

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 – 5:30 PM

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Council Members Randle L. Alford, Thomas J. Anderson II, William M. Goldfinch IV, Jean M. Timbes, Larry A. White, and Council Member-Elect Ashley Smith

**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, Charles Perry, and others

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

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Pro Tem Blain-Bellamy recognized the Reverend Dr. Charles Pee of Friendship Baptist Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the pledge of allegiance.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE:** Oaths of Office were administered during the swearing-in ceremonies for the Mayor and Council Members elected/re-elected in the November 2015 election.

- A. Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy** was sworn into office by her pastor, the Reverend Dr. Charles Pee, Friendship Baptist Church. She was accompanied by her husband, Bobby Bellamy.
- B. Council Member Thomas J. Anderson II** was sworn into office by Mayor Blain-Bellamy. He was accompanied by his wife April and children Caroline and Thomas III.
- C. Council Member Ashley Smith** was sworn into office by Municipal Judge Andy Hendrick. He was accompanied by his wife Kayla and children Mary and Will.
- D. Council Member Larry A. White** was sworn into office by his pastor, Rev. William Miller, Bethel AME Church. He was accompanied by his daughter LaRita Ashley and granddaughter Jamya.

**BRIEF RECESS AND RECEPTION:** The meeting briefly recessed for a reception in honor of Mayor Blain-Bellamy and Council Members Anderson, Smith and White. The meeting reconvened at approximately 6:00 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion made by Anderson, seconded by Alford, to approve the agenda as presented was unanimously approved. Motion carried

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: City Council Minutes – December 7, 2015.** A motion made by Goldfinch, seconded by White, to approve the consent agenda as presented was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

**ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM FOR 2016: Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to elect Timbes as Mayor Pro Tem for 2016. **Vote:** Timbes abstained; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

**Reverend Jerry Faulk**, on behalf of the MLK Committee, thanked Council and staff for their past and current support of the MLK celebrations in Conway and reviewed how the City's financial donation is expended. He extended an invitation to Council to attend the MLK celebration on January 18<sup>th</sup> which is being hosted by Friendship Baptist Church.

**Dewon Huggins** spoke on the poor quality of the City's website and offered to provide a new City of Conway website free of charge. He also commented that the City's budget should be available online.

**Dennis Stevens**, representing the Conway Cultural Development Corporation, asked that there be more transparency of information on the City's website.

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- A. Report on Long Avenue bridge replacement projects and concerns regarding flooding of evacuation and travel routes.** Mike Wooten, Vice-Chairman, SCDOT Board of Commissioners, advised Council that the Federal Highway Administration requires SCDOT to design roads and bridges for a 50 year storm event. He further advised Council that the two bridges on Long Avenue do not meet modern design standards and were beginning to decline; therefore, they were put on the replacement list. Mr. Colvin reported on Act 98 which will provide one-time funding of \$50 million to upgrade "load restricted" bridges across South Carolina. He advised that both bridges on Long Avenue would be raised approximately one foot during replacement. The Grier Swamp Bridge will be increased to a 60-foot span and the new Crabtree Swamp Bridge will be increased to 33-feet. Colvin also reported that bids for these projects will be received next Tuesday. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2016 with a projected completion date of December 31, 2016, for both bridges. In the interest of public safety and convenience for local traffic, Colvin agreed to look into expediting the upgrade of Grier Swamp Bridge.
- B. Request from American Legion Horry Post 111 for donation to help send high school delegates to Palmetto Boys State and Palmetto Girls State.** Graham presented this request on behalf of Ray Friedl, Palmetto Boys State Coordinator, and Brandy Bay-Smith, Palmetto Girls State Coordinator. Donations of \$300 to sponsor one delegate to Boys State and \$350 to sponsor one delegate to Girls State has been requested. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the request with the stipulation that the delegates sponsored by these donations be students at Conway High School and reside within the City limits. **Amended Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve the request with

the stipulation that the delegates sponsored by these donations be students at Conway High School. **Vote on Amended Motion:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**C. Participation in the Diversity Leaders Initiative.** Horry County Schools Superintendent Rick Maxey gave a presentation on the Diversity Leaders Initiative being offered by Furman University's Riley Institute with support from Duke Energy. Representatives from the Conway Police Department, Conway High School, Conway Middle School, and Whittemore Park Middle School plan to participate. Graham commented that Lt. Selena Small and Lt. Reggie Hill will be the participants from the Police Department.

**D. Employee Longevity Award.** Mike Alford, Public Works Department/Solid Waste, was recognized for his 5 years of service; however, he was unable to attend this meeting. Graham and Mayor Blain-Bellamy made the presentation and Public Works Director, Kevin Chestnut, represented Alford.

**ORDINANCE FOR FINAL READING:** Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-01-04 (A) Accepting the petition of Ridgeway Capital LLC and the McNair Law Firm PA on behalf of Virginia Buck, Susan Ryan, and Laurie Hooks to rezone approximately 2.15 acres of property located at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Church Street in the Buckwood Subdivision (TMS 123-13-06-004/PIN 33811040001, TMS 123-13-06-005/PIN 33811040002, TMS 123-13-06-006/PIN 33811040003, TMS 123-13-06-007/PIN 33811040004, TMS 123-13-06-008/PIN 33811040005, and TMS 123-13-06-009/PIN 33811040006) from existing Low Density Residential (R-1) to Highway Commercial (HC). First reading of this ordinance was approved at the December 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to approve final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-01-04 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION:** Authorizing St. John's Ridge LLC to modify security of a letter of credit guaranteeing the installation of infrastructure at St. John's Ridge Phase 2 Subdivision, completing necessary infrastructure of Phase 1 and adding remaining infrastructure necessary for Phase III. On July 20, 2015, City Council approved the letter of credit in the amount of \$504,400, for the St. John's Ridge Subdivision. The developer completed a large portion of the infrastructure needed in phase II and has moved into Phase III. The line of credit in place is more than double what is needed to complete all of Phases I, II, and III. A copy of the cost estimates from the project engineer, approved by the City's Public Works Director, for required infrastructure and improvements remaining to be completed in Phases I, II and III, totaling \$242,975 was shared with Council. St. John's Ridge has requested to modify the existing letter of credit to apply the balance to required infrastructure costs in Phases I, II and III currently estimated at \$42,975. The existing letter of credit, if approved to extend to Phase III, will allow for the recording of the final plat. Staff recommended that Council adopt the resolution as presented. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Alford, to adopt the resolution as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Purchase of evidence management software for videos recorded on in-car and body-worn cameras.** Gosnell reported that a more robust data management solution is needed by the Police Department to manage video recorded by body worn cameras and digital in-car video equipment. To meet this need, staff recommended the purchase of L3 Digital Evidence PRO software at a cost of approximately \$13,321.50 (on state contract). In addition, three bids were obtained for the purchase of the Linux Red Hat server software that is used for the evidence software. The lowest bid was \$665 from GovConnection. Gosnell advised that the cost can be covered from the balance of Police Department's Radio User Fees (\$10,455), which have been deferred until late 2016, and from the balance of matching funds (\$3,531.50) that had been allocated in the FY 2015-16 budget for a competitive Justice Assistance Grant that the City did not receive. State reimbursement is available for all costs associated with management and storage of video data from the body-worn cameras and it is expected that the cost will be reimbursed for the body worn cameras as well as the evidence software. Staff recommended that Council accept the low bid from GovConnection for the Linux Red Hat server software and approve the purchase of the L3 Digital Evidence software on state contract for a total expenditure of \$13,986.50 with funding as noted. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to approve staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Acceptance of bid for sewer camera for Public Utilities Department.** Three bids were obtained for the replacement of this department's 21 year old sewer camera system: Jet-Vac of Sumter, SC (\$89,084.83), Cues of Orlando, FL (\$90,234.00), and Public Works Equipment and Supply of Monroe, NC (\$92,975.03). The camera system offered by Public Works Equipment and Supply is the only one of the three bids received that fully meets all the specifications. Friday reported that, based on experience, the possibility of service issues with the company in Florida, and knowledge of the excellent service provided by Public Works Equipment and Supply, staff recommended acceptance of the bid from Public Works Equipment and Supply of Monroe. Funds are allocated in the FY 2015-16 budget for this purchase. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to accept the bid from Public Works Equipment and Supply of Monroe in the amount of \$92,975.03 for a sewer camera system. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Authorization of signatures on City of Conway checks.** **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to authorize the signature of Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy and Finance Director Allison Williams on all City of Conway checks as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Mayor Blain-Bellamy abstained; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.
- D. Proposed schedule of 2016 City Council meetings.** Graham reviewed the proposed schedule of regular City Council meetings and Council neighborhood meetings for the 2016 calendar year. By a consensus of Council, the proposed schedule for regular meetings was found to be acceptable. Staff was asked to revise the neighborhood meeting schedule for possible adjustments and report back to Council.

## **COUNCIL INPUT:**

Council Members congratulated Mayor Blain-Bellamy and Council Members who were elected and/or re-elected.

**Timbes** announced that Mr. James Kirby, past Mayor of the City of Kingstree and the current Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Council of Governments, passed away and asked staff to send a sympathy card to the Kirby family.

**Anderson** commented on the frequency of drivers running red lights, noting that the intersections of 9<sup>th</sup> and Main and 12<sup>th</sup> and Main are particularly hazardous. He inquired about the installation and use of traffic cameras as an enforcement tool.

**Goldfinch** reiterated Anderson's complaint and asked for enforcement assistance with regard to drivers parking in the fire lane in front of Food Lion in the North Conway shopping center.

**Smith** thanked everyone for their help in the months leading up to the election.

**Blain-Bellamy** thanked staff and Brenda Graham, wife of the City Administrator, for hosting the reception earlier at this meeting.

## **WORKSHOP:**

In response to comments made during Public Input, Foster Hughes reminded Mayor and Council that the City had contracted with Revized Government Website Co. to build the City's new website which should be completed within the next few weeks.

- A. Discussion on proposed plan for new restroom in Collins Park.** Hughes reported that the restrooms at Collins Park were recently demolished to prepare for the construction of a new restroom facility. A proposed floor plan for the new restrooms, along with two options for placement of the building in Collins Park were shared. Hughes advised Council that the new restroom building in Collins Park will be similar to the Sherwood Forest restroom facility. The exterior of the Sherwood Forest restroom building is split-faced block and it has a metal roof. Council discussed the possibility of using painted brick in place of split-face block and having the roof pitch to match that of the other buildings at Collins Park. **OUTCOME:** Based on input from Council, staff will determine the estimated cost increase for a painted brick exterior and a roof pitch that matches other park buildings and report back at a future Council meeting.
- B. Discussion on proposed amendment to open space regulations in Unified Development Ordinance.** Emrick reminded Council that, during the last workshop discussion on this issue, a concern was raised that requiring all open space amenities to be installed up front might discourage some developers and it was recommended that some consideration be given to accepting letters of credit for major amenity facilities such as community pools, clubhouses, etc. He further commented that the draft amendment has been revised to clarify the method of calculation of the amount of a fee in lieu for less than one acre of required open space and (2) include a provision allowing the installation of major amenity facilities, such as community

pools and clubhouses, to be secured with a letter of credit until 25% of the approved lots are issued building permits. **OUTCOME:** After discussion on an appropriate percentage, Council asked that a requirement of 40%, as an incentive for subdivision growth within the City, be presented to the Planning Commission for their review and input.

- C. Review of events in regard to Forest Glen subdivision.** Emrick presented information on the history of the Forest Glen Planned District and reviewed a timeline of events and action taken by staff and City Council related to this subdivision. **OUTCOME:** Presented as information only.
- D. Discussion on plans for renovation of former post office/museum building.** The City Administrator gave a brief history on Council's discussions to date concerning renovation and use of the former post office/museum building and asked for guidance from Council in regard to moving forward with this project. He reminded Council that a \$250,000 matching state grant has been awarded for the renovation of this building for the use of a community center and, if plans were to change, the grant money may be forfeited. **OUTCOME:** There was consensus among Council that a discussion on the re-use of this building should be deferred for the present time in order to solicit input from citizens, special groups and organizations that may have a special interest in the use of this building. Council will meet at the former post office/museum building on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 5 p.m. for an on-site tour of the building.
- E. Discussion on proposed town square/open air pavilion.** Graham gave a progress report on this topic, which has been discussed by staff and Council on several occasions. Following this presentation and further discussion, Council agreed that a reassessment of its desires for the re-use of the former site of the City Law Enforcement Center should include input from the community on the most effective use of the town square/open air pavilion. **OUTCOME:** There was consensus among Council to put this item on hold until input from the community is received.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes were approved by City Council this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.

  
Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk