

SPECIAL MEETING
CONWAY CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 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; 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: Steve Roberts 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 and gave the invocation. Those in attendance then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Consideration of a special employee bonus.** Traditionally, all City employees receive a Christmas bonus each year; full-time employees - \$100 and part-time employees - \$50. Staff has worked tirelessly in their efforts to clean up the damage from Hurricane Matthew. Graham proposed an additional bonus of \$250 for full-time employees and \$125 for part-time employees to be paid separate from the regular Christmas bonus check. This increase in Christmas bonuses will cost \$59,250. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve an additional \$250 Christmas bonus for full-time City employees and an additional \$125 Christmas bonus for part-time City employees. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Consideration of schedule for Conway Celebration of Lights.** In view of concerns expressed by members of the Tennis Center about night play not being allowed during the Celebration of Lights, staff recommended that the light show operate on Thursday through Sunday nights and night play at the Tennis Center be allowed on Monday through Wednesday nights. The hours of operation for the light show will be Thursdays and Sundays from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Goldfinch noted for the record, that he is not affiliated with Goldfinch Funeral Home, which is a sponsor of the Conway Celebration of Lights. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to approve staff recommendation. **Vote:** Anderson voted in the negative; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

C. Presentation on PRT State Grant in the amount of \$150K for expansion of the Conway Riverwalk.

Graham reported that the South Carolina Parks, Recreation and Tourism has notified him that the City of Conway has been designated to receive a grant in the amount of \$150,000 for the expansion of the Conway Riverwalk and that there is an application process before the grant can be awarded. Graham noted that the specifics of how Council would like to use these grant funds will be discussed at the December 5th Council meeting.

WORKSHOP: Council input on Goals for the FY 2017-2018 budget.

Alford and Goldfinch – City vehicles be used for an additional year before replacement.

White and Alford – Free or reduced cost play at the Recreation Center for youth 1-2 nights per week.

Timbes and Smith – Activate the emergency alert system ASAP.

White:

- Requested that bike lanes be installed within the City if possible.
- Upgrade Hwy 378 and plant flowers in the medians on Hwy 501.

Timbes:

- Plant oak trees from the Heritage Oak program to replace the trees lost on City property during Hurricane Matthew.
- Keep the Fire Department and Police Department fully staffed.
- Solicit Krispy Kreme to locate to Conway.
- Additional funds for expansion of the Conway Celebration of Lights.
- Continue work on the Conway Critters program with the goal of completing this project by next spring.
- Work with the school system to “bridge gaps” with the youth.
- Provide security at the Celebration of Lights event.
- Improvement of Piggly Wiggly site.
- Council members should update their resumes on the City website.
- Clean up two partially burned houses on 4th Avenue.

Smith:

- Increase mid to lower level employee pay scales to exceed that of other municipalities.
- Efforts by all departments to involve youth in activities.
- Support for additional training for the Fire Department and Police Department.
- Increase the number of outside tournaments by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Goldfinch:

- Create a structured program that would provide support for youth activities/sports.
- Limit eastward expansion of the City.
- Riverfront Development
- Site of the burned church on 4th Avenue needs mowing and clean-up.

Anderson:

- Invest in tag readers for the Police Department.
- \$5,000 salary increase across the board for all City Police Officers.
- Construct a basketball center consisting of 6-8 courts near the Recreation Center.

- Cut the azaleas, add more lighting, upgrade the basketball courts and add to the sculpture collection in Collins Park
- Demolish condemned properties within the City if not cleaned up within 30-60 days after notification.
- Council should choose a few projects to move forward with in the improvement of the Hwy 378 corridor.
- Allocate more funds for the Building Department to remove dilapidated structures.

Alford:

- Increase the formula for allocations of County recreation funds to the City.
- Incentive for commercial zones (except Hwy 501)
- Improve sight triangle at the intersection of 10th Avenue and Laurel Street.
- Calendars including department heads to be sold at the Visitor's Center.
- Signage for Riverfront and Welcome signs.
- Place markers with the City's founding year at all 400-500 year old oak trees.
- Develop goals and strategies to reduce energy consumption by the City – 10% over 5 years.
- Incentive for Police Officers who live in the City.

Blain-Bellamy:

- Appoint an employee to look for and report issues such overgrown shrubbery, potholes, etc.
- Planning for new construction of a City Hall building.
- Continue the Neighborhood Town Hall meetings in 2017.
- Develop an internship program with Coastal Carolina University.
- Designate a Public Information Officer.
- Purchase a City van – minimum of 15-passenger, possibly larger.
- Minimize the City's responsibility when accepting dedicated streets – (such as requiring fabric underlayment).
- Consider buying a tour bus to bring visitors from the Grand Strand into the City. Timbes suggested sampling this idea with CCU trolley's before investing in a tour bus.

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 5th day of December, 2016.

Debbie F. Smith
Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk