

MINUTES

The Lexington City Council held its regular meeting in the Rockbridge Court Facility on March 2, 2006.

PRESIDING: J. 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
M. M. Elrod

There were sixteen people present.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Knapp called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. He read a Proclamation recognizing Girl Scout Week as March 12 - 18, 2006 which was presented to Girl Scouts Kelsey Vita and Kelsia Reid. This was followed by Councilwoman Elrod delivering the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Councilman Broomall, seconded by Councilman Golden, the minutes of the February 16, 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	Aye

The motion passed.

CITIZENS' REMARKS AND COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

City Council Committees

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilman Broomall reported that the Finance Committee had not met.

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilman Gianniny reported that the Physical Services Committee had not met.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Elrod reported that the Social and Economic Services Committee had not met.

Boards and Commissions

PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilman Smith reported that the Planning Commission had not met.

RAEDC

Councilman Golden reported that RAEDC had not met.

Councilman Gianniny reviewed with Council a prepared document on the Sale of Rockbridge Regional Industrial Park - Buena Vista, to the City of Buena Vista. This document was prepared by the Regional IDA Negotiating Committee on February 27, 2006.

CENTRAL SHENANDOAH PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Mayor Knapp reported that the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission had not met. However, he did note that the Executive Committee of the Commission will be meeting on Monday night to go over the plans for finding a new Executive Director.

ROCKBRIDGE REGIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

No report - A Council member is no longer serving on this Board.

REGIONAL TOURISM BOARD

Councilman Page reported that the Regional Tourism Board had not met.

MAYOR

Appointment to Cemetery Advisory Board

No appointment was made.

Mayor Knapp announced that Jean Clark has been selected to be a part of the second class of the Lead Virginia leadership training program.

Mayor Knapp also reported that he and City Manager Ellestad had attended the first meeting with representatives of the County for the negotiating of the Joint Services Agreement. He and the City Manager both felt that this meeting had gone very well. Items discussed were the Moore's Creek Property, Fire and Rescue and Water and Sewer.

Mayor Knapp also indicated that he recently had been contacted with several action calls from the Virginia Municipal League. These issues consisted of the Wagon Train funding, educational funding and transportation. He further mentioned that he had received a call from Buddy Derrick who is our representative on the Horse Center Board and he would like to come and meet with Council. City Manager Ellestad added that he also had talked with Mr. Derrick and it was suggested that after the legislative session is over a joint meeting will be scheduled with the Board of Supervisors and Council.

Dianne Herrick has represented Lexington on the YMCA Board and they are suggesting that a community roundtable be held to discuss community needs on March 15th at noon at the YMCA Center. The Mayor and City Manager have been asked to attend and they would like to have two representatives from Council there also. Councilman Page and Councilwoman Elrod volunteered to attend this meeting as Council representatives.

The Mayor further noted that he had attended the 6th Annual Brushy Hill Hike.

CITY MANAGER

Discussion of interest in land adjacent to Brewbaker Field

City Manager Ellestad reviewed maps with Council showing several pieces of land on Taylor Street adjacent to Brewbaker Field that the City might have an interest in purchasing. Upon motion of Councilman Golden, seconded by Councilman Gianniny, Council authorized the

City Manager to pursue the possible purchase of these three pieces of property. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

The motion passed.

Discussion of the Route 11/Route 11 Bypass state improvement project

The City Manager reviewed an issue that has come up with the Route 11/Route 11 Bypass project. An old historic fish hatchery is located in an area that had been proposed for use for a bypass ramp coming out from the City. Therefore, the Highway Department has indicated that it may not be possible to utilize this property for the road project. If the City wants to continue to explore this option, VDOT recommends that a Stage Two Environmental Study be done. This study would take approximately six months to do and cost 40-60 thousand dollars. The City's share would be 2% of this cost. After discussion, City Manager Ellestad recommended that the Stage Two Environmental Study on this property be done with the hope that the outcome would be that there would be a workable solution for the use of this property. City Council unanimously agreed to authorize the City Manager to proceed with this study.

Fire Engine Purchase

City Manager Ellestad reviewed a memo that had been given to the Council members concerning the purchase of a new fire engine. Upon motion of Councilman Gianniny, seconded by Councilman Broomall, City Manager Ellestad was given authorization to proceed with the purchase of this fire engine. 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	Aye

The motion carried.

County Fire and Rescue Study

City Manager Ellestad also reported on the Emergency Services (Fire and Rescue) as it pertains to the Joint Services Agreement. He indicated that the County may now be interested in going back and looking at a study of fire and rescue services and thought that could help determine what is each jurisdictions financial responsibilities are and how they can best cooperate to provide these services. The City Manager feels that it would be worth the City's while to say that they might be willing to contribute 25% of the cost of the services provided that the City is involved in the selection of the consultant to do the work and have input into what they should be studying. Councilman Gianniny indicated an interest in inviting Buena Vista to participate in this study. Councilman Page indicated his concern that 25% be the maximum contribution providing that the City has input. Council unanimously gave approval to the City

Manager to negotiate a proposal.

CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney Mann reported that it appears the Judge Martin is sympathetic to the notion that the jurisdictions are coming back for an extension of the time for the courthouse project; however he is not sure as to whether the Judge will attach any conditions on to any given six month extension. The Judge has made it very clear that any plan that comes about as a result of the extension must be clear, firm and contain assured time frames. Councilman Gianniny asked about obtaining recommendations and samples of work from designated architects. Mayor Knapp then made a public appeal to let Council know of any recommendations for architectural firms to be considered for the collaboration. He further stated that this would have to be done in short order and that it should include examples of their work. Councilman Golden also felt that they should communicate with the Architectural Review Board, Historic Lexington Foundation, Peer Review Committee (chaired by Pam Simpson), and the Planning Commission. Councilman Golden also felt that the Main Street site should be mentioned at the meeting with the Judge. Discussion followed with no formal action taken.

Attorney Mann also noted that right-of-ways and easements with VMI should be in final form shortly. He also informed Council that he will be absent at the next regular scheduled Council meeting on March 16th.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

