

MINUTES

The Lexington City Council held its regular meeting in the Regional Court Facility on February 16, 2006.

PRESIDING: J. W. Knapp

OFFICERS: T. Jon Ellestad, City
Manager
S. Edwards, Clerk

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

ABSENT: M. M. Elrod
L. A. Mann, City Attorney

There were eleven people present.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Knapp called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm and Councilman Broomall delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Broomall, seconded by Councilman Golden, the minutes of the February 2, 2006 meeting were approved. 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 passed.

Upon motion of Councilman Gianniny, seconded by Councilman Smith, the minutes of the February 9, 2006 special meeting were approved. 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 passed.

CITIZENS' REMARKS AND COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Lisa Tracy, 1 Pendleton Place, addressed Council as a representative of RACC. She reviewed with Council the response from RACC to VDOT's draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for improving the I-81 corridor. A copy of this review was distributed to Council. She did make Council aware that there is a proposed Resolution included in this material and has asked for Council to review and consider this Resolution.

Annette John, 8 Edmondson Avenue, spoke to Council as a representative of Lexington serving on the Rockbridge Regional Library Board. She indicated that the library budget request for funding had been submitted to the City Manager and was requesting that Council approve full funding for their request.

Peter Sils, 108 W. Preston Street, addressed Council on the proposed Courthouse project. He expressed his feeling that Council should consider the "design/build" solution to the project.

Peter Hansen, 605 Marshall Street, read a prepared statement done by himself and his wife Majorie Hansen concerning the courthouse project. They feel that Peter Sils is offering a viable and attractive solution for this project. They urge Council to consider Mr. Sils' plan carefully.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

City Council Committees

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Broomall reported that the Finance Committee met at 7:30 pm prior to this Council meeting to review the Second Quarter Financial Report. It appears that no budget amendment is forthcoming; however, it is likely that one may be coming forward in the fourth quarter. Monty Higgins, City Finance Director, met with Council at this meeting and reviewed the report with them.

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilman Gianniny reported that this committee had not met but noted that the new traffic light at the intersection on Washington Street has been installed and is scheduled to be operating on February 27th.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Elrod was not present at this meeting but it was reported that this committee had not met.

Boards and Commissions

PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilman Smith reported that the Planning Commission had met. At a previous meeting of Council he had discussed a Conditional Use Permit concerning an additional stealth chimney at the Robert E. Lee building to hide an additional telecommunications antenna. Apparently this group went before ARB and ARB put a hold on this request so no action was taken.

Councilman Smith also reviewed the projects that are currently taking place at Summit Square. The building that originally was a bank building and that recently has been used for various other businesses is now returning as the site for the Community Bank and their requested site plan was approved. A guard rail for the north side of the DMV building was also approved. He also noted that there had been two vacant spaces in this development but they have been leased and the signs were approved for both business.

Councilman Smith also stated that the land use chapter will be ready for public comment shortly.

RAEDC

Councilman Golden reported that this group met on February 15th. Unemployment figures were given as follows:

Buena Vista	2.9%
City of Lexington	3.4%
Rockbridge County	2.6%

This compares with the State average of 3% and the national average of 4.6%.

Councilman Golden also noted that Dave Kleppinger had a chart which showed the decrease in manufacturing jobs in Virginia over the past year. It was also noted that Auto Recyclers is going to a closing with Reeves Brothers on the property they will be occupying. Peterbilt got approval from Rockbridge County for the large signage they had requested on I-81 North. He further noted that the sale of Rockbridge Industrial Park property to the City of Buena Vista was discussed. The negotiating team will meet on the 22nd of February. RAEDC's budget was also approved.

Councilman Golden stated that there were three General Assembly issues that RAEDC recommending supporting. They are as follows:

1. A Shenandoah Valley technology mapping project.
2. A request from the Virginia Horse Center asking the State to give them a one-

- time grant of 4.5 million dollars to pay off their original debt.
3. New language for grant wording for industrial development.

It was also noted that RAEDC will be holding a retreat on March 4th.

CENTRAL SHENANDOAH PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Mayor Knapp reported that this Commission had met and that the current director, W. H. Strider has submitted his resignation as the Executive Director. A search will begin for his replacement.

ROCKBRIDGE REGIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

No report

REGIONAL TOURISM BOARD

Councilman Page reported that this Board has met. He indicated that the planned Wagon Train tour will probably not be taking place until September because of their continued need for funding. He also noted that the Shenandoah Valley Tourists Association is lobbying in Richmond for \$250,000 under the umbrella of tourism in this area. However, it is not known at this time if any of that money will be distributed down to the various tourism boards in the Shenandoah Valley. In addition to the reports he handed out the new local tourism brochures that are being distributed.

MAYOR

Appointments to Community Services Board and Cemetery Advisory Board

Upon motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Broomall, Ms. Cecily Laub was unanimously appointed to serve an unexpired term on the Community Services Board. 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 passed.

Upon motion of Councilman Golden, seconded by Councilman Gianniny, Rev. R. David Cox was unanimously appointed to fill the unexpired term of Councilwoman Elrod on this Board. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion passed.

No appointment was made to the Cemetery Board.

Mayor Knapp also reported that the County Attorney, Vicki Huffman, is presently working on the wording for the motion concerning the Courthouse that will be submitted to the court.

CITY MANAGER

Discussion of the possible purchase of land adjacent to Brewbaker Field

City Manager Ellestad indicated that there is property on Taylor Street adjoining Brewbaker Field that the City may be interested in purchasing, however, there were no maps available to show this property so the discussion was postponed for another meeting.

City Manager Ellestad also made Council aware that improvements are being planned on the building on Nelson and Randolph that recently housed the Mirage Restaurant. It is felt that a loading zone will be needed in the future and it was the feeling of the City Manager that once the Courthouse project is completed this is something that could be negotiated.

City Manager Ellestad also noted that Rockbridge County will be hosting a meeting on the Joint Services Agreement next Thursday. The Mayor, City Manager and David Woody from Public Works will represent the City at this meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY

No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No report

NEW BUSINESS

No report

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.