

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Mayor Pro Tem Randle L. Alford, Council Members Thomas J. Anderson II, William M. Goldfinch IV, Ashley Smith, Jean M. Timbes, and Larry A. White

STAFF: Bill Graham, City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Adam Emrick, Planning Director; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director; Reggie Jenrette, Solid Waste Director; Billy Joe Sawyer, Building Official; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Timmy Williams, Grounds and Maintenance Director; and Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Hillary Howard, Kathy Ropp, and others

The requirements for posting notice of this meeting under South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) were met.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Dr. James Cokley of Cherry Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Conway who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve the agenda as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-17 (A) Amending the Conway Comprehensive Plan by replacing the Housing Element in its entirety**
- B. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-17 (C) Amending Article 10, Section 10.3.8, of the Unified Development Ordinance to revise standards for building area elevations during lot development**
- C. Retirement resolutions honoring Larry Bell and Billy Joe Sawyer**
- D. City Council Minutes – April 3, 2017 and April 4, 2017**

Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Ryan Foulz, Member of Conway Downtown Alive Board of Directors, gave a brief overview of the information the new “Downtown” App provides and encouraged Council to download it for review.

Michelle Cantey, representing Coast RTA, shared a letter from Brian Piascik, Coast RTA General Manager/CEO, which described Coast RTA’s accomplishments since June 1, 2015, and requested financial support in the amount of \$50,000. Piascik plans to attend the May 1, 2017 Council meeting to further discuss this request. In response to a request from White, Cante spoke on the recent naming of the new transit hub in honor of Ivory Wilson. Mayor Blain-Bellamy also recognized Mr. Wilson, along with Mrs. Vivian Chestnut, both former members of City Council, who were in attendance at the meeting.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public input. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Special presentation by Harold Phillips, Horry County Council, 7th District. County Councilman Harold Phillips presented a check to the City in the amount of \$6,000 from Horry County Council as a donation to the Conway Recreation Center to assist citizens with summer programs. Mayor Blain-Bellamy accepted the check and expressed appreciation on behalf of the City and Council.

B. Introduction of Sam Graves, City Attorney. The City Administrator introduced Sanford Graves, the new City Attorney as of January 1, 2017. Graves thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the City.

C. Presentation on possible riverfront development. Van Watts, President of the Pace Group, gave a power point presentation detailing the proposed construction of a four-story apartment building on the Conway Riverfront and the conversion of the Jerry Cox Building into store front space and residential apartments. He asked Council to commit to installation of parking as called for in the City’s agreement with the Burroughs Company and the expansion of the Riverwalk to coincide with the construction of The Pace Group’s two projects. Watts affirmed that he understood and agreed that parking provided by the City would be public parking and, as such, would be available on a first come first served basis for the public and would not be reserved for residents in these buildings.

D. Employee of the Month Award for April was presented to Darrell McDowell, Building Department. The presentation was made by the City Administrator.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION: Public hearing and consideration of proposed expenditure of FY 2017-18 (Year 10) HUD/CDBG funds. Emrick reported that HUD/CDBG funding for FY 2017-18 (Year 10) has not yet been set by the Federal Government, but it is anticipated that the City will receive approximately \$290,000. Staff recommended that these funds be used for a community center to be located in a low-to-moderate income area (location to be determined). **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the proposed expenditure of the FY 2017-18 HUD/CDBG Entitlement Grant as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: In support of the City's participation in the Horry County HOME Consortium and execution of Intergovernmental Agreement. Emrick reported that for the past several years, the City has participated in the Waccamaw Home Consortium. The only City funding thru this partnership was in FY 2015-16, in the amount of \$187,500, and these funds are currently being used for the Housing Rehabilitation Program. Horry County has recently taken the lead for HOME funding by establishing the Horry County HOME Consortium for surrounding counties and municipalities. Emrick noted that the City's participation in this consortium would allow the City to have greater input by allowing a designee from the City to sit on the Horry County HOME Consortium Board. He also noted the proposed agreement may differ in its final form according to which jurisdictions choose to participate. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by White, to adopt the resolution authorizing the City Administrator to sign the participation agreement for the Horry County HOME Consortium. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Bid for CDBG/HUD sidewalk and drainage project construction at Brown and Whittemore Streets.** Emrick reported that this project was included in the Year 7 CDBG/HUD Action Plan with an anticipated budget of \$95,000. At the conclusion of the engineering on the project in 2016, the projected cost had increased to \$111,595. In February 2017, staff bid this project and only two bids were received, both of which greatly exceeded the engineer's estimates. In March 2017, staff bid the project again and the following bids were received: Donald Richardson & Son - \$135,802.71 and King Construction Services - \$327,114.35. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to accept the low bid in the amount of \$135,802.71 which was submitted by Donald Richardson & Son. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Discussion on projected cost overruns and consideration of possible revision of the Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project at Conway Elementary School.** In 2014, the City of Conway and Conway Elementary School were awarded a grant from SCDOT in the amount of \$400,00, to fund the construction of sidewalks for one side of Magrath Street (from Snowhill to Lakeland) and one side of Snowhill and Sherwood Drive (from the school to the 5-way intersection). The total budget for the project was \$516,000, with the City and the School District contributing \$58,000 each. Emrick reported that project estimates have since increased to \$600,051. SCDOT has requested that the City consider choosing one of the two sidewalk projects to avoid exceeding the budget. The City will be responsible for the full cost of any overage. The current estimated cost for each portion of the sidewalk project is: Magrath Street - \$407,723 and Snowhill/Sherwood Drive - \$392,683. Staff recommended the Snowhill/Sherwood sidewalk as the most needed portion of this project; however, Emrick noted that Horry County Schools would have input and would need to agree with the decision on how to move forward with this project. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to move forward with only the Snowhill/Sherwood Drive portion of the project. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Staff will contact Horry County Schools to discuss the redirection of this sidewalk project.
- C. Proposed request for proposals for lease of the Conway Marina Store.** Hughes presented a draft Request for Proposals for lease of the Conway Marina Store. If approved, Hughes noted the Request for Proposals would be advertised for 30 days and reviews and negotiations are expected to take an additional 30 days. To attract more proposals, Mayor Pro Tem Alford suggested that Council give some consideration on the utilities (water/sewer, electricity). **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to authorize the request for proposals for the lease of the Conway Marina Store including an incentive of paid water/sewer and electricity. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- D. Proposed renewal of lease agreement with River Memories for tour boat operations.** The lease agreement between River Memories and the City of Conway for tour boat operations expires in May 2017. Staff recommended renewal of this agreement from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2022. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Times, to approve the five-year renewal of the lease agreement for tour boat operations with River Memories, LLC, as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Capt. Jim Holbert of River Memories, gave an update on the boat tour operation over the past 10 years and invited the Mayor and Council to take a boat tour on the Waccamaw River.
- E. Proposed landscaping improvements on US Highway 501.** Williams shared a proposed plan for landscaping improvements in the four cut-outs on Highway 501 East between the Waccamaw River Bridge and the intersection of Highway 501/Highway 544 and one cut-out on Highway 501 West near Conway Ford. The total cost of the landscaping project is \$7,615, not including the mulch. Copies of the proposed landscaping plans and a spreadsheet of the cost for each cut-out was also presented. Williams noted that reflector object markers will be placed at each end of the cut-outs to heighten the awareness of motorists. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve the proposed landscaping plan for the Highway 501 cut-outs, as presented, subject to DOT approval. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- F. Proposed installation of a 3-way stop at Lockwood Lane/Shandwick Drive intersection and reduction in speed limit Elmhurst Subdivision.** Staff recommended the installation of a 3-way stop at the intersection of Lockwood Lane and Shandwick Drive, changing the 30 mph speed limit signs to 25 mph signs at the King Street entrance, and placing 25mph signs on Lochwood Drive at the approach to Elkford Drive and at the Medlin Parkway entrance to Shandwick Drive. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- G. Proposed memorandum of understanding for mutual aid between the City of Conway and the Horry County Police Department.** Gosnell reported that the revisions in the proposed Memorandum of Understanding are in accordance with recent amendments in legislation on law enforcement mutual aid. If approved, the proposed mutual aid Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Conway and the Horry County Police Department will replace the existing mutual aid agreement. Staff recommended approval of the proposed agreement. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Alford presided over the meeting for the following item of business.

- H. Consideration of financial support for the Everett Sands Youth Football Camp.** Mayor Blain-Bellamy presented a request for a financial contribution of \$750 to the Everett Sands Youth Football Camp to be held June 24th at the Conway Recreation facility. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the financial contribution of \$750. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: None

COUNCIL INPUT:

Goldfinch thanked the Police Department for identifying areas that would benefit from 3- or 4- way stops and a reduction in speed limit.

Anderson commented on the contributions of City Attorney Sam Graves' family to the Conway community. He also expressed sympathy on the passing of Mrs. Jo Rush and acknowledged her many contributions to the City.

Alford

- Inquired about the National Night Out – Chief Gosnell confirmed that the Police Department has participated in this event for several years.
- Requested that staff contact Governor McMaster's office to encourage the issuance of a Coastal Carolina University National Champions license plate.
- Requested that the Finance Director add a pie chart to the budget document showing the average of each department's expenditures for the past 5 years.

Blain-Bellamy

- Praised Council Member Smith for his support of Conway High School's "Jump for Heart" campaign by agreeing to shave his head as an incentive for students to reach the event's goal.
- Conveyed an invitation from Debbie Perkins, Professor at Coastal Carolina University, to Mayor and Council to attend the 2017 Ella Baker Day celebration on April 18th in the Johnson Auditorium at Coastal Carolina University.
- Inquired about the status of the installation of the flat screen televisions (visual aids) in the Council Chambers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to enter into executive session to review applications for the City Administrator's position, to discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, to discuss the promotion of an employee, and to discuss negotiations incident to the possible purchase of property. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to come out of executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Discussion on promotion of an employee [pursuant to SC Code § 30-4-70(a)(1)]: Motion: Smith made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the City Administrator's recommendation to promote Robert Cooper to the position of Building Official effective May 8, 2017. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this _____ / st _____ day of _____, 2017.
May



Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk