

MINUTES
Town of Lexington
Executive Session and
Special Council Meeting
May 16, 2011

Town Council held a Executive Session followed by a Special Council Meeting and a Council Work Session on May 16, 2011 in the Eli Mack Sr. Room. The meetings were attended by: Mayor Randy Halfacre, Mayor Pro-Tem Hazel Tyndall, Council Members Richard Thompson, Kathy Maness, Ted Stambolitis, Danny Frazier, and Councilmember Todd Shevchik. Staff members present were: Town Administrator Britt Poole, Assistant Town Administrator Stuart Ford, Municipal Attorney Brad Cunningham, Police Chief Terrence Green, Community and Economic Catalyst Johnny Jeffcoat, Utilities and Engineering Director Allen Lutz, Finance Director Kathy Roberts, Director of Parks, Streets and Sanitation Dan Walker, Interim Planning, Building and Technology Director John Hanson, Events and Media Coordinator Jennifer Dowden, and Municipal Clerk Becky Hildebrand.

There were approximately thirty (30) citizens and students present and one (1) reporter from the news media.

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 Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Frazier to go into *Executive Session*. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Council Member Maness was not present for the vote.) Council adjourned from *Executive Session* at 6:07 p.m. after a motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Tyndall. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmember Maness was not present for the vote.) Mayor Halfacre reported that Council met in *Executive Session* to discuss: one routine personnel matter, and one contractual issue regarding a traffic study. No vote was taken. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Tyndall and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to ratify the Mayor's *Executive Session* report. The motion was unanimously carried by all those present. (Councilmember Maness was not present for the vote.)

INVOCATION, PLEDGE AND CALL TO ORDER: Councilmember Thompson gave the invocation and Councilmember Stambolitis led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Halfacre called the Special Council meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Mayor Halfacre requested to add a Resolution regarding Amazon.com.

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There being no objections, the item was added as #5.

OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **First Year Farmer's Market Fee Waiver:** The Farmer's Market Ordinance was passed at the May Regular Council meeting. Since that time, it has been suggested that the business license and participation fees be waived for the first year of a vendor's participation. This is in order to encourage participation in the Town sponsored event. Waivers would apply to both the Town of Lexington Business License Fee and the Farmer's Market Permit Fee for participants without a physical location in Town. For those with a physical location, the Farmer's Market Permit Fee would be waived for the first year. All fees would apply in subsequent years.

Action requested was for a motion to reconsider Second Reading of May 2, 2011 and for Council's approval of Final Reading with revisions as stated. (Copy attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to reconsider Second Reading of the Farmer's Market Ordinance. Mayor Halfacre confirmed that responses to participate had been low and he hoped this would "jump start" the Town of Lexington's Farmer's Market. The motion was unanimously carried.

A subsequent motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to approve Final Reading of the Farmer's Market Ordinance to include the revisions as stated. The motion was unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting the FY 2011-2012 Budget (Title Only):** South Carolina law requires Town Council to adopt a balanced budget each year. (Budget Revenue and Expenditures are attached as well as the draft ordinance.)

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Tyndall and seconded by Councilmember Frazier to approve First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting the FY 2011-2012 Budget. The motion was unanimously carried.

2. **First Reading of an Ordinance to Provide for the FY 2011-2012 Tax Levy (Title Only).** South Carolina law requires Town Council to adopt the Tax Levy each year. (Attached is the draft ordinance for the Tax Levy for FY 2011-12.)

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A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson and seconded by Councilmember Shevchik to approve First Reading of an Ordinance to provide the FY 2011-2012 Tax Levy. Mayor Halfacre stated that the Town has not had a millage increase in 25 years. Town Administrator Poole responded that millage had actually been decreased twice. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. **Employee Insurance Plan Option:** It was suggested that Town Council consider a stipend, or increase in pay for employees who elect not to participate in the Town employee insurance program. This practice is not uncommon in private companies or public employers, and it can be enacted for Town employees by approval of a policy change. The Mayor and Town Council members may also participate in the employee insurance plan. If the procedure is intended to apply to Town Council members, there must be a corresponding ordinance passed to address the potential increase in Council members' pay. (Draft ordinance attached.)

A motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis for the approval of policy and First Reading of revisions to the Employee Insurance Plan as stated. The motion was unanimously carried.

4. **Issuance of General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note:** The General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (G.O. BANs) issued in June 2010 that was used to finance the acquisition of property for surface parking for the Downtown area needs to be refunded. The attached resolution authorizes the issuance of \$1,560,000 in G.O. BANs. The BAN would be for a one-year term and interest will accrue and be rolled into a refund BAN or the permanent G.O. Bond issuance; therefore, the issuance of the BAN will not directly impact the 2012 Budget.

A motion was made by Councilmember Stambolitis and seconded by Councilmember Thompson to approve the resolution to issue General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes not to exceed \$1,560,000.

5. **Amazon.com Resolution:** Mayor Halfacre wished to introduce a resolution for Council's approval showing support for the sales tax collection exemption which would bring an Amazon.com distribution center to Lexington County. (Copy of Resolution attached.)

A motion was made by Mayor Halfacre and seconded by Councilmember Frazier to approve the Amazon.com resolution as submitted. Mayor Halfacre gave a brief summary of the recent proceedings in the SC House of Representatives. He encouraged everyone to come to the State House to show support if they were in favor of Amazon.com coming to Lexington County. Mayor Halfacre stated that South Carolina was lucky to be given

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a “second bite at the apple” with Amazon. He added that national corporations and big box companies want to discourage Amazon.com from locating to Lexington County. Mayor Halfacre stated that citizens were still going to order from Amazon whether it was here or somewhere else. He added that the Governor had taken herself out of the debate. He encouraged everyone to call their State Representative and let them know that you support 1,250 jobs coming to South Carolina with a \$60 million payroll. The motion to approve the resolution in support of Amazon.com was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

QUESTIONS FROM THE NEWS MEDIA

Ms. Vickie Shealy, Lexington County Chronicle, asked if employees would receive a 3% cost of living increase this year. Mayor Halfacre responded, yes. Ms. Shealy asked for the current millage figure. Finance Director Roberts stated that the millage rate is currently 35.14. Ms. Shealy asked if Council Members could participate in the Employee Insurance Plan Option and if they could, would it be an increase in pay for them. Town Administrator Poole responded that the proposal was reviewed by the attorney and it does mean a salary increase. He added that the proposal was worded so that all employees could take advantage of the office.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Councilmember Maness and seconded by Councilmember Stambolitis to adjourn Council’s Special meeting and reconvene to the Council Work Session.

The Special Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky P. Hildebrand, CMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

T. Randall Halfacre
Mayor