

CONWAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, MAY 2, 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; and Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp and others.

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Council Member Goldfinch who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor welcomed the Youth Assembly from Bethel AME Church.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-05-02 Accepting the petition of Beverly Construction, LLC to annex approximately .62 acres of property located on Graham Road (TMS# 123-00-02-050/PIN 32416020022) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation

B. Minutes of City Council meeting – April 18, 2016

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

Barbara Streeter of Create! Conway invited Council to attend the Ag + Art Tour Horry County, June 4-5, 2016, and shared information on events that will be taking place in the County on those days.

Vinnie Morabito of The American Tavern asked Council to give consideration to extending the hours that commercial businesses may serve alcohol for on-premises consumption from 2:00 am to 4:00 am.

Mae Days commented that no action had been taken on her request at the last Council meeting for the removal of the “no parking” signs on Racepath Avenue and she made a second request that these signs be removed.

Wilbur Bellamy, long-time resident of Florence Street, presented concerns regarding increasing crime in his neighborhood. Noting, as an example, a recent daytime theft from his home, Bellamy requested Council to consider better ways to monitor for criminal activities by police.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to close Public Input. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Business Friendly Initiatives.** Kelli James of the Conway Chamber of Commerce presented the Chamber's new video series, "Starting a New Business," narrated by the City Planner. The four videos are focused on location, permitting, signage and incentives for new or expanding businesses. Emrick also shared with Council copies of the new brochures on incentives offered by the City and the new business development guide.
- B. Employee Longevity Bonus Award** was presented to Jim Hill, Building Department, 10 years. The City Administrator and Council Member Timbes made the presentation.
- A. PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING - Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #2016-05-16 (A) An Ordinance to raise revenues and adopt budgets for the General Fund, Enterprise/Public Utility Fund, Street/Drainage Fund, Storm Water Fund, Tax Increment Financing Fund, Accommodations Tax Fund, Community Development Fund, and Hospitality Fee Fund, City of Conway, South Carolina, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017.** Williams reviewed the proposed budget which now includes items agreed upon by Council at the workshop sessions of the April 4th and 18th Council meetings. The budget proposal totals \$34,918,818 which is an increase of \$3,083,020 over the current year's budget. No tax millage increase is proposed. A 1.2% salary increase is proposed along with 13 new full-time positions and 4 new part-time positions. Williams noted that the proposed \$250,000 allocation for thoroughfare signage had been moved from the General Fund to Hospitality. Graham informed Council that the 15 day public notice requirement for budget adoption would be met by holding a public hearing at the May 16th meeting; however, Council could take input at this meeting if desired. In response to an inquiry from Smith, Graham commented that funding was not included in the budget proposal for additional Fire Department personnel but the issue could be discussed by Council prior to final reading. **Public Hearing:** **Barbara Streeter** asked for Council's consideration of the request for financial support for Create! Conway and presented information on her plan for overseeing the expenditure of those funds if awarded. **Gary Lee**, President of the Chamber of Commerce, asked for Council's consideration of funding to support the Chamber's economic development recruitment proposal. There was no further input from the public. Staff recommended first reading approval of the FY 2016-17 budget ordinance. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2016-05-16 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- A. Presentation on proposed revised FEMA flood insurance rate maps.** Sawyer advised Council that the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the City of Conway identified 516 additional parcels of property as being in the flood zone; the current flood maps include 647 parcels. Horry County invited owners of the newly identified properties to meetings held on March 2 and 3 and, at those meetings, information was provided on the appeals process. Notices of the 90-day appeals process were also published in The Sun News. For properties within the City, appeals can be submitted to Sawyer. Staff will post notices of the appeals process and contact information on the City's website and Access Channel.

- B. Update on Police Department activities.** Information was presented on staffing and hiring, the Citizen's Police Academy, implementation of the body-worn cameras and software management system, implementation of electronic ticketing, traffic enforcement efforts, increased police presence and high-visibility patrols, and an update on various community outreach events.
- C. Report on migration to P25 Emergency Radio Communications System.** Hendrick reported on recent developments relative to upgrading of the emergency radio communications system. Horry County solicited bids for the upgrading of the current system and the contract was awarded to Motorola. Through this bidding process, the County was able to obtain lower rates than were anticipated which are expected to result in significant savings for the City. Hendrick advised that an agreement between the City and Horry County for participation in the communications system will be presented for Council's consideration once final rates have been determined.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Reported the revised project on Long Avenue from a multi-use trail to a 5' concrete sidewalk has been approved by SCDOT and has resulted in a change order of \$34,340 being added to the cost. A portion of the change order will be covered by contingency funds and a check has been sent for the balance (\$14,967). The project is slated to start the first of June and be completed by August.
- The date for Council's field trip to the Racepath Neighborhood will need to be rescheduled. Council members were asked to check their calendars and advise of a convenient date.
- An update was given on the progress of renovations at the old Post Office/Museum building. Council was agreeable to making a site visit to the building at the completion of the field trip to the Racepath Neighborhood.
- Discussed plans to seek public input on potential uses for the old Post Office/Museum building. Council agreed to receive input on this topic at its June 20th meeting. An invitation for input will be given through the Chamber of Commerce, Conway Downtown Alive, the City's website and the Access Channel.
- Provided update on the timeline for the Long Avenue bridge replacement projects.
- Council was asked to inform City Administrator of their interest in a day trip to Savannah, Georgia.
- Advised that SCDOT has recommended pedestrian crossing signage at Sherwood Forest Park in lieu of a marked crosswalk. Signage can be installed within two weeks.
- Invited Council to attend the next Smith Jones Joint Venture Committee meeting on May 18 at noon at the Recreation Center.
- Asked Council to complete registration forms for the MASC Annual Meeting and return them to Lois Roberts by the May 16th Council meeting in order for reservations to be made.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Alford requested staff to look at commercial collection rates. He also asked for a review of the City's outside employment policy.

White thanked staff for cleaning overgrowth from the sidewalk on 16th Avenue and Highway 501 as requested at the last Council meeting.

Timbes inquired if the permit is still valid for the construction of an additional floating dock at the RiverWalk. Graham confirmed the validity of the permit. He also clarified that the original Phase II plans called for the dock to be located between the Lower Warehouse and the Bonfire (former Sidewheeler restaurant). Timbes also requested that staff look into other possible uses for the dock, such as fishing, kayaks, etc.

Anderson asked for a report of the cost of raising salaries for the Police Department prior to final reading of the budget ordinance. He suggested a bonus payment for police officers as an incentive for continued employment by the City, perhaps after three years of employment. Anderson also asked for an update on crossing arms/lights for rail crossings in the City and asked for contact information for the SCDOT employee(s) responsible for these decisions.

Goldfinch commented on the need for salary scale adjustments for the Police Department.

Smith

- agreed with Goldfinch regarding an increase in the Police Department salary scale.
- requested Council have another discussion on an additional position for the Fire Department.
- thanked Ms. Days for attending this meeting and providing input for Council.
- congratulated Vicky Wilson who was recently named Support Employee of the Year at Whittemore Park Middle School.
- commented that the Nye Drug Store sign has been taken down and is being refurbished. Emrick gave a brief update on the process for rehabilitation.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy reiterated the previous comments of Council members relative to Police Department salaries.

WORKSHOP:

A. Discussion on possible amendment of regulations in the Unified Development Ordinance pertaining to the parking, storage, and use of recreational vehicles. Emrick reported that, after a recent windshield survey, it appeared that violations of the current UDO regulations for the parking of recreational vehicles are widespread. A map was shared that outlined the location of each violation noted in the survey. Emrick reminded Council that there are currently no prohibitions against parking a boat or an RV alongside the street as long as it does not impede traffic or emergency vehicles. In addition, there has been an issue of parking boats and recreational vehicles in side yards of homes which is not currently allowed. He commented that Council might consider amending the UDO to allow recreational vehicles to be parked in side yards as long as the vehicle is behind a fence. **OUTCOME:** Staff was asked to prepare a recommendation that would provide a moratorium on the enforcement of current regulations while the matter is further considered by Council.


B. Discussion on setting parking limitations for commercial vehicles in residential neighborhoods. Council discussed this issue during the workshop portion of the October 19, 2015 Council meeting and during those discussions, staff was asked to further research this matter and present additional information for Council's consideration. Emrick recommended the prohibition of on-street parking of commercial vehicles that exceed 20 feet in length and 10,000 pounds in weight; commercial vehicles may be parked on the owner's property if space permitted and if the HOA (if applicable) permitted. Emrick commented that existing home businesses permitted at the time the UDO amendment is adopted would be legally nonconforming as long as their business licenses do not lapse. He also noted that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of such an amendment. **OUTCOME:** Staff will prepare a recommendation for an amendment to the UDO pertaining to the parking of large commercial vehicles as outlined at this meeting for further review and discussion by Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to enter into executive session to discuss promotion and compensation of employees and to discuss matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of businesses within the City of Conway. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 16th day of May, 2016.



Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk