

CONWAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016 – 5:30 PM

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**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; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Adam Emrick, Planning Director; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director; 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:** Traci Rivers, Jimmy P. Jordan, Samantha Beaver, Tommy Moore, 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 recognized Pastor Bill Childs of Trinity Methodist Church who 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 presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. **Final 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**
- B. **Final 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**
- C. **Final 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)**
- D. **Minutes of City Council meeting – August 1, 2016**

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

#### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

**Carol Hoyt** requested that the City provide shade at the Dog Park.

**Wyman Rembert** spoke in favor of shade being provided at the Dog Park.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy referred Ms. Hoyt and Mr. Rembert to Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director, for an update on the City's plans to install a shade structure at the Dog Park and asked for a show of hands of those in attendance who were in favor of shade at the Dog Park.

**Hugh Schrowang** expressed his concerns regarding proposed commercial development at the entrance of the Wild Wing community and requested an access road from Hwy 501 to that development be constructed. He also commented that the commercial development could result in drainage issues which could cause flooding should there be another event such as the October 2015 flood.

**Bill Batson** of Diversified Development, informed Council that he plans to apply for a variance due to the City's landscape buffer requirements because he foresees the requirements causing issues with the construction of the Kentucky Fried Chicken.

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

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- A. Presentation of resolution honoring John Proctor as the Winner of the B.A.S.S. Southern Divisional Tournament.** On behalf of City Council, Mayor Blain-Bellamy read aloud and presented to John Proctor a resolution honoring him on his successes as a professional angler.
- B. Special Event Permit Application – Rivertown Reindeer Race – Saturday, December 3, 2016.** The American Red Cross requested a special event permit for the Rivertown Reindeer Race. The 5K race will be held Downtown and in the Riverfront Park area on Saturday, December 3, 2016, starting at 8:00 a.m. Event set-up will begin at 6:30 a.m. with clean-up to be completed by 10:30 a.m. Emrick reviewed the plans for the event and a map of the route accompanied the application. Police will monitor runners and open/close streets according to the need. Public Works employees will place hang tags, provided by the sponsor, on roll out carts to provide notice of the event to residents along the route. Staff recommended approval of the special event application with the cost of any support services provided to be absorbed by the City's operating funds. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve the special event application for the Rivertown Reindeer Race. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Coastal Carolina University Homecoming “Canstruct” activities.** Samantha Beaver of Conway Downtown Alive informed Council that this proposed program would partner Coastal Carolina University student groups with Downtown businesses to collect canned goods for the local foodbank. Assistance from City staff in the pick-up and delivery of the donated canned goods received would be needed. Beaver noted that “Canstruct” activities would replace the “Paint the Town Teal” event held in past years. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the partnership of the City and Conway Downtown Alive. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- D. Request from Churches Assisting People to remove small block building at former Fire Station #1.** Gail LaSalle, CAP Executive Director, thanked Council for allowing CAP to lease the former Fire Station #1. LaSalle reported that vagrants have been occupying the vacant block building adjacent to the fire station and recently an incident occurred at the property which required the Conway Police to respond. On behalf of CAP, LaSalle requested that the City demolish the vacant block building in an attempt to alleviate any future disruptions. Graham reported that according to the City's Public Works Director, the building could be removed within a day at a cost of \$200-\$300. There was some concern among Council about the possibility of having to construct a building in the future should the current building be demolished. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to table this item of business for further review. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- E. Employees of the Month Award for July (co-winners)** was presented to Sergeant Chris Williamson and Corporal Justin Strickland, Police Department. The presentation was made by the City Administrator. Chief Gosnell also awarded the South Carolina Police Chief's Association Life-saving Uniform Ribbon Award to Sergeant Chris Williamson, Corporal Justin Strickland, and Horry County Police Department Corporal Steve Daley for their heroic actions in preventing a young woman from jumping from the Main Street Bridge in a possible suicide attempt.

**ORDINANCE FOR FINAL READING: Final 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.** First reading was approved and the public hearing was held at the August 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting. During the public hearing of this rezoning request, several Buckwood residents spoke in opposition of the request. Staff recommended final reading approval. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by White, to approve final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-06-20 (C). **Vote:** Mayor Blain-Bellamy voted in the negative; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. Resolution honoring the 2016 NCAA Division I College World Series Champions, Coastal Carolina University Chanticleers.** Mayor Blain-Bellamy read aloud the resolution honoring the Coastal Carolina University Chanticleers for winning the 2016 NCAA Division I College World Series Championship. The City Administrator reported that CCU has agreed to make signs to be displayed along major highways and in City parks announcing CCU as the 2016 NCAA Division I College World Series Champions. Council Member Smith commented that he had received several request from citizens suggesting a road be named "National Championship Parkway." **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Smith, to adopt the resolution. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Resolution authorizing the continuation of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Conway, Horry County and the City of Myrtle Beach to maximize the amount of Community Development Block Grant funding.** In October 2007, the City of Conway entered into a cooperative agreement with the City of Myrtle Beach and Horry County to maximize the amount of Community Development Block Grant funds received from Housing and Urban Development. Emrick noted that continuation of this Agreement will allow for the continued operation of the City's Housing Rehab Program, funding for the Jail Diversion Program, and infrastructure aimed at benefiting the City's Low to Moderate Income neighborhoods. Staff recommended that Council approve the continuation of the Intergovernmental Agreement. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to authorize

the City's continued participation in the joint HUD-CDBG Intergovernmental Agreement with Horry County and the City of Myrtle Beach. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

#### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Request to plant shrub and install marker in memory of Chris Ray at Fire Station #2.** Chief Hendrick reported that the Fire Department received a request from Mrs. Jane Hollman to plant a tree and place a ground mounted plaque, at her expense, at Fire Station #2 in memory of Firefighter Christopher Ray. Staff recommended approval. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the request as submitted. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Removal of 10 Bradford pear trees along Elm Street.** There are currently 10 Bradford pear trees located on Elm Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue that are in very poor health. The City Arborist recommended the removal of all 10 trees and that no trees be replanted in the same area. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Smith, to accept the recommendation of the City Arborist. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Purchase of a new 16' x 24' shelter to be installed at Riverfront Park.** Hughes reported that funds were allocated in the FY 2016-17 budget for the purchase of a shelter for the area adjacent to the Riverfront Park playground. The selected shelter is manufactured and available through a sole source, Enwood Structures of Raleigh, North Carolina, at a cost of \$13,796.58. Hughes presented a power point illustration of the proposed site for installation of the shelter. Staff recommended approval of the purchase of the shelter. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the purchase of the shelter at a cost of \$13,796.58 from Enwood Structures as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Acceptance of bid for the purchase of displays, equipment and lights for the Celebration of Lights and update on proposed plans for the project.** Hughes reported that funds were allocated in the FY 2016-17 budget for the purchase of displays, equipment and lights for the upcoming holiday lights project. The following bids were received in response to the issuance of a Request for Proposals: Universal Concepts, Cumming, GA - \$131,948.00 and Mosca Design, Raleigh, N.C. - \$134,217.46. Hughes noted that the Celebration of Lights Committee met to review the proposals and to discuss potential names for the light show. The committee recommended that the low bid which was submitted by Universal Concepts in the amount of \$131,948.00 be accepted and that the light show be officially named the "Conway Celebration of Lights." Hughes presented a power point of the various light displays which will extend approximately 1 mile. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to accept the committee's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- E. Proposed installation of speed humps on New Road.** Gosnell reported that in response to a number of citizen complaints regarding excessive speeding on New Road, several speed studies were conducted to determine the necessity for speed humps on New Road. In the 3300 block of New Road, the speed trailer was deployed from April 19-27, pneumatic speed tubes were deployed from May 16-25 along with increased police visibility, and, after installation of a 3-way stop at the intersection of New Road and Cedar Lane, a third study was conducted from July 26 – August 4. The results of these studies were reviewed with Council along with a map depicting the proposed locations of the speed humps on New Road. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve staff's recommendation to place the speed humps on New Road. **Vote:** Mayor Blain-Bellamy voted in the negative; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

**F. Acceptance of bid for the purchase of a ground penetrating radar.** The FY 2016-17 Public Utilities budget included \$12,500 for the purchase of a ground penetrating radar which is used to locate PVC pipe and A/C pipe that was installed without a tracer wire. The following bids were received: C & S Solutions East, Lexington, S.C. - \$13,910 and Power-Tel, Safety Harbor, FL - \$14,003. Fortiline Water Works of Myrtle Beach, S.C. was contacted but did not submit a bid. Staff recommended that Council accept the low bid of \$13,910 which was submitted by C & S Solutions East. Friday noted the overage of \$1,410 can be covered in the overall Public Utilities budget. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the bid in the amount of \$13,910 submitted by C & S Solutions East. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEM FOR INFORMATION: Update on current litter clean-up efforts.** Timmy Williams reported on this item and noted that twice each month, designated areas throughout the City are targeted for litter cleanup. In addition, notices are posted on the Access Channel and the City website encouraging the public and civic organizations to participate in the cleanup of designated areas throughout the City on the third Thursday of each month. The Conway Police Department held a Neighborhood Cleanup Day in May of this year and once again, the City will partner with Horry County in the Annual Community Clean-Up Day in October. Williams noted that the City's Litterbug Hotline is advertised on the City's Access Channel and website.

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**A. Funding application packet for civic and community organizations.** Allison Williams presented and reviewed a funding application packet that would encompass all funding requests from civic and community organizations that was drafted as requested by Council. The packet includes an Applicant Guidelines section which outlines the qualifications, special rules, and submission deadlines that apply to the various funding sources. The City Administrator explained the various time frames for each fund and stated that the City will be firm in following the time frame guidelines for applications. There was discussion on clarification of state regulations pertaining to Local Hospitality and Accommodations Tax. Staff will return at a future Council meeting with revisions to the application packet based on input received from Council.

Pro Tem Timbes presided over the meeting for the following item of business while Mayor Blain-Bellamy briefly excused herself from the meeting.

**B. Discussion on potential amendments to Article 5.1.29, Mini Storage Units.** City Council recently approved a revision to the UDO prohibiting the parking of commercial vehicles on public streets and the parking and storage of recreation vehicles. During discussions, concerns were voiced about the lack of alternative parking areas for the storage of commercial vehicles and recreational vehicles. Emrick noted that the most common location for the storage of vehicles where there is not adequate space at a residence is typically a mini-storage facility; however, the UDO prohibits open storage of this equipment in mini storage units. Staff presented an amendment to the UDO which would allow commercial and recreational vehicle parking at mini storage units provided the owner of the facility install a minimum of 6' high opaque fence with a 15' landscaped buffer outside of the fence to adequately screen the storage facility. This item of business will be presented at a future workshop for further discussion.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy returned and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

### **Update on Long Avenue bridges:**

- Grier Swamp Bridge construction is near completion. The bridge was paved last Thursday and Friday and according to SCDOT it should reopen within 2-3 weeks.
- Crabtree Bridge – The contractor is required to give a 30-day start date notice; however, to date, neither SCDOT nor the City has received notice of a start date.

### **Update on Long Avenue Sidewalk Project:**

- All drainage pipe has been installed.
- All concrete sidewalks are scheduled to be poured in 2 weeks.
- According to SCDOT, the project should be completed by the end of September 2016.

## **COUNCIL INPUT:**

**Alford** offered to share ideas with staff in reference to applying for a \$25,000 MASC Hometown Economic Development Grant.

**White** requested the demolition of the partially burned house on Hiland Avenue and that speed humps/bumps be placed on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Timbes**

- Requested staff to check the pedestrian crossing lights at Downtown intersections that do not appear to be working correctly.
- Recognized CCU athlete Amber Campbell for competing in this year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

### **Anderson**

- Suggested a workshop be held to review possible UDO amendments to increase the building height and increase parking spaces in the Downtown area.
- Suggested police officers could report street light outages they see while on patrol.
- Inquired about the procedure followed by 911 operators when taking information from callers.

### **Goldfinch**

- Suggested that the City install 20-25 speed humps per year throughout the City and allow neighborhoods to purchase and install speed humps at their own expense.

### **Smith**

- Asked staff to contact R J Corman to request that no train crossings near Conway Elementary School be scheduled on weekdays from 6:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and when school dismisses at 2:30 p.m.

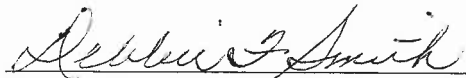
### **Mayor Blain-Bellamy**

- Read aloud a letter from Kyle Barry of SCDOT which stated that the construction of the bridges along Hwy 701 (the Great Pee Dee River, the Yahanna River, and the Great Pee Dee Overflow) are expected to be completed by the Spring of 2019.
- Congratulated Foster Hughes, Timmy Williams, and all City staff who helped stage the very successful Conway Superstar event.

**Smith, Timbes and Mayor Blain-Bellamy** requested staff to investigate the City's options to have the owner remove the box truck parked beside Hwy 701 North just outside the City limits that has defamatory words painted on it.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016.

  
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Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk