

CONWAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor 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, Leslie Wilson, Keith Collins, Tammy Elvis, Emily Smith, Kelli James and others

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Rev. Mark Burlinson of Christ Community Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Minutes of City Council meeting – April 4, 2016. Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the consent agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jimmy Hammond requested Council to consider funding an additional firefighter position in the FY 2016-17 budget which he said would balance staffing and address safety issues. He also spoke on actions that had been recommended to improve the City's ISO rating and the need for mobile data terminals on fire trucks.

Gail LaSalle, Executive Director of Churches Assisting People (CAP) informed Council that the cost of renovations to the former Fire Station, currently leased by CAP, was in excess of \$50,000 and funds were borrowed from the CAP Board of Directors to assist with this cost. LaSalle requested that City Council consider a \$15,000 general grant to CAP to repay this loan. LaSalle also commented that discussions are needed on what the community will do to address the homeless situation.

Betty Hutchinson suggested that the old Post Office/museum building currently under renovation be used as a Center for the Arts (classes, exhibits, etc.).

Mae Days shared her concerns that children in the Racepath community were being profiled and harassed by City police officers. She presented the City Administrator with petitions of

approximately 20 signatures, regarding police actions in that neighborhood. She also shared concerns regarding the impact of the City's "no parking" and "no loitering" areas in that neighborhood.

Keith Collins, Executive Director of Bucksport Water Systems, spoke in support of the inclusion of additional floating docks in the FY 2016-17 budget. He remarked that additional docks would provide an economic opportunity for Downtown Conway. Collins asked to be notified of any future meetings that included discussion/action on additional docks.

Joe Burroughs spoke in support of the floating docks and commented on his position that the docks are part of the City's infrastructure and their oversight should be assigned as such and not under Recreation. Burroughs volunteered to serve on a committee to assist with the floating dock project should one be appointed.

Leslie Wilson commented on her support of the floating dock and felt that it would bring more visitors to all of the businesses in downtown Conway.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy asked for a show of hands of those in attendance in support of the floating docks.

Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to close the public input portion of the meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Special event request: Riverfest, June 25, 2016. Kelli James of the Conway Chamber of Commerce submitted this special event request. The annual Riverfest is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2016, along Marina Drive, in the Riverfront Tennis Center parking lot, and at Riverfront Park from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm. The applicant requested closure of Marina Drive from Elm Street to the Horry County parking lot for the event. Admission to Riverfront Park after 3:00 pm for the evening Riverfest activities will be by paid admission only (\$5). Maps showing the location of activities and the proposed designated special event area for the public consumption of alcohol accompanied the special event application. In response to an inquiry from Timbes as to why the event was not being held on July 2nd, James provided details on how the Chamber selected the date of June 25th for this event. Staff recommended approval of the special event application with the cost of support services provided to be absorbed by the City's operating funds. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the special event application for Riverfest 2016 as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Employee of the Month for March was presented to Kent Bitting, Public Utilities Department. The presentation was made by the City Administrator accompanied by James Friday, Public Utilities Director. Several members of the Bitting family were in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FINAL READING: Public hearing and final reading of Ordinance #2016-04-04 (D) Creating Title 1, Chapter 5, Article I of the City of Conway Municipal Code establishing the Redevelopment Enhancement Incentive Program. At first reading approval of this ordinance on March 21st, Council asked staff to consider certain revisions to the proposed ordinance prior to final reading. Based on Council's input, the ordinance was revised by staff and presented for discussion during the workshop session of the April 4th

meeting. The revised ordinance now provides for 100% reimbursement of capital recovery fees for new or expanding businesses in the Central Business District, Core Commercial District, and for commercial development on properties fronting Highway 378 (Wright Boulevard) or along Highway 701 (Main Street/4th Avenue). Emrick noted that the sunset clause in the proposed ordinance will allow the incentive to expire after three years unless Council renews it prior to that time. Staff recommended approval of final reading. **Public Hearing: Tammy Elvis and Leslie Wilson** spoke in support of the Redevelopment Enhancement Incentive Program. There being no further comment from the public, the public hearing was closed. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve Ordinance #2016-04-04 (D) as presented. Councilmember Alford commented on his support of the incentive program but shared concern about the lack of a clawback provision in the ordinance that would require repayment of the reimbursement should the business close within a year. **Vote:** Alford voted in the negative; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: 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. Emrick advised Council that the request to annex this vacant property had been submitted in order to develop a house on the lot and 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. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-05-02. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION: Agreement to place restrictive covenants on City property located at 1810 Racepath Avenue (former Police Satellite Station). On May 7, 2015, the City entered into a Lease Agreement with A Father's Place for the building located at 1810 Racepath Avenue for a period of 25 years. Emrick reported that A Father's Place received a CDBG/HUD award in the amount of \$61,925.00 for renovations to the building. For these grant funds to be disbursed, the City must agree to certain CDBG requirements that, if not met, will require the City, as property owner, to reimburse 100% of the amount awarded. This agreement is secured by restrictive covenants that are required to be placed on the property as a condition for the funding. Emrick advised Council that, as long as the building remains a public facility providing services to low to moderate income individuals, no reimbursement of CDBG funds by the City would be necessary. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agreement placing restrictive covenants on the City property at 1810 Racepath Avenue and to authorize the City Administrator to execute the necessary documents. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- A. Report on Citywide park camera network.** The Police Chief presented a status report on the City's wireless camera network. Nine pan-tilt-zoom cameras and four police hot spots have been installed in the following locations: Riverfront Park, Riverwalk, Recreation Complex, Collins Park and Smith Jones Park. The installations were completed in June 2015. Gosnell noted that Council recently gave preliminary approval of funds to be included in the FY 2016-17 budget for the purchase of two additional pan-tilt-zoom cameras which will be located near the Riverwalk entrance underneath the Main Street Bridge and near the transient floating dock. Gosnell recommended signage be placed at camera locations to give notice that video cameras are in use.

B. Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget update February 2016 was presented as information by the Finance Director.

COUNCIL INPUT:

- **Smith, Goldfinch, Anderson and Alford** expressed their desire to have a discussion on Fire Department staffing and the City's ISO rating merited discussion.
- **Smith and Anderson** stated their desire to see the Sports Hall of Fame reactivated.

Anderson

- Suggested that signage advising bicyclists to ride single file be placed along Long Avenue.
- Reported complaints that a number of children were recently late for school because crossings were blocked by the train and reiterated his earlier request that the train not run in the City on weekdays between 6:45 am and 8:15 am (to accommodate both Conway Elementary and Conway Middle School).
- Expressed appreciation to those who attended the Conway High School play, "Little Shop of Horrors."

Timbes

- Thanked staff for the platform that has been built to accommodate revised seating arrangements for Council members.
- Conveyed complaints regarding the length of time the traffic lights are red on Main Street and Highway 501 and requested staff to contact SCDOT for any assistance that can be provided.
- Noted that information should be publicized as soon as possible to make motorists aware that bridge replacement work on Long Avenue will soon begin.

White asked staff to check on vegetative overgrowth hindering passage on the sidewalks in the areas of 16th Avenue from Highway 501 to Elm Street and on Highway 501 from 16th Avenue to Doctor's Care.

Alford

- Proposed that Council visit Savannah to view the city squares.
- Reported that he has received complaints about hardwood trees growing underneath and into Main Street Bridge and inquired as to the appropriate agency to cut them.

Blain-Bellamy reported that she attended the Conway Police Department's Outreach Basketball League Awards ceremony and commended Chief Gosnell and the officers involved for hosting this event for the City's youth.

The Council meeting recessed after this item of business and reconvened in the Conference Room for the remainder of the meeting.

WORKSHOP:

A. Discussion on potential amendments to Article 11.4.9, Electronic Message Centers and proposed digital sign for Horry Georgetown Technical College. Emrick gave a brief overview of the City's regulations pertaining to the Electronic Message Centers. These signs are currently allowed for parcels zoned Institutional and parcels in the gateway Corridor fronting Highway 501 Bypass that are zoned Highway Commercial. Council was also

informed that Coastal Carolina University has a full-color LED sign which was approved before the UDO was adopted. Neyle Wilson, President of Horry Georgetown Technical College, reviewed for Council the college's request to replace its existing electronic message center with a digital sign. He also stated that, if approved, the City would be allowed to advertise public safety announcements, City festivals, etc. Debbie Jenkins, a representative from Tyson Signs, noted that the technology on which the current regulations are based is outdated and, in her opinion, the maximum size for electronic signs is too small for Highway 501. She suggested Council consider allowing color displays and noted that the sign company uses a 6-8 second rotation for displays. She offered to provide staff with samples of sign ordinances from other jurisdictions that might be useful as guides should revisions to the current regulations be considered. **OUTCOME:** Council was agreeable to revisiting regulations pertaining to digital display (color/size of display area) on Electronic Message Centers. Staff will provide a draft proposed ordinance during the workshop portion of the May 16th Council meeting for Council's discussion.

B. Discussion on request for additional floating docks along Conway Riverwalk. As a result of public input received at the April 4, 2016 City Council meeting in support of additional floating docks, Council discussed the possibility of including funding for this purpose in the FY 2016-17 budget proposal. Graham reported that plans for Phase II of the Conway RiverWalk included the additional dock but it was never built. The cost to build the dock according to Phase II specifications was estimated at \$100,000. In response to concerns of there being adequate funds in the budget to fund both the Highway 378 Corridor improvement project and the additional floating dock, Graham informed Council that there is a balance in the Hospitality Fund that could be used for the floating dock and the Highway 378 Corridor project could be funded from either the General Fund or the Hospitality Fund. **OUTCOME:** There was a consensus among Council to include \$100,000 in the FY 2016-17 budget proposal for the construction of a floating dock.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to enter into executive session to discuss promotion and compensation of employees. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith to come out of executive session. **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 2nd day of May, 2016.


Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk