

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Mayor Pro-Tem Jean Timbes, Council Members Randle L. Alford, Thomas J. Anderson II, William M. Goldfinch IV, Ashley Smith, 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; Billy Joe Sawyer, Building Official; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Timmy Williams, Beautification Director; and Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp, C.N. Brown, John Gaddy, Barbara Streeter, Tommy Elvis and others

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Rev. Jamey Collins of Jamestown Baptist Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Blain-Bellamy requested that the order of the agenda be revised to move the discussion on the proposed franchise agreement to be first under workshop topics and to have Council input before the workshop session. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda with the requested amendments. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-04-04 (B) Accepting the petition of Debra G. Best to annex approximately 1.16 acres of property located at 2487 Long Avenue (TMS 123-00-02-075 / PIN 33901020014) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation**
- B. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-04-04 (C) Accepting the petition of Beverly Homes LLC to annex approximately 1 acre of property located on Long Avenue Extension, near Dudley Farms Subdivision (TMS 111-00-01-058/PIN 32301040024) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation**
- C. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-04-04 (A) Amending Article 10 of the *City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance* relating to Parks and Open Space Dedication Requirements**

D. City Council meeting minutes – March 15 and 21, 2016

Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Darren Smith asked Council to consider and move forward with the construction of a floating dock on the Riverfront. Noting that the dock was included in Phase 2 of the Riverwalk’s master plan, he commented that the floating dock would encourage more visitors, not only to his restaurants (Rivertown Bistro and the Bonfire), but to other downtown businesses as well. Smith provided a petition to Council that he said contained approximately 500 signatures of persons who support construction of the dock.

Matt Varnadore commented the floating dock would attract more visitors and developers seeking space on the Riverfront and would encourage more business in all of the downtown area.

Dennis Stevens presented suggestions to Council on how he believed the City, Chamber of Commerce, Conway Downtown Alive, Create! Conway, and Conway Cultural Development Corporation could align their efforts to promote Conway through marketing, branding, and identity.

Hillary Howard spoke in support of the proposed Redevelopment Enhancement Incentive Program.

Barbara Streeter thanked the City of Conway for its support during the recent Indie Market event. She commented on “Conway Unleashed,” a new art project based on tourism, and presented information on plans to place statues of fiberglass animals, 24 to 38 inches in height, in different downtown locations. Streeter also presented preliminary data on the economic impact of Arts and Cultural Tourism on Downtown Conway for the first quarter of 2016. Finally, Streeter extended an invitation to the kick-off party for the Agriculture and Arts Tour on June 3, 2016, at the Peanut Warehouse.

Scott Thompson spoke in support of installing additional floating docks at the Riverfront.

Darren Smith asked those in attendance to stand if they supported installation of a floating dock at the Riverfront. The majority of persons at this meeting stood to indicate their support.

Suzanne Sasser commented on her support of the floating dock and noted the historical importance of the river to Conway for travel and entertainment. She remarked on the need to make the City’s waterfront more accessible and for a better fit with the “Rivertown” name.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Report of Rivertown Art Stroll event.** Hillary Howard, Executive Director for Downtown Alive, presented a report on the success of this recent event. She recognized Easton Selby and Logan Woodle, Coastal Carolina University faculty members, who were present at this meeting and thanked them for their support.
- B. Employee Longevity Bonus Awards** were presented to Brent Green, Fire Department, 10 years; Reggie Hill, Police Department, and Derrick Turner, Public Works Department/Streets, 20 years. Amber Lewis, Police Department, 15 years, was recognized; however, she was unable to attend. The presentations were made by the City Administrator accompanied by Council Member White.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Recommended adjustments in Duke Energy Water Resources grant for securities, amenities, and planning for conservation properties and the Waccamaw River Conservation Corridor.** Graham reported that representatives from the City of Conway, Horry County, Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, and the Nature Conservancy had met to discuss ideas and recommendations for the recently acquired Springland Timberwood conservation property. The City will hold title to a portion of this property until ownership can be passed to the Refuge which will require an extension of the Refuge boundary. It was recommended by the group to install a shelter and gravel parking area along an access road that runs approximately a quarter mile into the property off of Depot Road. Other recommendations included signage, a security gate near the beginning of the access road, and possibly security cameras in the area. To support these recommendations, the group agreed that the City should request an amendment of the budget for the City's \$100,000 Duke Energy Water Resources grant by transferring \$20,000 from the planning allotment to the stewardship allotment to include the shelter and parking area. This amendment would result in a total of \$47,600 for stewardship needs and \$10,000 for planning which was recommended to be used to extend or renew an existing contract with a GIS contractor for 13 weeks, through American Rivers, for mapping and GIS analytics to support the proposed expansion of the Refuge. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the proposed grant budget amendment, including the addition of the parking lot and shelter, and to extend or renew an existing contract through American Rivers with a GIS contractor as outlined by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Acceptance of bids for docking stations for mobile data terminals and prisoner transportation systems for new Police Department vehicles.** Gosnell reported that the following bids were received: Mobile Data Terminal Docking Stations for five marked Ford Interceptor patrol vehicles and one Chevrolet Silverado truck – Wally's Fire and Safety Equipment, \$7,706.14, and Myrtle Beach Communications, \$5,427; Prison Transportation Systems for five marked Ford Interceptor patrol vehicles – Light-N-Up LLC, \$6,988.80, and Myrtle Beach Communications, \$7,265.70. The Police Department's FY 2015-16 Capital Outlay Budget designates funding for the purchase. Staff recommended acceptance of the low

bids. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to accept the low bid of \$5,427 for the docking stations submitted by Myrtle Beach Communications and the low bid of \$6,988.80 for the prisoner transportation systems submitted by Light-N-Up LLC for a total of \$12,415.80. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- C. Acceptance of bid for replacement of water mains and addition of fire hydrants for 5th Avenue water project.** Friday reported that the Public Utilities FY 2015-16 budget has adequate funds for the replacement of almost 5,000 feet of 2 inch steel pipe along 5th Avenue. The larger looped mains will increase water pressure to the area and new fire hydrants will be added as a part of the project. A map of the project area was shared with Council. The following bids were received: C. L. Benton & Sons - \$400,339.32, Holbrook Construction - \$317,331.00, and ASAP Construction Company - \$273,393.00. An incomplete bid package submitted by Frank Horne Construction was not considered. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to accept the low bid of \$273,393.00 which was submitted by ASAP Construction Company. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Timbes requested staff look into how and where to order the honor flags being used to replace the Confederate Battle flags in cemeteries.

Anderson

- Encouraged everyone to attend Conway High School Fine Arts Department's play, "Little Shop of Horrors" on April 9, 10 and 11.
- Reported on his attendance at the recent Indie Market event.
- Commented that Conway High School does not have a boy's tennis team this year and he would like to see more accessibility to tennis.
- Asked for a status report on the City's wireless camera network at the next meeting.

Goldfinch

- Encouraged everyone to attend the Conway High School Education Foundation Annual Banquet on April 14th. Tickets may be purchased from him or Mayor Pro Tem Timbes.
- Commented on the difficulty of maneuvering boats/trailers at the City Marina boat ramp and suggested that bollards be installed to protect the propane tank at the area.
- Commented that additional docks on the Riverfront are long overdue.
- Reported on his participation in the Police Department's Citizens Police Academy and recommended that community leaders also enroll in this program for a first-hand look at what the Police Department does.

Smith

- Agreed that additional boat docks at the Riverfront are long overdue and commented that it would benefit the entire City and not just one merchant.
- Expressed pride in Fire Chief Le Hendrick for his professionalism during the past few weeks as he dealt with tragedy within the Fire Department.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy commented on her pride in being a member of the Conway community. Noting the many positive comments she had received about City staff during the tragic loss of a firefighter, she thanked Fire Chief Hendrick and his department, the Police Department, and City staff for their outstanding representation of the City in recent difficult times.

The Council meeting recessed after this item of business and reconvened in the Conference Room for the remainder of the meeting.

WORKSHOP:

- A. Discussion on franchise agreement with Southern Enchantment Carriages for horse-drawn carriage services throughout the Central Business District.** Emrick explained this service would require a franchise agreement, through ordinance, based on its use of public streets and parking areas. He also explained the advertising requirements for consideration of such an ordinance. Mike and Angela Dutton were present and Mr. Dutton gave an overview of the proposed carriage service. The route being considered is Marina Drive to the Main Street Bridge area and the Peanut Warehouse area, to Kingston Street, and the parking lot at the mural; other route ideas were welcomed. Hours of operation would be from 6:00 pm to around 9:00-10:00 pm and other times dependent on events taking place in the downtown area. Service will start with Fridays and Saturdays; the number of days each week the service will be offered will depend on financial support and there will be no Sunday operation. An oral history of the City would be presented during the ride. The cost would be around \$20 per person. Mr. Dutton provided information on the horse and carriage as well as his insurance coverage for this service. **OUTCOME:** Staff will work with the applicant to make sure advertising requirements are met and the item will be presented for Council's consideration at a future meeting.
- B. Discussion on proposed Redevelopment Enhancement Incentive Program.** Emrick reported that, based on Council input at the last meeting, staff is now proposing to begin this incentive program with only a 100% reimbursement of capital recovery fees and assess the program for effectiveness before deciding if other incentives are necessary. Emrick provided Council with an explanation of how capital recovery fees are calculated. Also in accordance with discussion at the last Council meeting, the areas now included in the revised proposed ordinance include Central Business District, Core Commercial District, and commercial properties with frontage on the Main Street Corridor (Highway 701 North) Highway 701 South, and Highway 378. After a discussion on the sunset period in the proposed ordinance, staff was asked to change this provision from five years to three years. **OUTCOME:** A public hearing and consideration of final reading will be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.
- C. Discussion on needed amendments to Article 11.5, Temporary Signs, in the Unified Development Ordinance.** Emrick reviewed with Council a recent Supreme Court determination that a municipal sign ordinance in the Town of Gilbert, Arizona, was unconstitutional because it created different restrictions based on the content of the signs. The UDO divides temporary signs into seven categories, each with its own regulations, and Emrick informed Council that the prohibition of all temporary signs in the Gateway Corridor Overlay

has presented several conflicts. To make the City's current temporary sign ordinance comply with the Court's ruling, standards will need to be uniform for all temporary signage. The following regulations were proposed: Require a permit for all temporary signs, limit the number of temporary signs any one entity can request each year or limit the number of temporary signs a business or parcel can have at any one time, have a set time limit for the duration of all temporary signs, and distinguish between the different types of temporary signs. He also suggested that political signs could be considered as something other temporary signs. **OUTCOME:** Staff will move forward with drafting a proposed amendment to the temporary sign ordinance as reviewed for further discussion at a Council meeting workshop.

D. Discussion on proposed FY 2016-17 budget. Graham and Williams reviewed the adjustments that have been made to the budget document following the recent Budget Retreat. After discussion, amounts were agreed upon by Council to be included for items that were not finalized at the Retreat and other adjustments as follows:

- Cost of living adjustment – 1.2%.
- Holiday lights display - \$150,000.
- Entrance signs and landscaping – increase to \$250,000 with no additional allocation for landscaping improvements at Riverfront Park and other public places.
- Rebudget \$43,819 for data storage (\$12,450 from FY 2015-16 computer and technology supplies and \$43,819 from State Grant Reimbursement for body worn cameras).
- Personnel positions requested were reviewed as discussed at the Retreat.
- Capital requests by department, with adjustments discussed at the Retreat, were reviewed. Information was also presented for those items for which Council had requested more detail.

OUTCOME: The agreed upon adjustments will be made in the budget proposal for FY 2016-17 and a public hearing and consideration of first reading will be scheduled for an upcoming Council meeting.

E. Discussion on March 15th Neighborhood Town Meeting. Graham presented information on concerns, with priority ratings, that were presented by the public at this meeting. He noted that staff had been asked to work on these issues now where possible. Council discussed possible dates for a field trip to the Racepath Neighborhood. **OUTCOME:** Council agreed to meet at City Hall on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 5pm for the field trip.

F. Discussion on “Conway Critters” – Animals and Locations. Mayor Pro Tem Timbes gave an progress report on planning for implementation of this scavenger hunt-type program for the Downtown area. She reported that she and the Mayor had met with CCU President DeCenzo who has arranged for assistance from CCU staff on this project. In preparation for a meeting with these CCU staff members, Timbes shared preliminary ideas for the scavenger hunt, including suggested animals and their proposed locations. Twelve animal characters were suggested for the hunt; CCU has offered to make the statues of the animals. Timbes suggested that the scavenger hunt include QR codes to detail the history of each “Conway Critter” location and that the hunt have an accompanying story/coloring book. Barbara Streeter and Dennis Stevens expressed their concern that Conway Cultural Development Corporation and

Create! Conway are never “at the table” for discussions on this and other art projects. Mayor Blain-Bellamy advised Streeter and Stevens that she would arrange a meeting to address their concerns. **OUTCOME:** Any suggestions from Council on the “Conway Critters” project should be submitted to Timbes as soon as possible. Council members will be provided information gathered from the meeting with the CCU representatives.

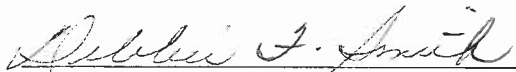
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Blain-Bellamy stated that, in addition to consideration of appointments, City Council needed to discuss a possible contractual matter with another entity. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to enter into executive session to consider appointments to boards, commissions and committees and to discuss a possible contractual matter with another entity. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Smith, to come out of executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Consideration of appointment to City boards, commissions and committees. Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to dissolve the Tennis Advisory Committee and to appoint Jan Dieter to the Recreation Advisory Committee. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Staff was asked to convey information on applicants to the Smith Jones Board of Commissioners for consideration.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 18th day of April, 2016.



Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk