

MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, MARCH 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; 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 Rev. Cheryl Adamson of Palmetto Missionary Baptist Church who requested a moment of silence in remembrance of City Firefighter Christopher Gene Ray. Rev. Adamson then gave the invocation which was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by City Council and those in attendance.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: **City Council Minutes – February 15, 2016.** **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: **Amy Breault**, Executive Director of Horry County First Steps, addressed City Council regarding the Grade Level Reading Campaign Network and the Community Solution Action Plans that are prepared by schools that participate in the network. Schools in the Conway attendance area to be a part of this initiative are South Conway Elementary School and Homewood Elementary School. She asked that the Mayor, Council Members and City Administration (in any combination) serve on a Steering Committee for this effort. Mayor Blain-Bellamy suggested that Ms. Breault make an appointment to meet with the City Administrator to further explore the City's participation and that she would also be interested in attending that meeting.

Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to close the Public Input portion of the meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Presentation on South Carolina's Cultural Districts Program.** Rusty Sox of the South Carolina Arts Commission gave a power point presentation on the Cultural Districts Program for South Carolina and the process for obtaining Cultural District designation. He was accompanied by Joy Young, Horry County Arts Coordinator. The presentation was received by Council as information.
- B. Special event request: Conway Rotary Club Vidalia Onion 5K Run, April 16, 2016.** David Welborn with the Rotary Club submitted this special event request. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2016, in Downtown Conway and the Riverfront Park beginning at 8:00 am. Event set-up begins at 7:00 am and cleanup is to be completed by noon on the day of the event. Accompanying the special event application was a map of the route and an example of the hanger that will be placed on roll-out carts along that route to notify residents of the upcoming Onion Run. Emrick clarified that street closures along the route will not be continuous and that police officers will monitor runners and open/close streets according to need. Riverfront Park will remain open to the public during the event. 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 Smith, to approve the special event application for the Vidalia Onion Run as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Employee of the Month for February Award** was presented to Kevin Edwards, Public Works Department. The presentation was made by the City Administrator accompanied by Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director.
- D. Employee Longevity Bonus Awards** were presented to Pat Livingston, Finance Department, and Reggie Gosnell, Police Department, 10 years; Darren Alston, Police Department, 15 years; and Rodney Bellamy, Recreation Department (part-time) 20 years. The presentations were made by the City Administrator accompanied by Council Member Alford.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-04-03 (A) Amending Article 10 of the *City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance* relating to Parks and Open Space Dedication Requirements. Emrick reviewed the changes that the proposed ordinance would make in the City's current regulations: (1) Total open space requirements would change from 15% of the gross acreage to the number of lots in the development multiplied by the average household size (from US Census) multiplied by a factor of .008; (2) a fee in lieu would be required when less than one acre of open space is required; (3) water surfaces would still be allowed to account for up to 25% of the required open space but the water surface must be improved with a fountain or improved to become an amenity; and (4) major recreational facilities may be secured with a letter of credit until 50% of the lots have building permits issued. Installation of other open space amenities would be required prior to final plat approval. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the amendment. Staff recommended first reading approval of Ordinance #ZA2016-04-03 (A). **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to close the Public Hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a

motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-04-03 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION: Public hearing and consideration of proposed projects for the FY 2016-17 HUD/CDBG Entitlement Grant and City of Conway Action Plan. Emrick noted that the proposed projects and expenditures were based on input from Council's workshop sessions and included allocations for a Community Center at Smith Jones Park, Jail Diversion and Reentry Program, Home Repair Program, and Administrative Costs for a total of \$289,795. He also noted that the City had just received the contract for HOME Funds awarded last year in the amount of \$187,500 and these funds require a 20% match which can be met using funds from various sources including in-kind service or leveraged other funds. Noting that Grand Strand Housing, the company that administers the City's Home Repair Program, has greater access to leveraged funds that can be used for that purpose, Emrick informed Council that, hopefully, there would be no out of pocket expense to the City for the match. He also informed Council that, should the plans for the Community Center at Smith Jones Park not materialize, the HUD/CDBG budget could be amended by resolution of Council. **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to close the Public Hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the proposed projects presented for the FY 2016-17 HUD/CDBG Entitlement Grant as Conway's HUD/CDBG Action Plan. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

- A. Ordinance #ZA2016-04-03 (B) Accepting the petition of Debra G. Best to annex approximately 1.16 acres of property located at 2487 Long Avenue (TMS 123-00-02-075 / PIN 33901020014) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation.** Emrick advised Council that the request is being made to allow the residential structure on the lot to tie into City water and sewer. The property is contiguous to the City limits. The City of Conway Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Existing Residential. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the request. Staff recommended approval of first reading approval. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-04-03 9B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Ordinance #ZA2016-04-03 (C) Accepting the petition of Beverly Homes LLC to annex approximately 1 acre of property located on Long Avenue Extension, near Dudley Farms Subdivision (TMS 111-00-01-058/PIN 32301040024) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation.** This property is contiguous to the City limits and annexation is being requested to enable future development to tie into City water and sewer. The City of Conway comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Existing Residential. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-04-03 (C). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Ordinance #2016-04-03 (D) Creating Title 1, Chapter 5, Article I of the City of Conway Municipal Code establishing the Redevelopment Enhancement Incentive Program.**

Emrick presented and reviewed this proposed ordinance which would establish an incentive program for the development or redevelopment of properties located within the Central Business District, the Core Commercial District, and commercial properties fronting on Highway 378. Under the proposed ordinance, the following fees and taxes would be eligible for reimbursement for new or expanding businesses in those locations: 100% of capital recovery fees and building permit fees; five years of business license fees and hospitality taxes; and five years of the property tax increment based on the taxes paid on the improved property value vs. the taxes paid on the pre-development value. During discussion of the proposed ordinance, questions were raised in regard to expanding the area where development/redevelopment would be eligible for the incentive program, including a time limit on the incentive program, and the option for Council to choose, on a case by case basis, the reimbursement incentives to be granted. Graham remarked that Council could add and/or delete areas eligible for the incentives by amending the ordinance at its discretion. Emrick was asked to check on the legality of choosing reimbursement incentives to be granted on a case-by-case basis. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve first reading for further discussion to be held at a Council meeting workshop prior to second reading. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Acceptance of bid for engineering/surveying professional services for the Magnolia/Maple drainage project utilizing CDBG/HUD funding.** In February 2015, Council approved a drainage project located in the Whittemore Park Middle School area between Magnolia and Maple Streets. The following bids were received for engineering and surveying professional services for this project: Rowe Professionals, \$15,500; McCormick Taylor, \$38,000; Dennis Corp., \$26,000; and Wall Engineering, \$8,600. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid submitted by Wall Engineering. Emrick noted that this project is funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the Housing Urban Development Entitlement. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to accept the low bid submitted by Wall Engineering in the amount of \$8,600. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Acceptance of bid for stabilization of the Crabtree lift station generator slab.** During the October 2015 flood event, the generator located at the Crabtree lift station settled to one side causing it to become unstable. The following bids were received for the repair and stabilization of this generator: Ram Jack, \$22,261; Mt. Valley, \$10,200; and Cantey, \$7,400. Friday reported that the low bid, which was submitted by Cantey, is for a polymer injection under the slab that will cause the slab to float; it is not a pillar and jack type of repair. Although the next lowest bid, which was submitted by Mt. Valley, is \$2,800 higher, staff recommended acceptance of that bid in order to stay with a proven method for this type of work. FEMA funds in the amount of \$7,280.82 for this repair have already been received by the City; acceptance of the Mt. Valley bid would leave a balance of \$2,919.18. There are adequate funds in the Public Utilities budget to cover this expense. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to accept staff's recommendation and accept the bid in the amount of \$10,200 which was submitted by Mt. Valley for the repairs of the Crabtree lift station generator. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- C. Proposal from Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority to assume ownership of old sewer pump station and parcel of land on New Road.** Friday reported that Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority has requested to take ownership of the City's old pump station and lot at 2911 New Road which is surrounded by property owned by Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority. The City will be able to remove its large pumps and control components from the old station for reuse at other stations. If the request is approved and Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority takes ownership of this pump station, it will relieve the City of approximately 28 man hours of maintenance per year. Staff recommended that Council approve the transfer of ownership of the City's pump station and lot located at 2911 New Road to Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to accept staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Memorandum of Understanding for participation in the South Carolina Internet Crimes against Children Task Force.** Chief Gosnell reported that the Conway Police Department has been asked to become a member of the SC Attorney General's Office Internet Crimes against Children Task Force. The mission of this Task Force is to (1) properly investigate and prosecute those who sexually exploit children through the use of any technology-facilitated communication; (2) train and equip those involved in investigating and prosecuting internet crimes against children cases; and (3) educate the community regarding the prevention of internet crimes against children. Gosnell confirmed that participation will not require a police officer to be dedicated solely to the Task Force. Staff recommended approval of the Memorandum of Understanding. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the City's participation in the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force and to authorize the Police Chief to execute the agreement. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- E. Acceptance of bids for purchase of emergency lighting and equipment for six new replacement police vehicles.** The Police Department's FY 2015-16 Capital Outlay Budget designates funding for the purchase of new emergency lighting and equipment for six replacement front-line vehicles. Myrtle Beach Communication provided State Contract pricing (including installation) of the following: (1) Emergency lighting and equipment for 2 fully-marked patrol vehicles for a total of \$7,369.28 (\$3,684.64 per unit); (2) Emergency lighting and equipment for 3 semi-marked patrol vehicles for a total of \$13,172.43 (\$4,390.81 per unit); and (3) Emergency lighting and equipment for one Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck for a total of \$4,015.43. Prices include sales tax. Staff recommended acceptance of the State Contract pricing offered by Myrtle Beach Communications for the emergency lighting and equipment as outlined. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Smith, to accept staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- F. Approval to purchase a new 16' x 24' shelter for area adjacent to Fireman's Clubhouse.** Hughes reported that funds for the purchase of a shelter for the area adjacent to the Fireman's Clubhouse are included in the FY 2015-16 budget. The selected shelter is manufactured and available through a sole source, Enwood Structures of Raleigh, North Carolina, at a cost of \$13,796.58 including tax. Hughes presented a power point illustration showing the proposed site for installation and he advised Council that the shelter could easily be moved to another

location should it become necessary in order to accommodate future development in that area.

Motion: Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the purchase of the “Wilmington” shelter from Enwood Structures at a cost of \$13,796.58 as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

G. Enforcement of speed limits. Council discussed concerns regarding enforcement of the speed limit within the City, particularly on streets in residential areas that, by virtue of their geographical location, have become thoroughfares. In view of these concerns, Council requested that there be more attention be given to enforcement of the speed limit on all residential streets within the City and particularly on “thoroughfare” streets including Laurel Street, Elm Street, 5th Avenue, 9th Avenue, Smith Street, 8th Avenue and Parkview. Graham and Gosnell reported that the traffic trailers could be deployed and routinely moved to different locations to assist in this effort. Notices to help keep the public mindful of speed limits and the dangers of running stoplights will be posted on the Access Channel. In reference to enforcement by use of cameras, Gosnell reported that state law requires tickets to be personally served.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Mayor Blain-Bellamy and Council expressed their deepest sympathies to the family of Firefighter Christopher Gene Ray as well as the City Fire Department.

- **Anderson** spoke of a recent “60 Minutes” television show about St. Benedict Prep School and recommended it for viewing.
- **Timbes** commented that Conway High School had responded to a request for a list of items with which the City might be able to assist. In the interest of time, she informed Council that she would present this list to the City Administrator. She also expressed her appreciation to the City employees and the entire community for the outpouring of support in the loss of Firefighter Ray.
- **White** commented on the success of the recent Neighborhood Town Hall meeting held at Whittemore Park Middle School on March 15th.
- **Alford** thanked Foster Hughes for the publicizing “Walk to Work Day” which will be held on April 1. He also stated that, to start discussion, he had prepared a draft of new Vision and Mission Statements for the City.
- **Mayor Blain-Bellamy** commented on the remarkable fashion in which the City and community have come together during the recent tragedy and how quickly others have generously come to the aid of the City of Conway during the loss of City Firefighter Ray. She also commented on the success of the recent Town Hall meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 4th
day of April, 2016.

Debbie F. Smith
Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk