

MINUTES
LEXINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 25, 2004

Lexington County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2004 in Council Chambers, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Derrick presided; Mr. Rucker gave the invocation; Mr. Keisler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members attending: Bruce E. Rucker William C. Billy Derrick
 Jacob R. Wilkerson Bobby C. Keisler
 Johnny W. Jeffcoat John W. Carrigg, Jr.
 Joseph W. Joe Owens M. Todd Cullum

Not present: * George H. Smokey Davis

* Due to an unexpected emergency, Mr. Davis had to leave but returned prior to Executive Session.

Also attending: Art Brooks, County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Deputy County Administrator; Katherine Doucett, Personnel Director/Deputy County Administrator; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Employee Recognition - Art Brooks, County Administrator - Mr. Brooks recognized several supervisors who graduated from the Supervisory Certification Program through Midlands Technical College. Those recognized were: Charlie Band, Librarian IV, Irmo Library; Deborah Raulerson, Telecommunications Shift Supervisor, Public Safety/Communications; Donna Hendrix, Project Coordinator, Solid Waste Management; Donna Miller, Personnel Manager, Personnel Department; Geoff Johnson, Chief GIS Analyst/Cartographer, Assessor's Office; Joyce Munsch, Zoning Administrator, Community & Economic Development; Sgt. Ken Correll, Telecommunications, Sheriff's Department; and Tammy Smith, Assistant Deputy Treasurer, Treasurer's Office. He stated the employees made a commitment of several months attending Midlands Tec to complete the course.

Resolutions - Free Medical Clinic, Inc., June 2004 as National Homeownership Month, and The Young Mens Christian Association (YMCA) 150th Celebration - Mr. Rucker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the resolutions be adopted.

Mr. Derrick opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor: Mr. Derrick Mr. Rucker

Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Keisler
Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Carrigg
Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Irmo Chapin Recreation District - Mr. Jeffcoat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Carrigg that the resolution for the Irmo Chapin Recreation District be adopted. Mr. Jeffcoat stated this is a resolution whereby Lexington County Council does not object for the Irmo Chapin Recreation District to issue revenue bonds in the amount of 2.4 million dollars for the purpose of purchasing approximately 133 acres of land located at 6071 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, South Carolina. This document is signed by the members of the Lexington County Council for the purpose of expressing that it has no objection to the aforementioned purchase. It is understood that the sale of a portion of the property and/or accommodation of Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission user fees will be used to repay the revenue bonds needed to purchase the property. It is understood by the Lexington County Council that the Commission does not intend to propose any property tax increase for purpose of repaying the bond. It is further understood that the Commission has investigated the site and found no cause to believe there exists any environmental contamination that would harm the public. It is also the understanding of the County Council that if such conditions are found to exist, there is a 5 million dollar legal liability insurance policy which will cover the cost of remediation.

Mr. Derrick opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Wilkerson stated this would be a great benefit to the citizens of Lexington County as this property adjoins Saluda Shoals.

In Favor:	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Appointments - Library Board - Donna J. Bower - A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat, seconded by Mr. Cullum to appoint Ms. Donna Bower to the Library Board.

Mr. Derrick opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens

Bids/Purchases/RFPs - A motion was made by Mr. Cullum, seconded by Mr. Wilkerson that the following bids be approved.

Motorola 800 MHZ Radios and Accessories - Sheriff's Department - Staff recommended the purchase of five (5) Motorola 800 MHZ radios and accessories for the Sheriff's Department directly from Motorola through State Contract Number OIR2002.07. The radios and accessories will be utilized by the additional deputies for Judicial Center security. Total cost including tax is \$25,275.65.

Panasonic Toughbook Laptops and Accessories - Sheriff's Department - Bids were advertised and solicited from qualified vendors for Panasonic Toughbook laptops and accessories for the Sheriff's Department. The laptop computers will be provided to road deputies to electronically submit incident, supplemental and investigative reports to the Sheriff's Department records management data base in real time. The laptop car mounts are required for officer safety so that the laptops will be locked in a stable position. Eight (8) bids and one (1) no bid were received. Staff recommended the purchase of the Panasonic Toughbook laptops to Prosys Information Systems in the amount of \$86,772.00 and all accessories in the amount of \$30,558.08 to USAT Corporation. Total cost including shipping, installation, and tax is \$117,330.08.

Mr. Derrick opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor: Mr. Cullum Mr. Wilkerson
 Mr. Rucker Mr. Keisler
 Mr. Jeffcoat Mr. Carrigg
 Mr. Owens

Opposed: Mr. Derrick

Chairman's Report - Mr. Derrick announced that June is National Employee Safety month and noted the following departments would be receiving Safety Achievement Awards: Fleet Services, Lexington County Sheriff's Department, Central Stores, and Building Services. Mr. Derrick stated Public Works received their award on May 13 during the Backhoe Rodeo.

Administrator's Report - Mr. Brooks announced that DHEC is sponsoring a gas can exchange Saturday, June 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 1300 Bush River Road.

Budget Amendment Resolutions - The following BARs were distributed and signed.

A supplemental appropriation increase of \$40,297 to record the weapons of mass destruction equipment purchased by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and provided to the Lexington County Emergency Management Division. These items were purchased with FY2002 FEMA TCMPA Grant funds.

An appropriation transfer of \$4,000 from the Temporary Alcohol Beverage License fee for enhancements to the park in the Town of Pine Ridge, which is owned by the National Guard.

An appropriation transfer and a supplemental appropriation increase of \$38,500 to appropriate matching funds for the resurfacing of Saluda River Drive which is being accomplished through the federal funds in the SCDOT Rise program.

An appropriation transfer and a supplemental appropriation increase of \$4,347 to transfer funds from the General Fund to cover the additional costs of paying the ADR employee her unemployment compensation when she terminated.

A supplemental appropriation increase of \$135,271 from funds received from the sale of equipment

in the Solid Waste Department.

A supplemental appropriation increase of \$366,000 to appropriate funds received from the SC Department of Transportation which were higher than had been anticipated.

An appropriation transfer and a supplemental appropriation increase of \$45,044 to appropriate funds for an operating transfer from the General Fund to the DHEC EMS Grant-in-Aid fund.

A supplemental appropriation increase of \$2,750 to appropriate funds received from members of the "Friends of the Courthouse" to be used for technology and furniture in the new Judicial Center. This brings the total receipts to \$62,750.

A supplemental appropriation increase of \$25,752 to appropriate additional funds due to an increase in ambulance fee collections that were estimated at \$2,440,218 and in ambulance set-off debt fees that were also estimated at \$256,865 at the beginning of the fiscal year. Total increase is \$252,861 over budget.

Approval of Minutes - Meeting of April 27, 2004 - A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat, seconded by Mr. Keisler that the April 27, 2004 minutes be approved as submitted.

Mr. Derrick opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Ordinances - Ordinance 04-4 - An Ordinance Adopting an Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-05 - 2nd Reading - Mr. Rucker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cullum that Ordinance 04-4 be given second reading.

Mr. Derrick opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens

Ordinance 04-05 - An Ordinance to Establish a System for Receipt of Deposits in Lieu of Recognizance as Allowed by South Carolina Code Section 22-5-530 - 2nd Reading - Mr. Carrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat that Ordinance 04-05 be given second reading.

Mr. Derrick opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Keisler

Mr. Owens

Mr. Cullum

Committee Reports - Public Works, B. Derrick, Chairman - FY2005 Recycling Waste Reduction Grant Application - Solid Waste - On behalf of Mr. Derrick, Mr. Cullum reported during the afternoon committee meeting, members discussed the FY2005 Recycling Waste Reduction Grant application for Solid Waste. The grant in the amount of \$23,612 with no matching funds is for the construction of a concrete pad at the proposed Red Bank collection station.

Mr. Cullum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve the FY2005 Recycling Waste Reduction Grant application.

Mr. Derrick opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Cullum
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Wilkerson	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens

Old Business/New Business - Bids/Purchases/RFPS - Vote to Formally Approve - Server Software - Information Services, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Facepieces - Sole Source - Public Safety/Emergency Management, WebEOC Software Acquisition - Sole Source - Public Safety/Emergency Management, Scanning for 1989 Orthophotography - Sole Source - Planning & GIS, Reclaiming & Soil Cementing Existing Surface of a Portion of Stoney Pointe Drive - Public Works, and Woodrow Street & Wellness Parkway - Public Works - Mr. Rucker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to ratify the aforementioned bids/purchases/RFPs from the meeting of May 11, 2004.

Mr. Derrick opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Rucker
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Presentation - Mr. Buddy Bonner, 1774 Nazareth Road, Lexington, SC 29073 and Mr. Jerry Ferguson, 1778 Nazareth Road, Lexington, SC 29073 - Run-off from the Long Pond Subdivision - Messrs. Bonner and Ferguson postponed their presentation until June 15, 2004.

Executive Session/Legal Briefing - A motion was made by Mr. Wilkerson, seconded by Mr. Rucker to go into Executive Session to receive the legal briefing and to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

In Favor:	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Wilkerson
	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Cullum

Mr. Carrigg left early due to a prior commitment.

* Mr. Davis arrived prior to the beginning of Executive Session.

Mr. Davis reconvened the meeting in open session.

6:00 P.M. - Public Hearings - Ordinance 04-4 - An Ordinance Adopting an Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-05.

Mr. Davis announced that no one signed up in opposition of the FY 2004-05 budget.

Prior to the public hearing, Mr. Davis read the guidelines for participation.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for comments from the public.

Mr. James B. Ellisor, 736 Beaver Creek Road, Swansea, SC 29160 - Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Council, I appreciate the opportunity to speak here this afternoon. I appreciate you honoring me last month for my service on the Lexington County Health Services District Board of Directors. It was indeed a pleasure for me to serve.

I am concerned about the library system in Lexington County, especially being from the Horse's Neck/Sandy Run/Swansea area of the county. It took some hard work by a lot of people, many of whom are here in the back of the room who are considered "Friends of the Library," who have spent years trying to build a small library in the Swansea community. It would be a travesty if the level of funding was reduced for this library and certainly for all libraries in Lexington County. The hearts and minds and the aspirations of the people of Lexington County are an utmost concern for all of us, and I'm certain you share that concern, especially the young people who use the library facilities on a day-to-day basis. Right now all of the libraries have implemented a summer reading program and the children are coming to the libraries for the services that they can find only in these locations. Many people depend upon these facilities for the use of computers; not everybody is fortunate enough to own a computer in their home. They go to these facilities to use the computers, read newspapers, read magazines, for research, and school projects. To take away this or to reduce this for the people of our county, in my opinion, is a step backwards for Lexington County. Lexington County is up and coming and progressive, and I hope that we will continue to see it that way and move forward. Hopefully in the years to come and the months to come, you can find funds not only to stay at the level that we are now, but to increase the funding for the library system in Lexington County. Even, in my opinion, if we had to add some taxes which nobody really wants to do. We are not overtaxed in Lexington County. Of course, you have people who come into this meeting who say that we are overtaxed. But, in order to provide goods and services to the people of our county, it takes money. I certainly would be willing to pay more money in taxes each year to improve our library service. All of my children are grown and gone, but I do have a grandson who just came to live with me and he enjoys using these services, and I would hate to see them taken away. My time is up and I appreciate you hearing from me. It is a pleasure to see all of you.

Mr. Daniel MacNeill, Lexington County Public Library, 5440 Augusta Road, Lexington, SC 29072 - Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Dan MacNeill, Director of the Lexington County Library system. I only want to do two things, (1) is to give a recap of why we are here with our operating

budget and (2) to clarify any questions there are with the specific numbers in our operating budget. Briefly, as you know, when we opened all our new buildings as a result of the bond project that Council passed in 1994, in particularly the three large ones that went online in 1997 and 1998, there was no additional funding provided for that in regard to additional millage. We were allowed to use our excess fund balance to pay for the additional level of staffing and utilities, etc. We tripled the square footage of our buildings countywide. We have been using that money to pay for that increase in our budget and, of course, that stays with us each year. We have stretched that money out for seven years now, and at the end of this fiscal year we will have approximately \$100,000 of excess money left, which is not enough to fund us at the level that we are at this year. We have been using approximately \$300,000 a year out of our excess fund balance, although in some years it has been higher when there has been an increase in insurance premiums. We are at the point where there is about \$100,000 left and that is not enough to keep us where we are right now. The result would be if nothing occurred and we stayed at our current level, we would have to make some drastic cuts in our staffing and services.

The other thing I want to clarify is the actual shortfall in the budget even though our millage is slated to bring in \$3,717,084. We also provide funding through book fines, photocopy fees, etc. The deficiency is a total of \$518,063. I just wanted to clarify that is exactly what we are short from what our millage would bring in. Are there any questions?

Mr. Derrick asked how much of the \$518,063 is for operations and new material.

Mr. MacNeill replied, of operations \$318,000. The budget the Library Board recommended to Council had an additional \$200,000 for the books and material budget because that budget has been so heavily drained, not just from state money but also because we have reduced our local spending on that in an effort to try let the fund balance use it as long as we could. So this is an effort to get us back to where we were several years ago.

Mr. Derrick asked if the \$200,000 is all the money that is set aside for publications, books, etc. or if that is just in addition.

Mr. MacNeill replied, that's an additional amount that the Board recommended.

Mr. Derrick asked how much is the total expenditure for publications, books, etc.

Mr. MacNeill replied, \$545,000 local money for books and audio visual materials.

Mr. Jeffcoat asked if the state funding the library receives is at the same level as it was last year (2003) and the year before (2002).

Mr. MacNeill replied, there is good news and bad news. He stated we got additional lottery money, which through this year we have only been allowed to use for technology purposes such as computers, software, and so forth. The Legislature increased money statewide to \$2.9 million from \$1.5. That will give us a total of \$156,142 in lottery money. Also, an additional \$50,000 per county was passed by the Legislature from lottery money, so that is a total of \$206,142. They also said that we could use up to 50 percent of the lottery money for books and materials. That is something new in next year's budget. That means that we could use \$103,071 for books out of lottery money. On

the negative side, the regular state aid which we receive, not the lottery, they reduced from \$1.00 per capita to \$.82 per capita. So that reduced our state aid by \$38,882, therefore, the net between that reduction and the gain in the lottery money for books is \$64,189.

Mr. Jeffcoat asked how that compares with last year and the year before.

Mr. MacNeill stated the total state and local money for books and materials for next year would be \$708,889, that's more than we are getting this year but less than we got in fiscal 2002/03. He stated the trend is going back up again so the combination of the local money the Board requested and recommended plus the additional state money does put us back going toward the high point. He stated the high point was reached in fiscal year 2001/02, and we still would be \$127,199 below that year, but we are now going the right way.

Mr. Cullum asked how much money does the library system need to stay solvent in order to operate at the same level of operation.

Mr. MacNeill replied, the budget that the Board recommended would do that.

Mr. Cullum stated he understood during a previous committee meeting there was a \$200,000 shortfall. However, during this discussion he is hearing figures of \$518,000, \$545,000, etc. and asked Mr. MacNeill what funding is needed to stay at the exact level of our present budget cycle.

Mr. MacNeill replied, the budget the Board recommended to him would maintain the level of service that we are providing.

Mr. Cullum asked, what number is that?

Mr. MacNeill replied, \$518,000.

Mr. Cullum stated \$318,000 is for operational and \$200,000 is for new material.

Mr. MacNeill replied, that's correct.

Mr. Cullum stated out of the \$200,000 for materials you now have, there is \$103,000 that you can use toward that.

Mr. MacNeill replied, out of the lottery is \$103,000 for new publications and materials. But the regular state aid, which is also used for books, was reduced. Therefore, the net amount is \$64,189 more from the state than we had this year.

Mr. Cullum stated it was brought up previously by Mr. Derrick during the Library's presentation to the committee that the County could possibly find a third of a mil to keep the system solvent (\$200,000) but now is hearing \$518,000.

Mr. Derrick stated that was the reason for his previous question. Mr. Derrick said he understood from Mr. MacNeill that it would be \$518,000 if the County goes back to the Board's recommendation but the actual needs to keep personnel in place to operate the system is \$318,000.

Mr. Cullum stated that was the figure he was looking for; the dollar figure to keep us where we are today.

Mr. MacNeill replied, \$318,000 but we would not be able to buy as many books as we are buying this year.

Mr. Rucker stated public hearings are used to gather information and not to debate the budget and asked that Council continue with gathering of information.

Mr. Adrian Polit, 420 White Avenue, West Columbia, SC 29169 - I am not sure that I understand any better than you what the actual budget issue is, but I know my general feelings on it. I know you have to deal with those issues, but before you consider anything that might cut the current operating level of the library, I would hope that you know a couple of things about how useful we find it and I will just speak from my personal experience.

In addition to using it, I heard someone say that the per capita cost per person is something like \$20.00 a head per year, please correct me if I'm wrong. But if that is even close, from my own point of view, I would consider that an excellent bargain because I use the library all the time. I am in the library reading books that otherwise I simply could not afford to buy or wouldn't have access to.

I want to bring up another angle that you might not have considered. Two years ago, I was out of a job and I had to go through a very intensive process to find another one and at that time the library was indispensable. I was there almost every day for two weeks because I did not have a newspaper subscription or a computer. I was unable to process a resume or search the internet nor did I have convenient office space to make copies, etc. I would ask that you keep something like that in mind especially in these hard economic times. The library is a huge resource for people who basically do not have a home office and at the time I did not. It would have been a great struggle for me if I could not have gone to the library. The work I did often times resulted in my having to visit the library during weekend and evening hours which would be the first to go if the library budget had to be cut. Thank you for listening to my thoughts.

Mr. Clare Hodge, Coordinator, Parenting Family Literacy of the Lexington School District One - I just want to share with you a unique service that we have through the library as money gets more difficult in these economic times. As you look for grant money, we operate solely on grant money and have since 1989, one of the things you have to do is collaborate with other resources and agencies and we have done that with the library. The library can write grants for us but only the library. We cut resources, we cut personnel who may be able to write those grants. Being a family literacy program, books are so important to our program. We provide board books in English and Spanish to all the families we have beginning at birth. If you have had a child or grandchild born at Lexington Medical Center, you received a newborn baby bag that was packed by us with a board book. Also, our program is for parents with children from birth to five years old and helping those families learn how to read and make literacy an important part of their program. All this is provided by grants through the Lexington County Library system. So when you think about adequate funding for the library, if we don't fund them adequately, you are hurting other programs; our program with Lexington One and the programs we do with our parents and the hospital.

Fremont Huggins, 108 Huggins Street, Lexington, SC 29073 - Mr. Chairman and Council we

came to you three years ago and pointed out that we were headed for a crisis; we are now at that point. We have submitted to you a budget that still does not bring us up to par. If you approve the budget as is, we will still be operating close to the 2001 level. With the library budget submitted there are no new programs. We are not trying to increase any programs but trying to bring our level of service close to where we are now. We are still going to be a couple of years behind but we are still not providing current books on technology and other areas that people need. We are asking that you approve our budget as submitted and give us a one mil increase, which is not going to solve all of our problems but it will certainly help bring us from 2001 to 2004/05. State aid went from \$2.00 per capita in 2001 to \$.82 per capita. That puts us back around the 1970/71 level, and I know that it is all because of hard times. We have been going backwards now for about four years in the library system. We have off-set that a little bit because we had a fund balance that we could use. That fund balance is now used up. You asked us to bring to you what we would have to do in order to take care of the library if there was no money provided and we brought to you a plan that would do that. And what it is going to do, it is going to cause 19 people to lose their jobs. The bookmobile will be taken off the road. If the bookmobile was looked upon as our tenth library and put in the proper place within the library according to circulation, it would be number five. So we have the equivalent of another library that we are going to lose. So we ask you to give us this budget approved as submitted with a one mil increase. We will certainly do as we have done in the past; we will handle this money very wisely as there is no waste in this budget. Thank you.

Ms. Maria Amoyo, 112 Baypines Court, Lexington, SC 29072 - I just want to tell you that I came to this country ten years ago with little English. The library gave me the opportunity for learning English and become a very active member of this community. Not only help for myself but my family. It is a place to go as a family. We never miss the story time and the summer reading club. I want to tell you that the Lexington Public Library is the best resource that you can provide to a community. I ask you to approve the budget that the Board of Trustees presented to you. You will not regret it because the service that the library is providing is just great for me personally and for my family. We have enough wars to show our gratitude because I wouldn't be here talking in English because English is not my first language. Thank you very much.

Ms. Karen Helland, 430 Stamford Bridge Road, Columbia, SC 29212 - I have come a couple of times looking for things from the library. The library provides services. It is services that make a library work. You can put all the materials you want in there, which you aren't doing but you can, but you still need people to provide these materials for the clientele. Another aspect is that we have a large community of homeschoolers and the library is their school library. We have all age groups who use this library at different times. We do not need housewife hours for the library because it is not just housewives that are using it. Cutting staff - we have volunteers now who are supplementing the staff by shelving, calling in reserves, etc. You would probably need about two people in every library if not for the volunteers. I am the treasurer of the friends group at the Irmo branch library and I know we have supplemented the Irmo library in volunteer time, in finances, and in many, many more ways. We should not have to be paying utility bills, staff salaries, or for the library to stay open longer. That is my responsibility as a taxpayer to do that. Thank you so very much for listening.

Mr. Van Wilson, 131 Shady Oak Drive, Lexington, SC 29073 - My interest in the library began when I started going there four or five years ago. I didn't know anything about a computer. I didn't even know how to turn one on. But through the staff, the people at the library, I have learned to use

a computer and the internet from dead zero. My interest is trying to get the budget passed so the library can offer more advanced classes for beginners in computers because, as far as I know, there is not another organization in Lexington County. We have to go to Richland County or go through Midlands Tec, and I would like to see that brought to Lexington County through the help with the library. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Laurie Snowberger, 300 Stirlington Road, Columbia, SC 29212 - I am a homeschool parent who utilizes the library to the max. I get inner library loans. The librarians help me find all sorts of material. They are very helpful. The Irmo Library is my home away from home. They know all three of my children by name, face, what their personalities are and exactly what kind of books they like. My youngest started going at three years old and I have a seven-year-old. If you cut anything from the library, that makes it harder for me to homeschool. I am not for higher taxes, but I believe the library needs the support and the higher millage to pay for everything that we already have. Cutting back is not going to help any of the homeschoolers in the areas. So I support the budget as they have brought it to you. I hope you will consider keeping everything the way it is.

Ms. Bobbie Padgett, 209 South Wrenwood Drive, Lexington, SC 29073 - I also am a homeschool mom and wanted to let you know that the resource books and materials available at the library are indispensable for us as homeschoolers and also the general public. If your child is in public education, middle school/high school, they are going to need to do research. They are not going to be able to obtain all that in our public schools so they come to the libraries. My children are younger, I need those resources available. I don't need to worry about the hours. Parents who homeschool need the evening hours in order to do research as a teacher. By not giving more money to the library, hours are going to be cut. We can't maintain the library system at this rate. We need to be increasing, not maintaining. We are not going to stay ahead of the future without putting money into it and your education system is not going to get better by maintaining. We have to be aggressive and we have to fund it. Most homeschooling parents have one person working outside the home, which means we are on a tighter budget than a lot of other people, and I am willing to pay the one mil increase and would hope that you will certainly consider passing that. Thank you.

Ms. Teresa Mancuso, 165 Bridleridge Road, Lexington, SC 29073 - I am here also as a homeschooling mother. We are pretty large supporters of the library. I am a member of two groups that are from Lexington, Shield and Reach. There are hundreds of homeschooling families in Lexington County. I think you might be underestimating the numbers of people that not only homeschool but also support the library and need the library. I live in Red Bank, and I am in what is called a small group, which is part of the large group. The small group consisted of 75 children this past year. As a group we play and do things together. A small group represents a lot of kids who need the library and who use the library for research. We also go there just to acclimate our children to learn and find things in the library because whenever you give your children the love of learning, which you can only find in a library through books, its only then that you can foster in them a desire to learn in their older ages which is something we want to do primarily for our children. So I hope that you will pass the budget as it is presented. Thank you very much.

Mr. Art Guerry, Auditor, 112 South Lake Drive, Lexington, SC 29072 - I would like to request an amendment to the Lexington County Auditor's budget. In the budget worksession, I requested a full-time employee, which I didn't get any positive feedback on that. I would like to request a permanent part-time without fringe benefits, which in the budget worksession we were talking about

\$33,200. But in a part-time without fringe benefits, we are talking about \$11,200 as they would work only four hours a day. But, what we have in the County is people constantly coming in here because they don't have any other choice. They come to us for all their tax needs. May it be for real estate, personal property i.e. boats, airplanes, they have to come to us because we are tied in with the state. It is a numbers game as the population grows, the more taxation grows and there are more adjustments that have to be done to bills. So what I would like to do is request, Mr. Chairman, an amendment to the Lexington County Auditor's budget and request a part-time agent to handle those peak demands from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. during the work day. I would not need any other additional equipment for this individual. I have a desk, a chair, and a computer with phone line access. I just need a person to help. Phone calls that come in generate a lot of research on past and present taxes, especially around the tax year which starts around October/November and it doesn't stop until after April 15 and sometimes a little longer after that. That is my request and if you could and would like to talk to me about it further, I will be there in the Lexington County Auditor's office. I would like to request a part-time permanent person.

Mr. Davis complimented the library on the fine service they are providing the citizens of Lexington County and thanked the individual citizens present in support of the library system. He stated the budget would be considered seriously by all members of council.

Mr. Davis closed the public hearing.

Old Business/New Business - H.3082 - Hog Bill - Mr. Rucker stated the pending amendment to H.3082 would restrict local government's authority to impose additional regulations on livestock or poultry and asked members of Council to contact their senator in opposition of H.3082.

Matters Requiring a Vote as a Result of Executive Session - Chairman Davis reported Council received the legal briefing, discuss contractual and personnel matters during the Executive Session and indicated no motions were to be considered.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy K. Black
Clerk

George H. Smokey Davis
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Asst. Clerk to Council

