

The LEXINGTON NEWS

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Council hears about regional economic development plan

By Joe Parmon
News Editor

The concept of a regional approach to economic development continues to gain momentum, although coming up with a strategic plan will involve some costs for cities involved.

During last week's meeting of the City Council, Troy Nash of Zimmer Real Estate Services addressed Council members about the need for cities in the region to join together to formulate a strategic economic development plan.

Mayor Jerry Brown said he has spoken with mayors from several nearby communities about the proposed plan — including Higginsville, Concordia and Richmond — along with Lafayette County Commissioners. Brown said several officials have expressed a great interest in the approach.

Brown, though, said it will cost between \$90,000 and \$100,000 to build the strategic plan, with the cities involved contributing toward the effort,

"We've got to rethink how we're operating."

- JERRY BROWN

Lexington Mayor, on the need for a regional approach to economic development

and taking about a year to come up with the plan. Working with a tight budget, Brown said finding money for Lexington to join the consortium could take some effort.

"We will have to figure out how to come up with the money if we're going to join," remarked Brown.

Brown said he's grown more and more convinced over the years that communities in Lafayette County need to work together rather than compete against one another when it comes to economic development efforts. Brown said overcoming this competitive mind-set and getting everyone to work on the same team may not be easy.

"It's a tough hurdle to get over. It's always been we've got to beat Higginsville, we've got to beat Richmond, in academics and sports, and we've kind of separated ourselves from these communi-

ties," said Brown.

"We've got to rethink how we're operating. We've spent the last 30-plus years trying to do it ourselves and we haven't been successful. We've got to start working together with other communities."

In other matters:

- The City Council voted to change city ordinance to require six months of severance pay for the city administrator position.

After an extensive search for a new city administrator, the Council last month voted to enter into a contract agreement with Mark Rounds of Claremore, Okla. City ordinance had required two months of severance pay for the position, while the contract stipulated six months. The ordinance was changed in order to bring it into line with the conditions of the contract.



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The Lexington Rotary Club in at the Victorian Peddler. Above ceremonial gavel to incoming

Officials invest

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A mysterious "explosion" rattling living near the intersection of S and Franklin Avenue in Lexington Tuesday afternoon, although an investigation reveal the source of the noise.

The incident took place at around Tuesday. One resident who was

Inside



Man with developmental

These days, it's uncommon