Director John Hanson, Economic Development Johnny Jeffcoat, Transportation Director Randy Edwards, Utilities and Engineering Director Allen Lutz, Finance Director Kathy Pharr, Parks and Sanitation Director Dan Walker, Parks and Sanitation Assistant Director Johnny Dillard, Assistant to the Town Administrator Wesley Crosby, Communications Manager Laurin Barnes, Assistant Municipal Clerk Karen Hanner and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were twelve (12) citizens present and one member of the news media was present.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor MacDougall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council Members. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston gave the invocation. Mayor MacDougall led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT: (Executive Session to conclude following the Council meeting.)

DELETIONS ON AGENDA: None.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Outstanding Service Provider Award to Dee Cochran, Victims' Advocate – Laura Hudson, Executive Director, SC Victim Assistance Network:** Ms. Shannon Geary, Program Director, was also present and stated that this award is given once a year to a direct service provider who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist crime victims. She added that on May 18, 2021 they presented this award to Ms. Dee Cochran with the Lexington Police Department. Ms. Nicole Goodman, Program Director, was also present and read the nomination that was sent in by a crime victim. The nomination letter stated that Ms. Cochran stayed with her the entire time she was in the care of the Police Department. It further stated that Ms. Cochran has stayed in touch since the

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incident just to check in with her and she thanked God for her. Ms. Hudson presented the award to Ms. Cochran.

Ms. Dee Cochran thanked the Board Members from the SC Victim's Assistance Network. She added that sometimes this can be a thankless job but to have the opportunity to receive an award like this gives her the strength to press forward. She was especially honored to receive the award from Ms. Hudson who is a trailblazer in this field. Ms. Cochran stated that growing up where she grew up she would have never expected to land a job at the Town working for such a great community. She added that a lot of her peers did not make it out of the situation so just to be here and be among elite professionals is an honor and it is an honor to serve the Town. Ms. Cochran stated that she takes her position seriously and God has been good to her and she thanked Him for the opportunity. She added that she was so grateful and what flows from her heart to serve victims is really being satisfied with where she works which makes an overflow of gratitude.

Mayor MacDougall congratulated Ms. Cochran for receiving the award. He thanked Mr. and Mrs. Hudson for attending the meeting.

2. **Mothers Against Drunk Drivers Drug Recognition Expert of the Year Award to Corporal Grady Johnson – Mr. Steven Burritt, MADD, Regional Executive Director for NC and SC:** Mr. Burritt stated that he is local so it was a treat for him to be here in Lexington especially to present the third of their awards to someone he has known for years. He added that they have a committee that selects the winners and it is sponsored by the Bringardner Injury Law Firm. Mr. Burritt stated that the award is for the Drug Recognition Expert of the Year which everyone does not know what they do. He added that it includes very grueling, technical training that law enforcement officers can go through to assess, detect and testify to impairment on substances other than alcohol. He believes it is a very important part of the fight against drug driving to have the expert officers on the street. He added that it is truly an impressive achievement just to be DRE Certified. It was a special honor for him to present the award to Corporal Grady Johnson with the Town of Lexington's Police Department. Mr. Burritt stated that Corporal Johnson made 16 DUI in 2020 where drugs were the impairing substance, did seven DRE evaluations and assist, trained and assisted his own officer, assisted the SC Highway Patrol with DRE evaluations, assisted at the Criminal Justice Academy in training others, and is an all-around great officer and doing community education and serving his community well.

Corporal Grady Johnson thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing them to be at the meeting. He stated that as a Drug Recognition Expert it was his opinion that it is the toughest and most extensive training that they can get through at the SC Criminal Justice Academy, but the results are great. Corporal Johnson added that a lot of people do not understand that driving under the influence of

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medications, illegal drugs, and other substances, other than alcohol, affect them. He stated that they have had unfortunately incidences of collisions that have occurred from those things. Corporal Johnson stated that they are able to recognize when a person is under the influence of something other than alcohol and make the right choice to get them off the road because his family and others could be hurt by it.

Mayor MacDougall congratulated Corporal Johnson on receiving the award. He added that it is amazing the talent Chief Green has in the Police Department and if he were a football coach they would be Super Bowl Champions.

VISION PLAN UPDATE

Mayor MacDougall announced: (1) Gibson Pond Park is getting closer to completion and the pond is being refilled for the first time since 2015. In addition to the new dam, the Town has built a new picnic shelter and dock and there are plans to restock the pond with fish. Some infrastructure and beautification projects are being finalized and we hope to open it to the public soon. (2) The Request for Proposal has gone out for the Downtown Wayfinding Signage. More than a dozen signs will be placed in the downtown area to help point people to different destinations throughout town. (3) In the next few months the Town will start work on the walking trail to be installed around the Old Mill Pond. The trail will be one mile long and will include lighting. Mayor MacDougall stated that these are just a few of the projects that are a result of the Town's Vision Plan which can be read in its entirety on the Town's web page at www.lexsc.com.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston gave the Traffic Update: (1) Significant progress is being made along North Lake Drive as work continues. Exercise caution when driving through these areas. (2) The widening of Mineral Springs is now complete with a right turn lane and dual lefts. These lanes are now open and operational. (3) SCDOT will be closing Old Cherokee Road from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. this week for asphalt repairs. Repairs are expected to take less than one week pending weather conditions. Traffic moving from SC-6 toward US-378 could experience delays. (4) SCDOT will conduct nighttime paving along South Lake Drive from Maiden Lane to Railroad Avenue. (5) Signal upgrades continue along US-378/Sunset Blvd. as new mast arm foundations are installed as part of the final phase of the Town's Adaptive Signalization System. (6) Citizens were asked if they were aware of a traffic signal issues, unsafe roadway situations or a pothole that needs repair, to please call 358-7273 and let the Transportation Department know.

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 an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #4300-04-078 located at 311 Reed Avenue.
2. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance for Sale of Town Property near Stoney Creek Subdivision.
3. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance to Adopt the FY2021-2022 Budget
4. **Final Reading** of an Ordinance to Provide for the FY 2021-2022 Tax Levy.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance Annexing Lexington County Tax Map #4300-04-078 and 190 located at 311 Reed Avenue**. The motion was unanimously carried. (Copy attached.)
2. A motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Councilmember Maness to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget**. The motion was unanimously carried. (Copy attached.)
3. A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to approve **Final Reading of an Ordinance to Provide for the FY 2021-2022 Tax Levy**. The motion was unanimously carried. (Copy attached.)

NEW BUSINESS

1. **First Reading of an Ordinance for Sale of Town Owned Property, 103 West Main Street (Title Only)**: A private company answered an RFP for the Town-owned lot next to Alodia's Restaurant at 103 West Main Street. The company proposes uses similar to that proposed for the Alodia's building. The parcel consists of approximately .2 acres and is shown on the attached drawing. (Copy attached.) Action requested for First Reading approval (Title Only) and pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, all details will be disclosed following the signing of the Deed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baker and seconded by Councilmember Lyle to approve First Reading of an Ordinance for Sale

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of Town Owned Property located at 103 West Main Street (Title Only) as stated. The motion was unanimously carried.

2. **Reappointments to Boards and Commissions:** The terms for the following Boards and Commissions members expire on June 30, 2021. Reappointments require approval by Council. (Copy of Board and Commission Roster attached.)

Advisory Committee: Terry Samuels, James Dawson
Board of Zoning Appeals: Mary Watts, Justin Brown, Reve Richardson, Troy Fite
Historic Preservation Board: Tim Privette
Planning Commission: Frank Berry
Traffic Committee: Susan Ruinen, Bob Ferrell, Jim Wigglesworth, Rosemary Wilson

Current Boards and Commissions Vacancies:	Advisory	two
	Board of Zoning	two
	Building Code	four
	Historic	two
	Traffic	three

A motion was made by Councilmember Lyle and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to approve the reappointments as listed. Councilmember Maness stated that she appreciates when citizens want to serve on these committees and we do have many vacancies. She added that her husband has been on the Historic Preservation Board for close to 20 years but made the decision not to serve again, not because he doesn't believe in the work and it's not because he doesn't want to support the Town, but even before COVID this committee was not meeting very often and not doing very much. Councilmember Maness stated that she knows we cannot count last year because of COVID, but when our citizens want to be involved, and we put them on committees, we need to find them something to do whether it is having the Advisory Board do a litter day and we know South Carolina has so much litter on the streets that we need to get it up. She added that we need to appreciate that people are willing to do their time so we need to make them feel wanted and needed. Councilmember Maness stated that she and Assistant to the Town Administrator, Wesley Crosby, had a good conversation about it in that he is the Staff Liaison to the Historic Preservation Board. She thinks we need to use committee people in a more efficient way. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. **Boards and Commissions Applications:** The Town received applications from Mr. Allen Keith Benton and Mr. Steven Johnson who expressed an interest in serving on the Town of Lexington Building Code Board of Appeals which

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currently has four vacancies. Both applicants are residents with building experience. (Copies of applications attached.)

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve the appointments of Mr. Benton and Mr. Johnson to the Building Code Board of Appeals as stated. The motion was unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Baker made the following announcements: (1) The Sister Hazel concert was a huge success this past Friday night. It is great to see people in our outdoor venues again. I hope everyone enjoyed the show! (2) We also just wrapped up the LEXINGTON LIVE free concerts on Thursdays and they were also well attended! Thanks to our Downtown Venue Promoter, Walker Brewer, for keeping things going during and after the pandemic and the other Staff members who helped! (3) The Market at Icehouse has been busy every Saturday morning. Don't miss out on all the great vendors and music! The Market will continue to be at the Icehouse Pavilion from 9:00 to 1:00 every Saturday through September with the exception of Saturday, July 3rd. (4) There are so many events and concerts scheduled at the Icehouse Amphitheater, so I want to let you know about a few that are happening in July. For a complete list of concerts, you can always visit www.icehouseamphitheater.com.

- July 2nd The Town will host the Independence Day Celebration at The Amphitheater starting at 7:00 with the 246th Army Band followed by a fireworks show. You can tune into 93.1 FM The Lake to listen to patriotic music during the fireworks show. There are great views from all the parking lots downtown, or at The Icehouse, area restaurants, Lexington Square Park or the Lexington Veterans Monument. The event is free so mark your calendars – it's in three weeks!

(We encourage everyone to have a fun and safe Independence Day on July 4th. Town Hall will be closed on Monday July 5th in observance of the holiday.)

- July 15th Join us for Animalia and Random Act of Kindness at 7:30 – a double fun time for the family. Dr. Knows-A-Lot will explore a whimsical world in Animalia which includes action packed dancing and circus acts. The cast of Random Act of Kindness will demonstrate their love for each other and show the audience their impressive skills in dance and circus acts. Tickets can be purchased at www.icehouseamphitheater.com and are \$25 for VIP tickets, \$20 for General Admission, \$10 for ages 3 to 10; and 2 and under get in free. Come warm your heart and be entertained Thursday July 15th.

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- July 16th – You’ve got to come out for this free concert starting at 7:30 – featuring The Local Boys! They are a bluegrass band who have roots in traditional music and have evolved from old time music, bluegrass, country and rock and roll. They have performed at Merlefest for the past 22 years and have hosted the Plaza Stage with the late Tut Taylor. They also participate in an outreach program that brings music to surrounding area schools. Don’t miss it! There will also be beer, wine, soft drinks, water and food vendors available for purchases.
- July 23rd – Flannel Fest is back at the Icehouse Amphitheater!! Gates open at 6:00 and the music will continue until 10:00. Music will be from Stone Temple Pilots, Nirvana and Alice in Chains and will feature: Core (A Stone Temple Pilots Tribute); Heart Shaped Box (A Nirvana Tribute); and Grind (An Alice in Chains Tribute). Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at www.icehouseamphitheater.com.
- And one sneak peek into August – For the Love of Hops Craft Beer Festival is back on August 21st starting at 6:00. This event is for 21 years old and up. Food will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$40 the week of, and \$45 day of and includes unlimited samples of over 50 different craft beers from North and South Carolina, live music by the Kenny George Band and a souvenir sampling glass.

(5) The Building Code Board of Appeals will meet Thursday, June 17th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. This Board does not have to meet very often, but decisions they make are very important. (6) The Planning Commission will meet on June 23rd at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. (7) The Board of Zoning Appeals will not meet in July. (8) Council will meet again on July 12th at 6:00 p.m. for Council’s Work Session and Regular Council meeting. (9) On behalf of all the Dads out there and those sitting here on Council – I’d like to wish all of you a Happy Father’s Day this Sunday. Between the Dads on Council, we have 13 children, so it will be a big day! On behalf of the Mayor and my fellow Councilmembers, we would like to thank you for watching your Council in action tonight.

NEWS MEDIA QUESTIONS: A member of the news media asked Council to repeat the closing times for Old Cherokee Road. (8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT and EXECUTIVE SESSION (Part 2) CONTINUED

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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 and it will also be replayed several times during the week.

Mayor MacDougall stated that without objection from Council, he declared the meeting adjourned and requested that Council reconvene to the Executive Session to finish their discussion on the final two items. The Regular Council meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor MacDougall and seconded by Councilmember Lyle to reconvene to the Executive Session as stated. The motion was unanimously carried. Council adjourned from the Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Carnes and seconded by Mayor MacDougall. The motion was unanimously carried. Mayor MacDougall reported that pursuant to SC Code §30-4-709a) (1) and (2), Council returned to Executive Session to complete their discussion on a water/sewer contract, Gibson Pond contract, and a proposed economic development request. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Maness to ratify the Mayor's report. 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.