

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Lexington**  
**Executive Session and**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 7 , 2022**

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Town Council held an Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Regular Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. on February 7, 2022. (Council did not hold a January Work Session.) The meetings were attended by Mayor Steve MacDougall and Councilmembers Kathy Maness, Todd Carnes, Ron Williams and Todd Lyle. Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Livingston and Councilmember Steve Baker were absent.

Staff members present were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, Assistant to Town Administrator Wesley Crosby, 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, Assistant Parks Director Johnny Dillard, 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 seven (7) citizens were present and no members of the news media were present.

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**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor MacDougall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Councilmembers. He stated that Mayor Pro-Tem Livingston and Councilmember Baker were not present tonight and were out of town handling business. He called on Councilmember Carnes to give the invocation. Mayor MacDougall called on Veteran Retired 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Tom Lucas to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor MacDougall called the meeting to order at 6:32 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). (Councilmember Lyle was not present for the vote.) Council adjourned from the *Executive Session* at 6:25 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Carnes. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5). Mayor MacDougall reported that pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a) (1), (2) and (3) Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: two routine personnel matters; three legal items regarding pending litigation, advice regarding agenda items and a potential Intergovernmental Agreement; and, one contractual item

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regarding an economic development contract. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams to ratify the Mayor's report. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present (5).

**DELETIONS ON AGENDA:** None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to approve the Minutes from the Council and Planning Commission meeting held on November 30, 2021 and Council's Regular meeting held on January 3, 2022 as submitted. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Presentation by SC House Representative Chris Wooten, Resolution Honoring Town Councilmember Kathy Maness:** Representative Wooten stated that sometimes they do not read an entire Resolution due to time, but in this case he thought it was important to read all of it as Town Councilmember Maness has given so much of their life to public service in South Carolina. He added that it was a pleasure for him to honor his neighbor and his friend and to bear with him because it would take a few minutes to cover 25 years of service. He read in part:

*A House of Representatives Resolution recognizing Kathy Maness for her long and dedicated service to the National League of Cities and to wish her much continued success in all her future endeavors.*

*Whereas Kathy Maness has been a member of the National League of Cities since her election to the Town of Lexington's Town Council in 2004. She also served in a number of roles with the National League of Cities one of which was the President of Women in Municipal Government contingency group.*

*In addition, Kathy Maness has completed one year as President of the National League of Cities, the largest membership and advocacy organization in America for elected officials. She was also the first South Carolinian to hold this prestigious office.*

*Whereas Kathy Maness has dedicated her entire life to public service in our State having begun her career as a third grade school teacher in Lancaster County, South Carolina.*

*Kathy Maness has worked on behalf of South Carolina's teachers for the past 25 years, first as President of the Palmetto State Teachers Association and then as the Executive Director of the organization.*

*Whereas this proud South Carolinian is also the proud mother of three and the delighted grandmother of one charming granddaughter.*

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*Now therefore let it be resolved by the House of Representatives that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this Resolution, recognize and honor Kathy Maness for her long and dedicated service to the National League of Cities and wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors.*

House Representative Wooten presented the House Resolution to Councilmember Maness. (Copy attached.) Councilmember Maness thanked House Representative Wooten and added that it was an honor to be the first person in South Carolina to serve as the President of the National League of Cities. She stated that she appreciated the Town, her fellow Councilmembers and Staff for their support during her year as President and the years before.

2. **2021 Art Rish Employee of the Year Award to Corporal Grady Johnson – Police Chief Terrence Green:** Chief Green explained the Art Rish Employee of the Year Award which was named after Police Officer Art Rish who served the department from 2003 to 2014 and was a dedicated, inspiring, outstanding example to all employees of the Town of Lexington. Chief Green added that despite Art's lengthy and difficult battle with cancer, he refused to give up and continued to work every day while keeping a positive and encouraging attitude until his passing. He stated that the 2021 Art Rish Employee of the Year is Corporal Grady Johnson. Corporal Johnson has been employed with the Town of Lexington for 14 years and currently holds the position of Traffic Supervisor. Corporal Johnson's peers state that he consistently sets himself apart from his peers as evidenced by his work product. As the Traffic Unit Supervisor he guided three officers to the coveted Traffic Safety Officer designation and continues to mentor them as they reach for Traffic Safety Instructor. His unit received the Gold Level participation for the South Carolina Law Enforcement Network. One of his officers received the South Carolina Department of Public Safety DUI Officer of the Year. The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy sought him out personally in order to assist with basic law classes with DUI proficiency testing in addition to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration who reached out to him to assist them with creating new training videos that would be used for advanced roadside impairment driving enforcement and drug recognition and expert coursework across the country. His Counselors won the highlights for receiving the MADD 2020 Drug Recognition Expert of the Year this past spring. Chief Green stated that Corporal Johnson is a complete asset to the Town of Lexington.

Mayor MacDougall and Chief Green presented the award to Corporal Johnson. Corporal Johnson stated that as the Chief had said, he has been a part of the team for the Town of Lexington for 14 years and it has been a pleasure indeed. He added that it comes from the leadership from Council through the Chief and Assistant Chief. Corporal Johnson stated that it is a pleasure to serve our citizens.

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Mayor MacDougall stated that the Town cannot thank Corporal Johnson enough and great job. He added for Corporal Johnson to keep up the work on those videos because they do not go unnoticed and are very valuable and he appreciated it.

3. **School Choice Week Proclamation – Councilmember Kathy Maness:** Councilmember Maness read a Proclamation declaring January 23<sup>rd</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as Lexington School Choice Week. The Proclamation stated that children should have access to the highest quality education possible; Lexington is home to a multitude of high quality public and nonpublic schools from which parents can choose for their children including in home education; and citizens were urged to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options. (Copy attached.)

Mayor MacDougall confirmed that the Proclamation would be mailed to the National School Choice organization.

4. **Proclamation Congratulating Miss Nora Hanson NASKA Championship – Councilmember Todd Carnes:** Councilmember Carnes read a Proclamation congratulating Miss Hanson for winning two North American Sport Karate Association World Championships. Miss Hanson has studied Karate at Genova Family Karate for seven years; earned her Black Belt in March 2021; and won first and second in several competitions across the country; while maintaining A's in her classes at Irmo Middle School. She was awarded Overall Grand Champion in the 10 to 11 year old Girls Black Belt Sparring Division and World Champion in the 11 and under Girls Open Weight Sparring Division following the NASKA banquet in Chicago on January 20, 2022. Miss Hanson was commended for representing the Midlands in such an exemplary manner.

Town Councilmember Carnes (jokingly) suggested that as a demonstration, the Mayor and Mr. Hanson should step up front so Nora could throat punch them both and see which one falls first. Councilmember Carnes presented the Proclamation to Miss Hanson. (Copy attached.)

Mayor MacDougall asked if Miss Hanson would like to make any comments on her experiences. Councilmember Maness asked Miss Hanson which was her favorite tournament. Miss Hanson responded that the Battle of Atlanta was her favorite and she won three times there. Councilmember Maness asked Miss Hanson of all the cities she has visited, which one was her favorite. Miss Hanson responded that she liked Miami and Chicago. Mayor MacDougall congratulated Miss Hanson again and stated that they were all very proud of her. Town Administrator Poole recommended that Miss Hanson deserved a milkshake on the way home.

**VISION PLAN UPDATE**

Mayor MacDougall reported the following: (1) *Wayfinding Signs*: Materials have been ordered to make the Downtown Wayfinding signs and Staff is working with SCDOT on final approval for the sizes and locations. This is the first phase of the Wayfinding signs project which will direct people to popular destinations within Town limits. (2) *Virginia Hylton Park*: Work continues on the construction documents for the expansion and renovation of Virginia Hylton Park. The next step will be for the project to go to bid. The park will get a major overhaul including new features, all new equipment and the size of the park will double. (3) *Vision Plan Goal*: These projects and more are a result of the Town's Vision Plan. For a full list of all ongoing projects, go to the Town's website at [lexsc.com](http://lexsc.com).

**TRAFFIC UPDATE**

Councilmember Williams gave the following Traffic Update: (1) The construction work for the N. Lake Widening and Harmon Street Extension is nearing completion. There will be nighttime detours for the final paving of Columbia Avenue and N. Lake intersection once weather and temperatures permit. All new road alignments and driveways are now in place. Citizens were encouraged to use caution as drivers get used to these changes. (2) A new signal operation that allows dual left turns from Hope Ferry Road onto Sunset Blvd. was completed last week. This new operation was done in preparation for the forth coming Adaptive Signalization System. Minor timing adjustments will be made over the coming weeks as drivers adapt to the new configuration. (3) The Adaptive Signalization work is nearing completion as all mast arms are now in place and nearly all cameras are installed. The system is planned to become completely active next month. Councilmember Williams stated that Council would like to make sure it is done by then. (4) The next Traffic Committee meeting has been scheduled for March 9, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Citizens were asked to call the Town's Transportation Department at 803-358-7273 to report any traffic signal issues, unsafe roadway conditions or a pothole that needs repair.

Councilmember Williams added that he had received another telephone regarding Elm Street and asked Mr. Edwards if he could please check into it.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**: None.

**OLD BUSINESS**: None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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1. **First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting the 2022 Comprehensive Plan:** State Law requires municipalities to complete a full review of their Comprehensive Land Use Plans every ten years. Over the last 18 months the Planning Commission has worked with outside consultants, stakeholders and Staff to complete this process and update the Town's 2016 plan. A primary focus of this effort has been to create a document that is consistent with the Vision Plan and update it with the latest maps and census data. During the January 19, 2022 meeting the Planning Commission approved the attached Resolution recommending Town Council adopt the 2022 Comprehensive Land Use Plan as submitted. (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Lyle and seconded by Councilmember Carnes to approve First Reading to adopt the 2022 Comprehensive Land Use Plan as submitted. Councilmember Williams wished to thank the Planning Commission, Mr. Hanson and Staff for putting so many hours into this plan and for making a great recommendation to Council because it makes their job easy to approve it. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

2. **Capital Project Sales Tax Consultant Funding:** In preparation for the upcoming Lexington County Capital Project Sales Tax planned for the 2022 general election and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) passed in November 2021, the Town of Lexington selected a local engineering consultant (Michael Baker, Inc.) to develop the project packages for submission. The Town plans to prepare packages for numerous projects that have been identified through the Hospitality Tax and Local Transportation Improvement Plan (LTIP). The planned expenditure for this initial effort is anticipated to be \$53,500. Budget and Finance: Funds from the Roads and Infrastructure budget.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve Capital Project Sales Tax Consultant Funding to Michael Baker, Inc. in the amount of \$53,500 as requested and to be funded from the Roads and Infrastructure Budget. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Williams made the following announcements: (1) He congratulated Miss Nora Hanson again for her accomplishments in school and karate. (2) Several Town meetings are lined up for February: Advisory Board meets tomorrow at 5:30; Accommodations Tax Committee will have a special meeting Thursday at 11:00; Council will meet again on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 for the Council Work Session. Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> is a Town Holiday in observance of Presidents Day; and the Planning Commission will meet on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. (3) The Icehouse Amphitheater is about to get busy starting with the Lexington Chili Cookoff on February

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20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. Tickets are \$10 and teams can register at [john@oldmillbrewpub.net](mailto:john@oldmillbrewpub.net). Councilmember Williams thanked everyone 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](http://www.lexsc.com).

Mayor MacDougall stated that without objection from Council, he declared the Council meeting adjourned. The Regular Council meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC  
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

Steve MacDougall  
Mayor

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*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.*