

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 6, 2011

Town Council held Executive Session at 5:20 p.m. on September 6, 2011 prior to the Regular Council Meeting. The meetings were attended by Mayor Randy Halfacre, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston, Council Members Richard Thompson, Kathy Maness, Ted Stambolitis, Danny Frazier, and Todd Shevchik.

The Executive Session was also attended by Town Administrator Britt Poole, Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Town Prosecutor Cliff Koon, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand. Also attending the Regular Council meeting was: Police Chief Terrence Green, Community and Economic Catalyst Johnny Jeffcoat, Director of Utilities and Engineering Allen Lutz, Finance Director Kathy Roberts, Director of Parks, Streets and Sanitation Dan Walker, Events and Media Coordinator Jennifer Dowden, and I.T. Manager Josh Emory.

Approximately forty-five (45) citizens and students were present. No one from the news media was present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

Mayor Halfacre reported that the *Executive Session* was called to order at 5:30 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Frazier and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 6:30 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Frazier. The motion was unanimously carried. Mayor Halfacre reported that Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: three contractual issues including one regarding the sewer contract; one pending legal issue; and, one personnel issue. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to ratify Mayor Halfacre's *Executive Session* report. The motion was unanimously carried.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Halfacre introduced the Council Members and welcomed everyone to the Council meeting. He later welcomed Lexington County Administrator Katherine Hubbard and Lexington County Councilmember Johnny Jeffcoat. He thanked them for the partnerships that have been formed between the County and the Town. Councilmember Thompson gave the invocation. Councilmember Frazier led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Halfacre called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: None.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Thompson to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting and the Council Work Session, both held on August 15, 2011. The motion was unanimously carried.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Proclamation for Mary Grace Wingard – Councilmember Danny Frazier:** Councilmember Frazier read a proclamation honoring 3rd grader, Mary Grace Wingard, for requesting that collards be named as the official state vegetable for the State of South Carolina. Councilmember Frazier presented the proclamation to Mary Grace along with her father and teacher who were present. (Copy attached.)
2. **Pillar of the Community Award to Bruce E. Rucker – Chief Terrence Green:** Chief Green presented the 2011 Pillar of the Community Award to Bruce E. Rucker, Chief of Public Safety for Lexington County. Chief Green added that since Chief Rucker would retire on September 30, 2011, the department wanted to give the award early this year. He thanked Chief Rucker for his outstanding dedication and commitment to the Lexington Police Department and to the citizens of the Town of Lexington. He added that any time the Lexington Police Department had an incident in progress; Chief Rucker was always the first one on the phone to ask if they needed any help. Chief Green, Mayor Halfacre, Major Koon, Lt. Carroll Bledsoe, and Lt. Matt Timmerman presented the award to Chief Rucker. Mayor Halfacre also thanked Chief Rucker's family for sharing him with the Town for so many years.
3. **Oktoberfest Presentation – Mr. Lee Pitcovich:** Mr. Pitcovich announced the 2011 Oktoberfest to be held October 22, 2011 behind the old court house, being hosted by Lexington Young Professionals and the Town of Lexington. Oktoberfest will start at 12:00 until 5:00 p.m., followed by Rocktoberfest from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. which will be hosted by Main Street Café and feature several bands. Admission is free this year. Mr. Pitcovich added that a lot has changed with the festival, but the DooDah parade would still be held on Main Street at 11:00 a.m. He thanked the Lexington Lions Club for helping with the parade. The "Oompah Tent" will be at the center of the festival and feature authentic German food, beer, and music from noon until 10:00 p.m. He added that a German Village will be added this year along with crafters. He encouraged everyone to come out to the Oktoberfest and visit the web site at lexingtonoktoberfest.com.

Councilmember Maness confirmed that the event is not on the Town of Lexington property, but would be located behind the old court house and the Rocktoberfest would be directly behind Main Street Café.

Mayor Halfacre thanked Mr. Pitcovich and Lexington Young Professionals for taking on the Oktoberfest event, formerly known as FunFest. He added that it has existed for 20 years and it is a good time to have some new blood and new life into

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the event. He appreciated their enthusiasm and for adding some of the Town's German heritage to Oktoberfest.

4. **Sewer Hotline Number Campaign – Ms. Jennifer Dowden, Events and Media Coordinator:** Ms. Dowden announced the Town's new Sewer Hotline Number as 803-957-ODOR or 957-6367. She stated that the Town's Utilities Department works diligently every day to make sure all the systems are working properly, but they can always use the help of citizens. The campaign is to encourage citizens to contact the hotline to let the Town know if they see or smell any overflows in the system. The Town's new slogan is: "*If you smell it – tell it!*" Ms. Dowden stated that the press release will go out tomorrow.

Farmers Market: Ms. Dowden also announced that the Town's Farmers Market would return to the original schedule of 8:00 to 1:00 this Saturday. She added that at the last Farmers Market, the Town sponsored an Electronic Recycling event and collected 12 tons of electronics in an 18 wheeler truck.

5. **Proclamation to David Livingston and 30th Anniversary of Green Earth Services, Inc. – Mayor Randy Halfacre:** Mayor Halfacre read a proclamation honoring David Livingston on the celebration of his company's 30th anniversary. He added that the company was started in 1981 as a premier landscape company with an initial investment of \$5,400. Mayor Halfacre and Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston presented the proclamation to Mr. Livingston. (Proclamation copy attached.)

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston provided an update on the Town of Lexington's continuing efforts to improve traffic. (1) The Traffic Committee was approached by a citizen regarding the intersection of Taylor, Laurel and Harmon Streets. SCDOT was contacted since they own the streets. SCDOT has removed the connector from Laurel to Taylor and tied both streets into Harmon to include new markings and adjusted signage. (2) The Lexington Veterans Parade is scheduled for Sunday November 6, 2011 and Main Street and U.S. Highway 1 will be closed from Hagood Street to S. Lake Drive and Highway 6 to Fort Street where the parade will disband at the Lexington County Administration Building parking lot. The closing will last from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (3) The Traffic Committee asked SCDOT to modify the eastern most island at the Target Shopping Center to allow for handicapped access of the sidewalk system. SCDOT is in the process of making the modification. (4) SCDOT will hold a public meeting September 13, 2011 at the Pineview Baptist Church from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. regarding the proposed Leaphart Road Bridge Replacement Project. (5) Hendrix Street from Thompson Street to Gibson Road and Grey Street from Thompson Street to Derrick Street will be closed on Saturday, September 10, 2011 from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the 3rd Annual West Lexington Neighborhood Reunion Celebration. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston asked if anyone has any traffic issues to please contact 359-1027. The next Traffic Committee will be held on September 20, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the Eli Mack, Sr. Room in Town Hall.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Halfacre called the Public Hearing to order and requested that those wishing to speak limit their comments to five minutes.

1. An Ordinance Annexing 4881 Sunset Boulevard.

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

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Temporary Capital Contribution Fee Policy Extension:** Council initially approved a Temporary Capital Contribution Fee Policy Amendment on February 2, 2009 to encourage development during the recession. The policy, in part, waived the requirement that purchases of certificates after the initial prepayment be in minimum increments of 10 certificates (allowing for minimum purchases of 1 certificate versus 10). The amended temporary policy expired on June 30, 2011. Given the continued slow pace of economic recovery, the Town of Lexington wished to extend the amended temporary measure through February 29, 2012, to encourage development. (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to approve the reinstatement and extension of the amended Temporary Capital Contribution Fee Policy through February 29, 2012. The motion was unanimously carried.

2. **First Responders Remembrance Memorial:** The First Responders Remembrance Memorial Board of Directors requested the Town of Lexington's participation in funding for the memorial to be located at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. (Copy of donation levels attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Frazier to approve a donation of \$2,500.00 to the First Responders Remembrance Memorial. Mayor Halfacre stated that the dedication of the First Responders Memorial will be this Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 3:00 at the Columbia Convention Center. The event marks the 10th anniversary of dastardly attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. He encouraged everyone to attend the dedication. He added that it is something we should all never forget even though time heals all wounds. Mayor Halfacre stated that the monument is supported by Richland County and Lexington County. The motion was unanimously carried.

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- 3. Rental Fee Waiver for the 3rd Annual Neighborhood reunion Celebration:** The Neighborhood Reunion committee is hosting their 3rd Annual Celebration and Block Party on Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10, 2011. The organization asked for a fee waiver for September 9, 2011 for the Eli Mack, Sr. Room. The event would take place after business hours. Following is the value for the 3rd Annual Neighborhood Reunion Celebration event for the Eli Mack, Sr. Room: Rental fee \$150 (In-Town) or \$200 (Out-of-Town). A deposit of \$100 would still be required. (Copy of request letter attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Thompson to waive the rental fee for the Eli Mack, Sr. Room as stated for the 3rd Annual Neighborhood Reunion Celebration. The motion was unanimously carried.

- 4. Lexington High School Band Contribution:** The Lexington High School Band Booster Club requested the Town of Lexington's participation in funding for the Lexington High School Band. Contributions will be used to fund transportation, equipment and uniforms. (Copy of request letter attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Shevchik and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to approve a donation of \$500 to the Lexington High School Band Booster Club. The motion was unanimously carried.

COMMENTS

Mayor Randy Halfacre wished a Happy Birthday to all Town employees celebrating birthdays in September. He expressed get well wishes to Chief Green's father. Mayor Halfacre congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and David Livingston on their new grandbaby boy. He congratulated Jewitte and Rod Dooley on the recent adoption of Porter Reese Dooley. Mayor Halfacre congratulated Karen Hanner, Parks Department, on becoming a first time grandparent recently when Wyatt Nathaniel Todd was born on August 22, 2011. He wished Ebony Bowers, KEYS Coordinator, well in that she was sent home for bed rest pending the birth of her baby girl. He reminded everyone of this Sunday's 10th anniversary of 9/11 and the many ceremonies that would be held. He added that the US Senate passed a resolution that calls for a nationwide tribute at 1:00 p.m. for one minute this Sunday which asked for the sounding of police and firefighter sirens and bells. Senator Lautenberg of New Jersey created a webpage for those who want to participate: www.lautenberg.senate.gov/stopandremember/. Mayor Halfacre congratulated the Town on receiving word from the National League of Cities last week that the Town of Lexington's Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility Program was selected to be one of 36 participants in the 2011 NLC City Showcase during the November conference. He added that the wastewater program is a joint project with the City of Cayce and the Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission. Mayor Halfacre reminded everyone that the Lexington Farmers Market is this Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and continues on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays through October. He added that

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the Farmers Market on October 22nd would partner with Oktoberfest and have a really big market. Mayor Halfacre thanked the Lexington Sertoma Club for hosting Big Thursday for the third year on October 20th. He added that Sertoma donates all the funds to the Town for parks improvements. This year Sertoma plans to bring in several big name previous football players from USC and Clemson. The cost is \$30 and can be purchased from any Sertoma Club member.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston welcomed her new grandson, Porter Reese Dooley, to the family. She added that the adoption process is a very humbling experience and they are very grateful to have him in their family. Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston stated that the improvements on Harmon Street were handled by the Traffic Committee and the improvements made a major difference to help traffic in that area. She encouraged citizens to contact the Town if they have other recommendations that can be reviewed by the Town's Traffic Committee.

Councilmember Richard Thompson cautioned everyone to be careful because students were back in school and to also watch out for the school buses. He announced that everyone was invited to the West Lexington block party and you did not have to live in the Hendrix Street neighborhood to attend. He looked forward to seeing everyone at the party.

Councilmember Kathy Maness wished her son a Happy 9th Birthday. She welcomed the students to the meeting and stated that they were the gifted students because they came early for their requirement and it is a fairly short meeting. She also told the students that if they were 18 years old, they had until October 8th to register to vote in the Town's November Election if they live in the Town limits. Councilmember Maness stated that Councilmembers Thompson, Frazier and Shevchik were all up for re-election and Ms. Constance Flemming and two others were also running for three seats on Town Council.

Councilmember Ted Stambolitis congratulated Jewitte and Rod Dooley on the adoption of their beautiful baby boy. He added that they will make wonderful parents and he looks forward to watching Porter grow up. He wished to acknowledge the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 disaster. He added that it has been a difficult 10 years for America and he wanted to thank all the first responders: EMS, firemen, police officers, military and all the people that lost their lives in the tragedy. He prayed that the pain has subsided for the family members and he hopes our country will always remember and support first responders. God Bless America.

Councilmember Danny Frazier congratulated Mary Grace Wingard for being a great young leader and she also comes from a family of leaders. He thanked Chief Rucker for being a first responder for so many years and hoped he enjoys retirement. Councilmember Frazier encouraged everyone to come out for Big Thursday on October 20th. He stated that he always enjoys cooking for the event and thanked the Sertoma club for donating the money to the Town for park improvements. He stated that he continues to enjoy serving on Town Council and he announced that he is running for re-

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election. He added that he has always been about constituent service and he respects the citizens that put him on Town Council and he hopes they will re-elect him. Councilmember Frazier stated that he is always available to help and he can be reached at 600-3814.

Councilmember Todd Shevchik looked forward to a reshaped Oktoberfest this year and it looks to be an exciting event. He thanked Lexington Young Professionals and the Town for hosting the event. He hoped everyone had a great Labor Day. Councilmember Shevchik thanked Ms. Dowden and staff for developing the new sewer hotline: 937-ODOR and the campaign slogan, “*If you smell it – tell it*”. He recognized one of the students and thanked her for being a great babysitter. Councilmember Shevchik stated that the Town Council election is November 8th and he announced that he is running for re-election and would appreciate everyone’s vote.

Mayor Halfacre referred back to Councilmember Thompson regarding the election. Councilmember Thompson stated that he was running for re-election. He added that he tries to be fair to everyone he comes in contact with and if the citizens vote him back in as a Town Council member he will be glad to serve for another term.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Halfacre stated that the Town is in the final stages of the Town’s Vision Plan and recently held a public meeting which was well attended and offered good input. He stated that the plan is a dream and a vision, not the gospel and not in concrete. He added that there have been some negative comments made about the Vision Plan and he wanted everyone to know that it is being planned as a roadmap and he asked for everyone’s support. He stated that Council knows that all of the ideas are not practical or financially feasible at this time, but at least a plan gives a route to plan for 2020 and beyond. He quoted Carl Sandburg that “*Nothing happens without first a dream.*”

Mayor Halfacre thanked the Council Members and citizens for attending the meeting tonight and for those at home for viewing the Council meeting on Channel 2 and it will be replayed several times during the week. He added that he is personally honored to serve the citizens of the Town of Lexington.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston to adjourn the Council Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

The Regular Council meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

T. Randall Halfacre
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.