

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018 – 5:30 PM

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

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Mary Catherine Hyman, Planning Director; Addison Jarrell, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director; Reggie Jenrette, Solid Waste Director; Dale Long, Police Chief; Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; Lynn Smith, Human Resources Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Timmy Williams, Grounds and Maintenance Director; and Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk

OTHERS: Devin Parks, Stephen Horton, 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 Chaplain Tony Martin of the Conway Fire Department who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: By consensus of Council, the agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: By consensus of Council, the consent agenda was approved as follows:

A. Ordinance#ZA2018-05-07 (A) An Ordinance to annex approximately .55 of an acre of property located at the corner of Long Avenue Extension and Country Club Drive (TMS#123-00-03-064 | PIN 33901020017) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation (Hyman)

B. City Council meeting minutes – April 16, 2018

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jarrold Hucks commented that there had been no improvements in his neighborhood since he presented concerns to Council in February and reported a situation of overwhelming odors of marijuana, loud music, and animal cruelty at a nearby residence on Palmetto Street. He provided

license plate numbers of two vehicles he said consistently speed up and down Live Oak Street. Hucks urged Council to drive through his neighborhood to see conditions first-hand.

Bob Scarborough expressed his concern about the repaving of Laurel Street and expanded the list, presented at a previous meeting, of potential damages that could be incurred during the repaving process. He commented that failure to repair the road bed and patches from water/sewer repairs that are sinking contribute to problems and should be properly addressed.

Stephen Horton, a resident of Shandwick Drive in the Elmhurst Subdivision, requested three speed humps and a community watch sign to help control traffic. He noted that a left turn lane off Mill Pond Road into Elmhurst would be beneficial.

Michelle Miller presented her complaint regarding communication problems between Conway Police Officers and the youth in her neighborhood. She suggested a meeting of officers with these young people or mentoring by police officers or firefighters to foster friendlier interaction.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Special event request: HTC Employee Appreciation Event, May 19, 2018.** Phoebe Norris of Horry Telephone Cooperative submitted this special event request. This event will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2018, from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. at the Riverfront Park. The park will be closed to the public during this time. No additional services were required by the City for this event. Staff recommended approval of the special event application. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hubbard, to approve the special event application for the HTC Employee Appreciation Event as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Special event request: Faith, Family and Community Healing Crusade, June 9-12, 2018.** Belton L. Platt of the Belton L. Platt Rock Ministries International submitted this special event request. This event will take place from Saturday, June 9, 2018 through Tuesday, June 12, 2018, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. each night. A worship service will take place in the Riverfront Park at the stage area each night with a baptism service in the river planned for the last night of the event. The park will remain open to the public and the group will have a volunteer trash crew responsible for clean-up and disposal of the trash. No city services were requested. Staff recommended approval of the special event request. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the special event application for the Faith, Family and Community Healing Crusade event. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Resolution in honor of retirement – Tony Martin, Conway Fire Department.** At its April 16th meeting, City Council adopted a resolution honoring the retirement of Tony Martin on March 25, 2018, as Lieutenant and Chaplain of the Conway Fire Department. On behalf of Council, Mayor Blain-Bellamy read aloud and officially presented this resolution to Tony Martin. Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Mrs. Missy Martin who was in attendance with her husband.

- D. Resolution declaring May 6-12, 2018, “Municipal Clerk Week” in the City of Conway.** On behalf of Council, Mayor Blain-Bellamy read aloud and presented this resolution to Debbie F. Smith, proclaiming “Municipal Clerk Week” in the City and recognizing Smith for her contributions in support of Council and staff as City Clerk.
- E. Presentation of “Excellence in Financial Reporting” Award.** Williams announced that the City of Conway has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The City of Conway has received this award for 28 of the last 31 years, with this being the thirteenth consecutive year. Mayor Blain-Bellamy and Council congratulated Williams and the Finance Department staff on receiving the award.
- F. Employee Longevity Bonus Awards** were presented to Belinda Mills, Police Department, 5 years; Jake Drew, Fire Department, 10 years; Jeremy Carter, Fire Department, 20 years; and Theresa Tyler, Police Department, 40 years. The presentations were made by the City Administrator accompanied by Council Member Goldfinch.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

- A. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #2018-05-21 (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 (TIF) Fund, Accommodations Tax Fund, Community Development Fund, and Hospitality Fee Fund, City of Conway, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018, and Ending June 30, 2019.** Williams reviewed the proposed budget which totals \$43,078,564, an increase of 17.37% over the current year’s budget. No tax millage increase is proposed. A 2.1% salary increase is proposed along with the addition of 21 full-time positions, 1 part-time position, and 2 temporary seasonal positions. Also noted were fee increases: Freedom of Information Act fees, Fire Department fees, sanitation roll out cart fees, and a 2% increase in water and sewer rates. Williams also reviewed new fees in the proposed budget: zoning compliance, \$25, and \$250 for a fire apparatus to be stationed at a special event when required by the Fire Department. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2018-05-21 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #2018-05-21 (B) Approving a franchise agreement with Charleston Flats Food Truck to operate at designated locations in downtown Conway.** During the February 5th meeting, Council discussed possible franchise agreements that had been requested for the operation of mobile food trucks on public property. Hyman reported that Laura Fauvreau with Charleston Flats Food Truck had requested a franchise agreement to operate a food truck between the hours of 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Hyman presented a map displaying the locations where mobile food truck parking would be allowed under the franchise agreement. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the franchise agreement with the Charleston Flats Food Truck as presented. **Discussion:** Anderson expressed strong opposition

to mobile food trucks being allowed to park in front of restaurants and, in particular, in the requested areas on Laurel Street near 3rd Avenue. Goldfinch withdrew his motion. Fauvreau was present in support of her request and advised Council that she had no objection to the parking spaces on Laurel Street near 3rd Avenue being removed to make the franchise agreement acceptable to Council. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2018-05-21 (B) with allowed parking areas revised to omit the spaces on Laurel Street near 3rd Avenue. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #2018-5-21 (C) Approving a franchise agreement with Trojan Cow Food Truck to operate at designated locations in downtown Conway. Hyman reported that Drew Basilicato with Trojan Cow Food Truck had also requested a franchise agreement to operate a food truck Monday through Saturday at the same times and locations as the Charleston Flats Food Truck. Basilicato was present in support of his request and advised Council that he, too, had no objection to removing the parking spaces on Laurel Street near 3rd Avenue from the agreement. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Mayor Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2018-05-21 (C) with allowed parking areas revised to omit the spaces on Laurel Street near 3rd Avenue. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

D. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2018 -05-21 (D) Amending the existing Carsen's Ferry Planned District (TMS 122-00-04-022/PIN#337-04-03-0019) to allow for the building of single family residences by removing 3.5 acres from the Commercial Tract and adding it to the Residential Tract for development of Phase 5 and for the addition of language relative to a subdivision sign. The Rivertown Landing Planned District, approved by Conway City Council in 2007, is now known as Carsen's Ferry. Previous amendments to this PD removed all commercial and multi-family zoning from the rear most parcels and replaced them with single family homes on 50 lots. Hyman advised Council that the ordinance currently being proposed would remove 3.5 acres from the "Commercial" tract to be added to the "Residential" tract for development of Phase 5. This revision would add 18 residential units to the 50 referenced above for a total of 68 units. Approximately 1.5 acres will remain in the "Commercial" tract. The zoning requirements for Phase 5 will be the same as Phases 1-4. Hyman advised Council that the language relative to a subdivision sign should be stricken from the proposed ordinance as it is no longer needed. The Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as Mixed Use on the Future Land Use Map. Staff recommended first reading approval of the ordinance, revised to remove all language relative to a subdivision sign. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2018-05-21 (D), revised as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. Proposed expenditure of monies from Council Contingency funds: Everett Sands Youth Football Camp (requested by Council Member Smith) and Conway High School Academic Team (Council Member Timbes). Council Member Smith requested that the City provide financial assistance for the Everett Sands Youth Football Camp in the amount of \$750. In addition, Council Member Timbes requested that the City contribute \$750 to be used for travel expenses for the Conway High School Academic Team participate in competition in

Atlanta. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve both requests as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Proposed addition of a portion of Laurel Street to the City's 2018 list of resurfacing needs. Chestnut advised Council that the Laurel Street resurfacing project, from 5th Avenue to 12th Avenue, was approved in 2016 at an estimated cost of \$108,088. The City was to pay half of the cost and the other half was to be paid with CTC funds. After some Laurel Street residents expressed concerns that the vibration from the milling machine could possibly damage their older homes, City Council voted to remove the section between 5th Avenue and 9th Avenue from that project during its September 19, 2016, meeting. Council Member Goldfinch requested that City Council consider adding this section of Laurel Street (5th Avenue to 9th Avenue) to next year's list of resurfacing needs for consideration. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the addition of Laurel Street, from 5th Avenue to 9th Avenue, to the 2018 list of resurfacing needs and to reconsider this project with the next available funding. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Acceptance of bid for rehabilitation of the Conway Marina bulkhead. The Conway Marina bulkhead was damaged during Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and is in need of repair. The following bids were received: Fetter Marine Construction, Conway - \$26,688; Seven Seas Marine Construction, Murrells Inlet - \$29,792; ARC Inc., Murrells Inlet - \$30,000; and Cape Romain Construction, Wando - \$173,728. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to accept the low bid in the amount of \$26,688 which was submitted by Fetter Marine Construction. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Eight busker permits have been issued to date; three performed last weekend.
- Staff will begin putting out the small American flags next week.
- Conway Day is Sunday, May 13, at the CCU ballgame. Council members planning to attend should plan to arrive by 11:30 am.
- Breakfast with the Mayor is scheduled for May 8th, at 8:30 am., at the Trestle.
- The transient boat dock has been to the other side of the marina.
- The tour of the former Grainger Steam Plant site for Council has been rescheduled for May 22 at 3:00 pm.
- In response to Michelle Miller's concerns, Chief Long reported a meeting has been scheduled at the Darden Terrace Community Center on May 14 at 5:30 pm.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Anderson:

- Commented that the City should be more aggressive with Santee Cooper to obtain additional LED lighting in problem areas.
- Conveyed compliments on the recent Rivertown Music and Craft Festival.
- Proposed a workshop or a committee meeting be held to consider how existing, long-standing businesses are treated in the City.

Timbes expressed concerns regarding the City's aging water/sewer infrastructure and noted that the City needs documentation on what is needed and where so all necessary underground work can be done at one time.

Blain-Bellamy:

- Reported on the recent "Welcome Home" reception for Nikki Finney and the Conway-Aynor Relay for Life event.
- Commented that fencing appeared to be incomplete in front of Sherwood Forest Park and asked staff to check on this situation.
- Reported briefly on a recent Mayor's Conference she had attended.
- Suggested the possibility of semi-annual or annual intergovernmental meetings to improve working relationships for Council and staff at all levels.
- Announced that the Protocol Committee would discuss ideas for improving the efficiency of City Council meetings and recommendations from the committee would be forthcoming.
- Suggested that problem areas in the City might be helped by adding street lighting and security cameras.

WORKSHOP:

- A. Discussion on request to annex approximately 15 acres of property located on Yeager Avenue (TMS 151-00-04-016 | PIN 38300000338) and to rezone from Horry County Limited Industrial (LI) to City of Conway Heavy Industrial (HI).** Hyman remarked that Vulcan Lands, Inc., had submitted this request to accommodate the development of a rock yard with concrete crushing. The request was considered by the Planning Commission at its April 5th meeting at which time a motion to recommend approval of the request failed 4-3. No subsequent motion was made to deny the request. She reported that concerns had been raised by the community in regard to environmental issues, in particular noise and air quality. John Poston of Castles Engineering, explained that Vulcan would be required to comply with City regulations for the HI zoning district as well as state and federal air quality regulations. Hyman informed Council that the subject property is contiguous to the Fairways. She also confirmed that this activity (cement crushing) would not be allowed under County zoning regulations; however, there are two legally nonconforming businesses nearby that currently engage in this activity. Jimmy Fleming of Vulcan Lands Inc., spoke of Vulcan's knowledge, expertise and measures taken to ensure employee wellness which will, in turn, protect nearby residents. He stated the material is currently brought in by truck; depending on the market and supply, railing these materials in will take approximately 22,000 to 36,000 truck trips off Highway 501 as well as help maintain the integrity of the rail site and the industrial park. Adam Boyles of RJ Corman Railroad commented that Corman fully supports the rezoning request for this property and the company looks forward to a partnership on this property and to railing in materials. At the invitation of Goldfinch, Barbara Eisenhardt addressed Council with concerns of the residents in the Wild Wing community. She appealed to Council to leave the property zoned Light Industrial. Eisenhardt also spoke on the hazards of silica that is released during the concrete crushing process; however, Fleming noted that silicosis is an occupational illness, not an environmental illness. **OUTCOME:** A public hearing and consideration of first reading will be on the agenda for the upcoming Council meeting.
- B. Discussion on proposed plans for infrastructure improvements in Kingston Park at corner of Fourth Avenue and Main Street.** Emrick reviewed with Council a proposal for these improvements which include signage, string lights, landscaping, etc. He explained that

the idea of shade sails over the park had been discarded in favor of having a mural and umbrellas at tables. Timbes requested that the poles holding the string lights be made more decorative. The estimated cost of the proposed improvements is \$51,800. In addition to seeking grants, partial funding will come from a grant from the Coastal Carolina Association of Realtors, a small contribution from the owners of the Rivertown Roasters, and the City. **OUTCOME:** There was no opposition voiced to the proposed plan for improvements in Kingston Park.

C. Update on options to help enforce “No Left Turns” at the Kingston Street/Main Street intersection. Chestnut gave an update on his communication with SCDOT on measures to help prevent left turns at the Kingston Street/Main Street Intersection. SCDOT will allow delineator posts; however, Chestnut advised that the posts would have to be yellow, not white. He also mentioned that, even though the posts are somewhat flexible, damage could result to cars if they run over them. There was discussion on asking DOT for permission to use white posts in lieu of yellow, the low visibility of existing “no left turns” signage, the extent of the problem of drivers ignoring “no left turns” at that location, and other options. Chestnut advised that SCDOT will also allow the painting of “no left turn” on the street and he estimated the cost to be \$3,000 to paint the warning on Main Street and to upgrade the painting on Kingston Street to match. **OUTCOME:** Staff will proceed with having the warnings painted on Main Street and Kingston Street and the City’s Public Information Officer will assist with educating the driving public. Council may revisit this issue in the future if necessary.

D. Discussion on replacement of Riverwalk deck boards. Jarrett presented information and a proposal to Council to upgrade the boards on the Riverwalk with composite decking. He gave a 25 year cost comparison for replacement of pressure treated wood boards and 5/4" composite decking. The total replacement cost for wood on both sides of the Riverwalk over a 25 year period was estimated at \$154,47 and for composite decking the estimated cost was \$103,286. Emrick noted that, while the Riverwalk boards are in poor condition, the existing substructure appears to be in good shape although additional supports may have to be added. **OUTCOME:** Staff will seek bids for composite decking to replace the boards on the Riverwalk. Bids will be presented for Council’s consideration at a future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to enter into executive session to discuss compensation of an employee [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(1)] and negotiations incidental to potential acquisition of property [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(2)]. While in executive session, no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

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

ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION


A. Compensation of an employee. **Motion:** Mayor Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded Smith, to approve a one-time payment of \$5,000 for Assistant PRT Director David Williams as compensation for added responsibilities November 6, 2017 to April 1, 2018, the period of time that the PRT Department was without a director. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Compensation of employees. Motion: Mayor Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White, to approve a one-time bonus of \$1,000 for all Police Department (certified and non-certified), effective immediately. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Negotiations incidental to potential acquisition of property. Motion: Mayor Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Hammond, to authorize the City Administrator to enter into negotiations with Ray Realty, Inc., for the purchase of property. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 21st day of May, 2018.


Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk