

MINUTES

The Lexington City Council held its regular meeting in the Rockbridge Court Facility on July 20, 2006.

PRESIDING: T. P. Golden

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

MEMBERS: J. H. Page
J. E. Gianniny
R. W. Smith
M. M. Elrod

ABSENT: L. W. Broomall
J. W. Knapp

There were five people present.

REGULAR MEETING

Vice Mayor Golden called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Page made the motion that the minutes of the July 6, 2006 meeting be approved. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded.

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

The motion carried.

CITIZENS' REMARKS AND COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

Dabney Stuart, 30 Edmondson Avenue, addressed Council on the construction of the proposed sidewalk on the east side of Jackson Avenue, between Ross Lane and Edmondson Avenue. He indicated to Council that he did not feel that this sidewalk extension was necessary and asked that the project be reconsidered. Councilman Gianniny expressed to Mr. Stuart that the proposed sidewalk was being considered for safety measures and after some discussion it was decided that the City would review this project again and that it would be discussed at a Physical Services Committee meeting. Councilman Gianniny then suggested that the Physical

Services Committee schedule a meeting for August 3, 2006 at 7:00 pm prior to the regular scheduled Council meeting.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

City Council Committees

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Broomall was absent so there was no report from this Committee.

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilman Gianniny indicated that there was no report. He did remind Council that they had scheduled a Committee meeting for August 3, 2006 at 7:00 pm.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Elrod noted that this Committee had met at 7:00 pm this evening. She noted that the Committee did meet with LDDA and heard concerns and suggestions from some downtown businesses. She noted that one suggestion was to combine forces with the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor's Center stating that with greater numbers merchants felt more could be accomplished. She also noted that LDDA will be holding a meeting on July 25th at the LDDA offices and invited Council to attend.

Councilman Gianniny felt that Council needs to continue these discussions because what they had heard from the downtown merchants was a cry for help and that they were operating on a very thin margin.

Boards and Commissions

PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilman Smith reported that Taylor Sanders is the new Chairman of the Planning Commission and that Camille Miller is the Vice Chair. He also noted that this Commission needs to have another member appointed by Council.

Councilman Smith noted that the Spotswood property was discussed and that a public forum about affordable housing will be held on August 31, 2006 at 5:00 pm at City Hall in the Community Meeting Room.

Councilman Smith also talked about the letter from Bill Blatter, Planning Director and indicated that there are sections of the Land Use Chapter that they need to get approved.

RAEDC

Councilman Golden reported that RAEDC needs to reform and that this was discussed at their last meeting. A Resolution and Bylaws, Roster of Members and a draft of the Strategic Plan will have to be adopted. He encouraged Council to carefully review this information when it is distributed to them.

CENTRAL SHENANDOAH PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Mayor Knapp was absent so there was no report.

REGIONAL TOURISM BOARD

Councilman Page reported that he will take the concerns of the downtown businesses to the Tourism Board concerning the promoting of shopping in the downtown area.

MAYOR

Vice Mayor Golden reported that the ARB accepted the Randolph Street plan for the courthouse at their meeting held earlier today. He publically thanked the ARB members for working through the entire courthouse process.

City Manager Ellestad noted that there is a vacant position on the Planning Commission that needs to be filled. It was decided to post a notice about this vacancy and ask anyone with an interest to complete a brief application. Interested candidates will be asked to attend a Council meeting in the near future.

CITY MANAGER

City Manager Ellestad reported that a replacement for John Winfrey on the Social Services Board needs to be made prior to August 31, 2006.

City Manager Ellestad read a letter from Theodore DeLaney, Associate Professor of History at Washington and Lee University, concerning a historical marker for John Chavis that will be erected near the sidewalk on Washington Street in front of Letitia Page Evans Dining Hall on the campus of Washington and Lee University. Once this marker is installed the State requires an adjacent parking space to be designated "Reserved for Historical Marker" and his request is asking the City to mark this parking space for this purpose. After a brief discussion, Council asked Attorney Mann to research information on historical parking spaces before action was taken. This issue will be discussed in the Physical Service Committee meeting on August 3rd.

CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Mann thanked the City Manager and David Woody for working with him on getting the easement into place to have the buoy system installed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Gianniny noted a letter that had been received from Jerry Nay commending Public Works employees Stanley Dudley, Freddie Higgins, Steve Floyd and Danny Johnson for their work with an emergency situation with their sewer system. He requested that the City Manager get back with these workers and let them know that their efforts are appreciated by our citizens.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.