

MINUTES

The Lexington City Council held its regular meeting in the courtroom of the Lexington -Rockbridge Joint Facility on March 3, 2005.

PRESIDING: T. P. Golden, Vice Mayor

OFFICERS: T.J. Ellestad, City Manager
L.A. Mann, City Attorney
C. Irby, Asst. City Clerk

MEMBERS:

J. H. Page
J. E. Gianniny
L. W. Broomall
R. W. Smith
M.M. Elrod

ABSENT: J.W. Knapp, Mayor

There were 10 people present.

REGULAR MEETING

Councilman Golden called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and Councilman Smith delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Broomall made the following corrections:

On page 4, line 4, the figure \$10,00 should be corrected to read \$10,000.

Page 4, under the Finance Committee report, the second paragraph should read, "Councilman Broomall explained changes incorporated in Resolution 2004-3B and moved *on behalf of the committee* that ...".

On pages 6 and 7, Chuck Ray's name should be corrected to *Wray*.

Councilwoman Elrod made the following correction:

On page 5, under the Mayor's report, the second sentence should be clarified so as to distinguish it from legislation pertaining to the Horse Center. It should read "*Also, Senate Bill 10-12 ...*". The fourth sentence should be corrected to read, "The Bill states that, for the purpose of a courthouse location, contiguity ..."

Councilman Gianniny moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Councilman Smith seconded and the following vote was recorded:

T.P. Golden	Aye	R.W. Smith	Aye
J.H. Page	Aye	J.E. Gianniny	Aye
L.W. Broomall	Aye	M.M. Elrod	Aye

The motion carried.

CITIZENS' REMARKS AND COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

City Council Committees

FINANCE COMMITTEE - No report

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilman Gianniny reported that the committee met March 1, 2005 to review the proposal to construct an indoor city swimming pool and a request from VMI to fund a portion of the North Main Street storm water project.

Leslie Ayers and Kathy Webb met with the committee to discuss where the group stood in fundraising efforts. Councilman Gianniny, on behalf of the committee's recommendation, moved that city council allow a pool to be built next to the current swimming pool. The following vote was recorded:

T.P. Golden	Aye	R.W. Smith	Aye
J.H. Page	Aye	J.E. Gianniny	Aye
L.W. Broomall	Aye	M.M. Elrod	Aye

The motion carried.

Councilman Gianniny added that the committee addressed the issues of who will operate the pool when built, who will assume the financial risk, and if the city is willing to make a capital donation toward the construction. The committee has asked the city manager to investigate the possibility of sharing costs with the county, possibly under the joint services agreement. The committee considered what types of in kind donations could be made in terms of construction and to incorporate a possible capital donation of a maximum \$50,000 over a five year period, to include the in kind donation. It was recommended that be done in the regular budget cycle.

Councilman Gianniny reported that VMI is doing a major storm water upgrade. The city had asked VMI to obtain a price to have the contractor install the city sanitary sewer line while upgrading their system.

The cost was estimated at \$248,000. Mr. Woody reviewed a possible plan to upgrade that line at a cost of approximately \$95,000. The committee felt this was the best route to pursue. Additionally, VMI has requested that the city absorb the cost of burying utility lines in conjunction with this project at a cost of \$504,000. The committee felt that it was cost prohibitive, but would like to encourage VMI to do it. If they choose to do that, the city would look at burying the lines from the end of VMI Buildings and Grounds to Jordan's Point.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Elrod reported that the committee met earlier this evening to review a request from the Historic Lexington Foundation and the comments on the proposed RAEDC by-laws changes. HLF has requested support in completing an inventory of the Lexington Historic District. The estimated cost would be \$15,000. Matching funds have been made available from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in the amount of \$7,000 to \$8,000. Councilwoman Elrod moved, on behalf of the committee, that the city provide the matching funds, up to \$8,000, which will come from the City's contingency account. The following vote was recorded:

ROLL CALL

T.P. Golden	Aye	R.W. Smith	Aye
J.H. Page	Aye	J.E. Gianniny	Aye
L.W. Broomall	Aye	M.M. Elrod	Aye

The motion carried.

Secondly, they considered the changes in the RAEDC by-laws, in Article 1 and Article 3. The committee agreed with the changes and they will now go back to RAEDC.

Boards and Commissions

PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilman Smith reported that the commission met on February 24, 2005 to work on the Comprehensive Plan. They reviewed goals and objectives, particularly the issue of affordable housing.

Councilman Smith moved that council endorse the South Lexington Joint Planning Committee Final Report, dated December 15, 2004. Councilman Gianniny seconded and the following vote was recorded:

T.P. Golden	Aye	R.W. Smith	Aye
J.H. Page	Aye	J.E. Gianniny	Aye
L.W. Broomall	Aye	M.M. Elrod	Aye

The motion carried.

Bill Blatter appeared before council to request adoption of Resolution 05-02, authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Recreational Trails Fund. Councilman Gianniny moved that the resolution be adopted and Councilman Broomall seconded. The following vote was recorded:

T.P. Golden	Aye	R.W. Smith	Aye
J.H. Page	Aye	J.E. Gianniny	Aye
L.W. Broomall	Aye	M.M. Elrod	Aye

The motion carried.

Resolution 05 -02

RESOLUTION

**Authorizing an Application to the
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Recreational Trails Fund
for a Grant to Construct the Maury River Pedestrian and Recreation Bridge**

WHEREAS, financial assistance is available to units of local government from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Conservation and Recreation through the Recreational Trails Fund; and

WHEREAS, in order to avail itself of such financial assistance, it is necessary for the City of Lexington to submit an application for a grant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lexington, in cooperation with Rockbridge County, Washington and Lee University, Virginia Military Institute and the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council, have developed plans to construct a pedestrian bridge across the Maury River to connect the Woods Creek and Chessie Trails; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lexington has secured additional funding of \$465,000 for this purpose;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Lexington, Virginia, in regular session assembled the 3rd day of March 2005, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute and file all appropriate documents on behalf of the City for a grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Recreational Trails Fund in the amount of \$75,000 to provide the remaining funding needed for this project, and to provide such additional information as may be requested and/or required by the funding agency.

Adopted this day: _____

Timothy Golden, Vice Mayor

Deborah Desjardins, Clerk of Council

RAEDC

Councilman Golden reported that RAEDC will meet Tuesday, March 8, 2005 to review the changes to its bylaws.

CENTRAL SHENANDOAH PLANNING DISTRICT - No report

ROCKBRIDGE REGIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

City Manager Ellestad reported that the renovation of the old gas company is complete and the board should be in the building by the middle of the March. They are moving aggressively on new construction as well.

MAYOR

Vice Mayor Golden thanked all who were able to attend the meeting of the Board of Supervisors and various committee meetings.

CITY MANAGER

Consideration of a request from the Virginia Commission of Arts for a \$5,000 grant

City Manager Ellestad explained that it is a \$10,000 grant, of which \$5,000 from the city is matched by the State. \$7,000 is given to Lime Kiln Arts and \$3,000 to Fine Arts in Rockbridge. Councilman moved that the request be approved. Councilwoman Elrod seconded and the following vote was recorded:

T.P. Golden	Aye	R.W. Smith	Aye
J.H. Page	Aye	J.E. Gianniny	Aye
L.W. Broomall	Aye	M.M. Elrod	Aye

The motion carried.

A meeting was scheduled for March 14, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. to review the next chapters of the city code.

City Manager Ellestad reported that a meeting was held on March 2, 2005. Members of the county met with City Manager Ellestad; architect Chuck Wray; Tom Kastner, representing the APVA; George Warren, representing the Rockbridge Historical Society; Reed Belden, representing the Historic Lexington Foundation; and Fred Kirchner, representing the ARB. A flow chart showing lines of authority

was presented. Tom Higgins will be the key figure in overseeing the courthouse project from the county's prospective. It was established that a peer group would be working collaboratively with the architect to develop the exterior design of the building. The peer group will have direct access to Tom Higgins, and the Board of Supervisors. It was also established the peer group should be a small, appointed working group, from the local community.

Councilman Smith questioned if the ARB would be open to the public. He was told that those meetings would be, but the peer review would be private.

CITY ATTORNEY - No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Gianniny thanked the Department of Public Works for their work during the last snow storm as well as improvements to the sidewalks. He also thanked the Fire Department for its work during the recent fire on Jackson Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.