

MINUTES

The Lexington City Council held its regular meeting in the Rockbridge Court Facility on August 3, 2006.

PRESIDING: John W. Knapp

OFFICERS: T. Jon Ellestad, City
Manager
L. A. Mann, City Attorney
S. Edwards, Clerk

MEMBERS: L. W. Broomall
J. H. Page
J. E. Gianniny
T. P. Golden
R. W. Smith

ABSENT: M. M. Elrod

There were five people present.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Knapp called the meeting to order and delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Broomall made the motion that the minutes of the July 20, 2006 meeting be approved. Councilman Page seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

CITIZENS' REMARKS AND COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Faith Vosburgh, President of LDDA, read the following prepared statement:

**PROPOSED LDDA/LEXINGTON ROCKBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PARTNERSHIP**

City Council Remarks
8/3/06

As of Wednesday, August 2, 2006, we, the Board of Directors of the Lexington Downtown Development Association unanimously voted to dissolve the organization as of August 31, 2006, and to give up its non-profit 501 (c) (3) status. We would propose, with agreement from the Lexington Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lexington that the LDDA, in its new guise as yet unnamed, enter into a management agreement with the Lexington Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce.

This does mean that we would give up our designated Main Street status. However we would still maintain our ties with the Main Street program by becoming a Main Street DHCD Commercial District affiliate. As an affiliate we would have access to training and technical assistance. Through the years we have gained a great deal of knowledge and expertise from the Main Street program and the more recent OCCB grant. We will not let that expertise go to waste. In point of fact, the work we have done with OCCB for the last two years has led to a very detailed strategic plan which will be very useful in our proposed partnership with the Chamber.

LDDA is currently assessing its financials and cleaning house—literally. So far this year, LDDA's operating expenses, discounting salaries, have been close to \$20,000. A consolidation with the Chamber would mean shared assets and facilities. There would be one office, one website, one phone system. The insurance right now on the Wachovia LDDA office is close to \$4,000 a year.

How would this partnership work?

The current LDDA Board of Directors would become a steering committee under the umbrella of the Chamber. The new committee's sole purpose would, in fact, be very similar to LDDA's goal—to ensure the long-term viability of downtown Lexington. To accomplish this goal, a full-time director would be hired with \$30,000 of the city's funding of the \$40,000 earmarked for LDDA. Under the steering committee would be two working committees: Economic Development and Promotions/Retail Development. Both would play vital roles in downtown. The Economic Development Committee would work to strengthen downtown Lexington's economic assets and to fulfill its broadest market potential. We would like to see a new market analysis take place to replace the Blount-Hunter analysis of 1999. We need to create some economic benchmarks to be able to measure downtown's health from year to year. We need to market downtown, to encourage new businesses to fill empty storefronts. The Promotions/Retail Development Committee would play just as important a role and goes hand-in-hand with Economic Development. The Promotions Committee would concentrate on marketing downtown. We'd like to put together an informative and professional media package that could be used to market Lexington. We'd like to reach out to communities within a two hour radius through various media including television and encourage them to spend their dollars in Lexington. The Promotions/Economic Development Committee would also continue to promote downtown locally with events such as the annual Sidewalk Sales or the upcoming Tax Holiday week-end. We would like to establish a big signature event that would draw support from all facets of the community and help create an excitement about visiting, living and/or running a

business in downtown Lexington. There are lots and lots of ideas, and now I think, a great deal of enthusiasm to accomplish these ideas. The past is behind us; we look forward to the future and an even more exciting and vibrant downtown.

We feel it is in the city's best interests to support this enterprise and hope you will agree. We also feel it is imperative to move forward as quickly as possible. Retailer's busiest season is quickly approaching and before we know it, Christmas will be here. We'd like this Christmas season to be the best Lexington has ever seen, an affirmation of what greater communication, cooperation and partnerships can accomplish.

Upon motion by Councilman Broomall, seconded by Councilman Gianniny, it was recommended that Council support the Proposed LDDA/Lexington Rockbridge Chamber of Commerce Partnership as presented by Faith Vosburgh. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

Several members of Council again stated that Council does support this operation and wishes to serve and contribute in any way that they can to the success of the new venture. Councilman Broomall who serves as President of the Chamber of Commerce will report back to Council at the end of September as to the progress of this group and propose ways that Council can contribute to this group.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

City Council Committees

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Broomall reported that this Committee had not met.

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilman Gianniny reported that this Committee met prior to the Council meeting. There were three items on the agenda.

1. Parking for Chavis Historical Marker
2. Parking on West Washington Street
3. Jackson Avenue Sidewalk extension

The Committee made the motion that the City designate a parking space be marked on

Washington Street for the Chavis marker. The Committee did ask Council to research the Code for this space as to how it could be enforced. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

The second item discussed was parking on West Washington Street. The Committee made the motion that the City change the parking on Washington Street from Jefferson Street to Lee Avenue to a one hour limit on both sides of the street. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

The third item discussed was the proposed sidewalk extension on Jackson Avenue. The Committee made the motion to extend the sidewalk only twelve feet past Ross Lane and do a cross walk at that point. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Elrod was absent and there was no report.

Boards and Commissions

PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilman Smith reported that the Planning Commission did meet and under the direction of Chairman Taylor Sanders they reviewed the Bylaws.

Councilman Smith also reminded Council that an appointment needs to be made to this Commission.

RAEDC

Consideration of Resolution 2006-08 reconstituting the Rockbridge Partnership

Dave Kleppinger, Executive Director of RAEDC, reviewed the documents with Council that had been distributed to them pertaining to Resolution 2006-08. These series of documents disbands RAEDC and creates a new Rockbridge Partnership between Lexington and Rockbridge County.

Councilman Golden made the motion to approve Resolution 2006-08. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gianniny. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

Councilman Golden made the motion that the Bylaws as presented for the new Rockbridge Partnership be adopted. Councilman Gianniny seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

Councilman Golden made the motion that the Roster of Members be approved. They are as listed:

Jim Gianniny	Term Expiration Date:
Tim Golden	June, 2008
Jane Ellington	June, 2007
	June, 2009

Councilman Gianniny seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

Councilman Golden made the motion to adopt the revised budget as presented. He further stated that the transfer of any current funds held by RAEDC would transfer to the newly created Rockbridge Partnership. Councilman Gianniny seconded the motion. The following

vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

Dave Kleppinger also reported to Council that the Regional IDA Park had been sold and that the City should be receiving a check for their share by next week.

CENTRAL SHENANDOAH PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Mayor Knapp had no report.

REGIONAL TOURISM BOARD

Councilman Page reported that this Board had not met. Councilman Page did report that the information on the Regional Motorcycle Tour was released this week and was well received.

MAYOR

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Upon motion of Councilman Gianniny, seconded by Councilman Broomall the following individuals were reappointed to serve a two year term on the Cemetery Advisory Board.

Rose Gordon
Tom Litzenburg
Leroy Watts

The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

CITY MANAGER

Approval of the 2006/2007 Volunteer Fire Department officers

Upon motion of Councilman Gianniny, seconded by Councilman Page, the following officers were recommended for approval for the Volunteer Fire Department.

- Chief - David Clark
- 1st Assistant Chief - Chad Conner
- 2nd Assistant Chief - Jimmy Swink
- 1st Lieutenant - Bill Rowsey, Sr.
- 2nd Lieutenant - Chris Leslie
- Chief of Fire Police - Charlie Conner
- Chief Engineer - Ronnie Williams
- Secretary - Jeff Conner
- Treasurer - Ben Campbell
- Chaplin - Arthur Wallace

The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

Mayor Knapp also reminded the Council members of the next Intergovernmental Dinner to be held August 15th at 6:00 pm at the Virginia Horse Center. Councilman Page indicated that he would not be able to attend.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Mann reported that the County submitted the Sils courthouse plan to Ford Stephens, the attorney for the Commonwealth. Ford Stephens replied that he may not be able to respond before the 18th of August.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

