

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 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, Heather A. Whitley, Clara Nell Brown, 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 gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Blain-Bellamy asked that the agenda be amended to remove the review of applications for the City Administrator's position. **AMENDED MOTION:** Goldfinch made a motion seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda with the requested amendment. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA 2017-01-17 (A) Accepting the petition by Craig Hardee of Hardee Family Holdings, LLC, to annex approximately 4.43 acres of property located at 3500 US Highway 501 West (TMS# 122-00-01-021/PIN 32609030003) and to rezone the property from Horry County Commercial Forest Agriculture (CFA) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC) upon annexation**

B. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA 2017-01-17 (C) Accepting the staff-initiated petition to rezone a portion of the property located at 1302-1304 Fourth Avenue, totaling .68 acres, owned by Horry Furniture Company (TMS 137-02-04-007/PIN 36804010014) from Medium Density Residential (R-2) to Core Commercial (CC)

C. City Council Minutes – December 29, 2016, and January 3 and 9, 2017

Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: **Hillary Howard**, Executive Director of Conway Downtown Alive, reported that the Gibbs Planning Group will host a workshop for Conway retailers on techniques to increase customer traffic and sales on Thursday, February 16, 2017. The workshop will be held at the Theatre of the Republic with free admission for Conway Downtown Alive members and \$25 for other retail associates. Howard invited City Council and any retail entity that may benefit from the presentation to attend the workshop.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Report on Diversity Leadership Initiative of The Riley Institute at Furman University – Rick Maxey, Horry County Schools Superintendent. Rick Maxey, Horry County Schools Superintendent, gave a report regarding his and Police Chief Gosnell's participation in the Riley Institute at Furman University's Diversity Leaders Initiative. Maxey and Gosnell graduated from the Initiative's Low Country Class XI on December 15th. Maxey noted that Conway High School and St. James High School were selected to participate in this group's project, "Building Bridges, Relationships and Community." Principals at both schools will develop criteria for selecting students to participate in the project. In response to an inquiry from Anderson, Maxey informed Council that financial support for the student group's river trip to Sandy Island this spring would be welcomed.

B. Presentation of the 2016 City of Conway Audit Report. Bob Calliham of Smith Sapp Bookout & Calliham presented results of the audit which included a clean opinion on the City's financial statements. He also reported that a review of the City's internal controls revealed no material weaknesses and no instances were noted of any compliance matters required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. Calliham informed Council that he expected the Certificate of Excellence would continue to be awarded to the City's Finance Department.

C. Employees of the Month for January – Conway Celebration of Lights team. Employees from the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department, Grounds and Maintenance Department, and Public Utilities Department who assisted with the first annual Celebration of Lights were recognized as January's Employees of the Month. Those in attendance at this meeting were Foster Hughes, David Williams, James Hucks, Jessica Stalvey, June Wood, Kara Gainey, Marley Crofts, Bradley Todd, Timmy Williams, Bryan Williams, Eddie Busby, Gene Paul,

James Floro, Maurice Butler, Tony Collins, and Shawn Dawson. Also recognized but unable to attend this meeting were Alyssa Waibel, Angelika Bellamy, Audrey Hinson, Ben Moore, Bill Barrow, Catherine Jackson, Faith Noel, Grayson Lundy, Haley Crib, Josie Ricketts, Katie Dennis, Marci McCray, Marsha Ponder, Miranda Floyd, Nakeya Ellerbe, Olivia Harrelson, Peyton Andreucci, Quentin Hucks, Rachel Fleming, Rhyia Asbill, Rodney Bellamy, Susan Becton, Taylor Sellers, Toni Fletcher, Will Britton, Russell Dozier, Anthony Huggins, Bill Brague, Billy Joe Thompkins, Josh Avant, Monty Martin and Bryson Gillig.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #2017-02-06 (A) Amending the Conway Comprehensive Plan by replacing the Population Element in its entirety. Emrick reported on the update of the Population Element, one of nine required elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Council reviewed the first draft of this updated element at its October 17th meeting. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the updated Population Element. Staff recommended first reading approval of the ordinance. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-02-06 (A) as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Bids for replacement of handicap lifts at the Conway Marina and Fireman's Clubhouse.** Hughes reported that during the October 2015 flood, the handicapped lifts at both the Marina store and the Fireman's Clubhouse were damaged beyond repair. The City has received insurance reimbursement for the replacement of these lifts. The following bids were received: Independent Elevator Service, Burlington, NC - \$55,000; 101 Mobility, Wilmington, NC - \$57,096; and ThyssenKrupp, Myrtle Beach - \$104,675.38. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to accept the low bid submitted by Independent Elevator Service in the amount of \$55,000 for the replacement of the handicapped lifts. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Bids for street resurfacing – FY 2016-17.** Chestnut reported that the CTC approved a total of \$464,850 for City street resurfacing projects and asphalt repairs and the City's match is \$232,425. The street resurfacing list was approved by City Council at its October 3, 2016, meeting. The following bids were received for this work: Southern Asphalt - \$345,529; Palmetto Corp. - \$414,327; and Coastal Asphalt - \$424,115. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by White, to accept the low bid submitted by Southern Asphalt in the amount of \$345,529, for street resurfacing and asphalt repairs for FY 2016-17. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEM FOR INFORMATION: Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget Update on the City's budget as of November 30, 2016, was presented as information by the Finance Director.

WORKSHOP: Introduction of first draft of the Conway Comprehensive Plan Housing Element. Emrick reported that there are nine required elements of the comprehensive plan: (1) Population (2) Economic Development (3) Natural Resources (4) Cultural Resources (5)

Community Facilities (6) Housing (7) Land Use (8) Transportation (9) Priority Investment. Emrick presented and reviewed a first draft of the updated Housing Element in the Comprehensive Plan for review. Other elements will be presented as updates are completed. **OUTCOME:** Staff will present the first draft of the Housing Element to the Planning Commission for review and consideration. First reading and a public hearing will then be scheduled for an upcoming Council meeting.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: None

COUNCIL INPUT:

Goldfinch inquired if staff could mow the lawn of the burned out church on Fourth Avenue.

Anderson reported that he has received several positive comments in regard to the City's snow flake lights remaining up during the winter season.

Alford:

- Asked to consult with the City Administrator regarding a complaint received about a business license fee.
- Inquired if the City had an official Facebook account.
- Requested that staff look into possible Community Redevelopment grants to assist with the rehabilitation/removal of condemned properties.

White thanked Foster Hughes and the Police Department for assistance at the MLK Jr Day March. He also expressed appreciation to Mayor Blain-Bellamy and Council Member Goldfinch for their attendance at this event.

Timbes:

- Inquired about the City's procedures for requiring demolition of condemned buildings and what progress the City has made toward this effort. The City Administrator gave a review of these procedures and an update on three structures currently being dealt with by the Building Official.
- Inquired if the City could do anything to encourage or assist property owners with the cleanup of fallen trees remaining on their property as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

Blain-Bellamy:

- Suggested that staff make every effort to encourage a speedy conclusion to the investigation of the fire that destroyed the church on Fourth Avenue so the clean-up process can begin.
- Inquired about the progress of the audio visuals for the Council Chambers. Graham reported on a proposal from staff for these improvements. Additional information on other options was requested by Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to enter into executive session to discuss the naming of City buildings, facilities, or property which may include disclosure of information of a personal nature that would constitute an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-40(a)(2)]. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 6th day of February, 2017.



Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk