

CONWAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 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; Jessica Hucks, Zoning Official; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Le Hendrick Fire Chief; Reggie Jenerette, 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: Kathy Ropp, Will Batson, Tammy Elvis, Kelli James, Megan Colegrave, Traci Rivers, David Burns, Frank Braxton, 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: Rev. William C Miller of Bethel AME Church gave the invocation and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Blain-Bellamy asked that the agenda be amended to remove Item A, (receipt of legal advice) from the Executive Session portion of the agenda. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda so amended. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-01 (A) Accepting the petition by Coastal Land Design, on behalf of Z.V. Pate, Inc., to annex and rezone approximately .438 acres of property located at 1624 US Highway 501 (Church Street), (TMS 123-13-07-020/PIN 33810020011) from Horry County General Highway Commercial (HC) to Highway Commercial (HC)
- B. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-01 (B) Accepting the petition by Eleanor Bruno Wilson to annex and rezone approximately 13.4 acres of property located at the intersection of Highway 501 and Wild Wing Blvd, (TMS 151-00-03-023/PIN 38300000320) from Horry County General Highway Commercial (HC) to Highway Commercial (HC)
- C. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-01 (E) Amending Article 11.4.9 of the Unified Development Ordinance, Electronic Message Centers
- D. Resolution honoring John Proctor as the Winner of the B.A.S.S. Southern Divisional Tournament
- E. Minutes of City Council meeting – July 12 and 18, 2016

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

Gary Lee, President of the Conway Chamber of Commerce, announced that the Chamber's publication, "Information Please," received the South Carolina Press Association's Best in State Award for Niche Publications. He noted the sole purpose of "Information Please" is to promote the City of Conway and congratulated Steve Robinson of the Horry Independent for publishing the guide on behalf of the Conway Chamber of Commerce. Kelli James, Executive Vice President of the Conway Chamber of Commerce, accompanied Lee.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Employee Longevity Bonus Awards were presented to Cynthia Bryant, Grounds and Maintenance Department, 5 years; Barbara Tessier and Greg Rush, Planning Department, and Cassandra Spain, Police Department, 10 years; and Mark Bobbitt, Police Department, 15 years. Glen Guyett, Police Department, 5 years, was recognized; however, he was unable to attend. The presentations were made by the City Administrator accompanied by Council Member Smith.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF I-73: Mayor Blain-Bellamy read aloud the resolution supporting construction of Interstate Highway 73 and asked Council to consider adoption of this resolution. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to adopt the resolution in support of I-73 as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL READING:

- A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-01 (C) Accepting the petition by Gerald Land Holding, LLC, on behalf of the Crapps Family Limited Partnership, to rezone approximately 89.28 acres of property located at the corner of Medlen Parkway and Oak Street (TMS 123-00-01-003/PIN 33800000004) from existing Low Density Residential (R-1) to Medium Density Residential (R-2) for the purposes of residential development.** Hucks reported the property is currently zoned R-1 which allows 7,500 sq. ft. lots and is proposed to be a part of the Elmhurst Subdivision. If approved, the rezoning request would allow for 6,000 sq. ft. lot sizes. A public hearing was held and first reading was approved at the July 18th Council meeting. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the request. Staff recommended final reading approval. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-01 (C). **Vote:** Anderson abstained from voting; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.
- B. Final reading of Ordinance #2016-08-01 (D) Amending Article 5 of the Unified Development Ordinance to prohibit parking of commercial vehicles on public streets within the City of Conway.** Hucks reviewed the provisions of the proposed amendment. She advised that, in response to concerns raised at first reading concerning the possible negative impact the lack of alternative parking options may have, staff is currently exploring a proposed amendment of the UDO to allow parking of commercial and recreational vehicles at mini-storage facilities. A public hearing was held and first reading of Ordinance #ZA 2016-08-01 (D) was approved at the July 18, 2016 Council meeting. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the amendment to Article 5. Staff recommended final reading approval. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion to approve final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-01 (D) as written. There followed discussion on concerns regarding an effective date of

the proposed parking regulations and adequate advance notice to those who may be affected. **Amended Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-01 (D) with an added effective date of February 1, 2017. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

- A. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-15 (A) Amending Article 11 of the Unified Development Ordinance to create a category of signs for shopping centers and amending various sections of the UDO to properly reference said amendment.** Hucks noted that Article 2, Definitions, in the Unified Development Ordinance, provides a definition for Shopping Center Identification Signs with a reference to Section 11.4.11; however, Section 11.4.11 is the section of the sign ordinance for Residential Subdivisions and Multi-Family Developments and nowhere in the UDO are there any allowances for signage for multi-tenant, shopping center developments. This proposed amendment to Articles 2, 4, 6, and 11 of the UDO will create a category for shopping center signage and amend multiple sections of the UDO to properly reference and be in consistency with the amendment. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the amendment. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-15 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-15 (B) Accepting the petition by Loreese C. Thomas to rezone approximately .9 acre of the parcel located at 1402 Church Street (TMS# 123-13-04-027/PIN# 33814010022) and approximately .2 acre of the adjoining parcel located on Pine Street (TMS# 123-13-04-023/PIN# 33811040013) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to Highway Commercial.** Hucks commented that this property is a vacant lot once occupied by a car wash facility. The rezoning request was made to accommodate the future development of a restaurant with a drive-thru, which is not permitted in the Neighborhood Commercial zoning district. There was inquiry in reference to the undeveloped right of way located on the property. Although not required, staff has recommended the right of way be closed. The *Comprehensive Plan* identifies the parcel as Highway Commercial. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** Will Batson, of Diversified Development, Inc., was present in support of the request. Gary Lee, President of the Conway Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of first reading approval. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-15 (B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-15 (C) Accepting the petition of Horry County Commission on Alcohol & Drug Abuse dba Shoreline Behavioral Health Services to rezone approximately .456 acres, located at 901 Bell Street (TMS# 137-0127008/PIN 33814040068) from Highway Commercial (HC) to Professional (P).** The subject property is located at 901 Bell Street and is used as a group home which is a legal non-conforming use. Approval of the rezoning request would bring the use into compliance. Hucks reported the *Comprehensive Plan* identifies the parcel as Professional on the Future Land Use Map. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** Gary Lee, President of the Conway Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the rezoning. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous.

Motion carried. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-08-15 (C). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- D. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-06-20 (C) Accepting the petition by Jenks Hedgepath on behalf of Keith Collins to rezone approximately .52 acres of property located near the corner of 16th Avenue and Church Street in the Buckwood Subdivision (TMS# 123-13-06-004/PIN 33810030007) from existing Low Density Residential (R-1) to Professional (P) for the purposes of commercial redevelopment.** This request was initially to rezone the subject property from existing Low Density Residential to Highway Commercial and it was presented to City Council on June 6th. After hearing concerns from the community with regard to Highway Commercial further encroaching into the adjacent residential neighborhood, Council directed staff to send the request back the Planning Commission to consider an alternate zoning district. The proposed ordinance would now rezone the property from existing Low Density Residential to Professional. It was noted that access to this parcel would not be from within the Buckwood neighborhood, but will be from 16th Avenue. The *Comprehensive Plan* identifies the parcel as Existing Residential. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** Cynthia Terres and Charles Kushner, residents of the Buckwood Subdivision, spoke in opposition to the rezoning. Jenks Hedgepath, a representative for the property owner, spoke in support of the rezoning request. Gary Lee, President of the Conway Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the rezoning request. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-06-20 (C). **Vote:** Council Member Smith abstained from voting; Mayor Blain-Bellamy voted in the negative; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Amended Law Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding with the 15th Judicial Circuit Drug Enforcement Unit.** Gosnell reported that the Legislature recently amended Section 23-20-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws which covers the logistical issues associated with “Mutual Aid Agreements.” As a result, existing Mutual Aid Agreements must be revised to be in compliance with the amended Section 23-20-10. Staff recommended approval of the Law Enforcement Assistance and Support Agreement for Temporary Transfer of Officers to the 15th Circuit Drug Enforcement Unit. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the agreement. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Authorization to join the National Network of Safe Communities.** The National Network of Safe Communities (NNSC) works with cities to provide technical assistance in the implementation of violence reduction initiatives. One such NNSC initiative was the City’s C-STAND Program. Staff recommended that Council authorize the Mayor, City Administrator and Police Chief to join the National Network of Safe Communities. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- A. Report on Police Department patrol sectors/zone and coverage.** Gosnell gave a report detailing police patrol sectors and coverage. Council was provided a color-coded map which displayed sectors and zones within the City and a chart which compared the sectors’ calls for service and incidents. It was noted that Sector C accounts for approximately 45% to 48% of all emergency calls city-wide on a

monthly basis. Gosnell stressed that calls for service are requests made by the public and are not contacts initiated by police. This item was presented as information only.

B. Report on Diversity Leaders Initiative – RISE Program. Gosnell reported that in 2015 the Horry County Schools and the City of Conway Police Department were invited to participate in an Education and Law Enforcement Pilot Program through Furman University’s The Riley Institute Diversity Leadership Program. The Horry County Team’s service project is entitled RISE (Respect-Integrity-Service-Excellence) and focuses on removing learning obstacles/challenges confronting “at-risk” students. The RISE mentoring program will begin with the 2016-17 school year and will focus on rising 9th grade “at-risk” Conway High School students. Lieutenants Reggie Hill and Selena Small, members on the Horry County team, spoke briefly on the program.

C. Discussion on LED street lights. Chestnut presented information on the Santee Cooper LED light conversion program. Some LED conversions have already taken place at no charge to the City. The program allows for the conversion of 50 street lights per year and approximately 40 additional lights per year to replace any malfunctioning existing lights. The City’s policy on street lights was reviewed. **OUTCOME:** Council requested that staff report back with a recommendation on how to increase the street lighting around the City.

D. Report on progress of Holiday Lights Display. Hughes reported that \$150,000 was allocated in the FY2016-17 budget for the City of Conway Holiday Festival of Lights; of that amount, \$130,000 will be used to purchase LED holiday light displays and the balance will fund the necessary infrastructure. Installation of the light displays will need to begin in October to move the project forward in an expeditious manner. Staff recommended that an RFP for lights and equipment be released immediately. **Motion:** Smith made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT noted that FOIA training for City Council will be held Monday, August 8, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Smith congratulated Foster Hughes on the successful baseball tournament and expressed his excitement for future tournaments.

Goldfinch encouraged the public to participate in the Citizens Police Academy as well as “ride-alongs” to experience first-hand what police officers encounter on a daily basis.

Anderson

- Requested an updated City Employee directory.
- Requested City Council consider re-activating the Tennis Committee.
- Suggested the City pursue a recent citizen’s request to start a Palmetto Pride Committee.
- Recommended employing additional staff to assist with mowing around the City.

Timbes inquired as to what measures the City was taking with regard to the Zika virus and mosquito spraying in general. The City Administrator provided this information to Council.

Alford

- Congratulated Foster Hughes on the new City website.

- Congratulated the Conway Chamber on winning the state award for its resource guide.
- Proposed an incentive program for employee productivity to save money and increase productivity.

Blain-Bellamy

- Suggested donations from local businesses be collected to help fund the Holiday Festival of Lights program.
- Noted that Rose Hill Cemetery is in need of attention.
- Expressed her concern about littering and the need for a cultural change and awareness with regard to litter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to enter into executive session to discuss the appointment of Council members to the City Employees Christmas Party Committee and the Holiday Lights Display Committee, to discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, and to discuss the employment of an employee. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: Appointment of Council members to the City Employees Christmas Party Committee and to the Holiday Lights Display Committee. Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to appoint Council Members Alford and Goldfinch to the 2016 City Employees Christmas Party Committee. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Smith, to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Timbes, Council Members Smith and Anderson to the Holiday Lights Display Committee. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

No further action was taken on matters discussed in Executive Session.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 15th day of August, 2016.

Debbie F. Smith
Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk