

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 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; Allison Williams, Finance Director; and Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp, Jimmy Day, John R. Dowmont, Lundy Booth, Hillary Howard, Tammy Elvis, and others

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Council Member William Goldfinch IV who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Resolution Honoring James Frazier

B. City Council Minutes – February 1, 2016

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

PUBLIC INPUT: None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Design awards for Public Safety Building – Silver Award for Shared Facilities Design by Firehouse Magazine and Recognition Award for Fire Station Design Excellence by The Fire Industry Education Resource Organization. Jim Stewart of Stewart Cooper Newell, Architect for the Public Safety Facility, presented to the City two awards recently won by the new Public Safety Facility. He thanked Council for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Conway and Larry Timbes and Chancel Construction for the excellent work in construction of the Public Safety Facility.

- B. Special event request: 2016 Wingfest – May 28, 2016.** Jimmy Day of the Omar Shrine Club submitted this special event request. The annual Wingfest is scheduled for Saturday, May 28, 2016, at Riverfront Park from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm. A map depicting the event location and the proposed designated area for the public consumption of alcohol during the event accompanied the special event application. The park will remain open to the public during the event. Any City services provided can be absorbed by the City's operating budget. Staff recommended approval of the special event request. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the special event application for the 2016 Wingfest as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Mid-year update on visitor center, marketing, and events.** Hillary Howard, Executive Director of Conway Downtown Alive, gave a power point presentation on an update for FY 2015 for the Visitor Center and the Downtown Marketing Campaign. Howard noted that there was nearly a 6% increase in visitor attendance last year; however, in October 2015, there was a decrease in visitor attendance possibly due to the flood event. She elaborated on the various sponsored programs and events.
- D. Employee of the Month Award for January** was presented to Sandy Martin, Fire Department. The presentation was made by the City Administrator.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Update and consideration of options regarding the Long Avenue multi-purpose trail.** Graham informed Council that he had explored other options for the multi-use trail, including the possibility of constructing a five foot concrete sidewalk instead of the eight foot asphalt trail that was originally planned. According to the contractor, this option would cost an additional \$75,400; however, by eliminating the section of Long Avenue leading up to the 90 degree turn heading out of town (460 feet), the cost of the project would increase by \$33,000. This 460' section would require extensive ditching and tiling which would be very costly. The original plans for this project called for Mr. Lundy Booth's brick columns to be removed for drainage construction and his palm trees to be relocated. After further review, it was determined that the drainage work could be done without removal of the brick columns and the contractor agreed to assist in relocating the palm trees. Noting the amount already invested in this project, Graham commented that it would be less expensive to construct the five foot concrete sidewalk and pay the added cost rather than lose the project and pay the penalty. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to revise the original project on Long Avenue from a multi-modal asphalt trail to a five foot concrete sidewalk and eliminate the 460' portion of the project referenced above; the additional cost of the project is not to exceed \$33,000. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Request for letters of support for proposed senior living project on Pine Street.** Emrick reported that Steve and Penny Ayers of Trustmark Construction Corporation of Florence, Alabama have requested letters of support from the Mayor and City staff to construct a Senior Housing Project to be located on Pine Street. Details of the request and the Senior Housing Project were discussed during the workshop portion of the February 1st Council meeting. Staff recommended approval of the request. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by White, to authorize letters of support for the proposed Senior Housing Project on Pine Street. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- C. Selection of Grand Strand Housing and Community Development as Sub Sub-Recipient for FY 2015-16 (Year 8) HUD Housing Rehabilitation Program.** Since 2012, the City has contracted with Grand Strand Housing & Community Development Corporation to administer the Housing Rehabilitation Program by Sub Sub-Recipient Agreement. The City has allocated \$100,000 to fund the program for the current HUD year and has secured an additional \$37,500 in HOME funds for the same purpose. Emrick noted that Grand Strand Housing is paid an administrative fee of 20% of the costs of each housing rehab project. Staff recommended approval of the proposed agreement with Grand Strand Housing. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the Sub Sub-Recipient Agreement with Grand Strand Housing and Community Development to administer the FY 2015-16 (HUD Year 8) CDBG/HUD Housing Rehab Program for the City. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Acceptance of bid for concrete fill for abandoned-in-place concrete pipe (West Alley drainage project).** Chestnut reported that new concrete pipe has been installed to reroute the storm water as a part of the West Alley drainage project. There are four structures on West Alley that have the old 24" concrete storm water drain pipe running underneath them and, in order for these concrete storm water drain pipes to be abandoned-in-place, they must be filled with grout. The following bids were received for filling the concrete pipes with grout: Benton Concrete - \$38,000; R. L. Causey Construction - \$34,200; and Lawrimore Construction - \$23,751. Adequate funds are available in the budget for this project. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Smith, to accept the low bid of \$23,751, which was submitted by Lawrimore Construction. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- A. Update on City's new warming shelter program.** The City of Conway has partnered with the American Red Cross to provide a permanent warming shelter within the City in accordance with the guidelines Council approved at its January 19th meeting. Graham reported that these guidelines include using Collins Park Center as the primary location for the shelter (with three alternate locations), a threshold of 32 degrees for opening the shelter in addition to other times when conditions warrant at the City Administrator's discretion, and closing the shelter at 10:00 p.m. if no one has checked in by that time. The City's efforts to inform the public when the shelter opens were reviewed. To date, the American Red Cross and City staff from the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department and the Conway Police Department have operated the shelter. Several volunteer organizations have been contacted to assist with staffing and, although two have shown an interest, none have assisted as yet in staffing the warming shelter. Graham provided information on the number of nights the shelter has been opened to date and number of persons sheltered.
- B. Update on Sherwood Forest Park Phase II.** Hughes presented a power point presentation showing the progress being made on construction of Phase II of Sherwood Forest Park. Hughes noted the park is scheduled to be completed by the end of March and a grand opening event will be scheduled at that time.
- C. Financial update** on the City's budget as of December 31, 2015, was presented as information by the Finance Director.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Smith expressed condolences on the passing of Frank Bellamy, father of City employee Rodney Bellamy.

Goldfinch:

- Thanked staff for the efficient response to citizen concerns.
- Commented on the recent opening of the Bonfire Restaurant and the positive impact it will have on the City.
- Asked for increased police enforcement of the speed limit on Elm Street, installation of speed bumps, or removal of speed bumps on Laurel Street.

Anderson:

- Commented on the positive impact of local restaurants in the Downtown District staying open at night.
- Commented on a program that would pay business owners up to 70% in tax credits.
- Suggested that certain City staff members attend the Economic Development Workshop that was offered at the recent MASC conference.
- Expressed positive comments to staff in regard to the warming shelter.

Timbes:

- Suggested staff contact Horry County to start planning now on how to deal with the mosquito problem that will result from the excessive rainfall.
- Inquired about the status of repairs to the brick retaining wall on Main Street that was damaged in the October flood.

White:

- Thanked staff for improvements to the landscaped cut-outs in the median on Highway 501.
- Asked for installation of speed bumps on 5th Avenue.

Alford:

- Recommended that the Mayor and/or Council take graduating 5th graders to the movies; perhaps the Visitor Center could coordinate.
- Requested an update on Level 4 roads at the next Council meeting.

Mayor:

- Commented on the Grainger smokestacks demolition.
- Reported on her attendance at the recent Father-Daughter Dance and thanked Foster Hughes and his staff for sponsoring this very successful event.
- Welcomed back Chief Gosnell who has returned to work following knee surgery.

Goldfinch, Anderson, and Alford commented on their desire to discuss the possibility of a moratorium incentive package.

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

WORKSHOP: Discussion on FY 2016-17 (Year 9) HUD/CDBG funding and projects for utilizing these funds. Emrick reported that an estimated \$305,000 in funding is anticipated for the City of Conway in FY2016-17. He presented the following information on possible allocations of these funds based on input from Council in the workshop session of the February 1, 2016, Council meeting: (1) Jail Diversion Program - \$20,000; (2) Administration- \$2,000; (3) Smith Jones Community Center - \$240,000 (to fund the entire cost of the Community Center); and Housing Rehabilitation Program - \$43,000. The \$240,000 proposed for the Smith Jones Community Center will fund only the construction of the center, not the removal or relocation of any baseball fields. Emrick explained that additional HOME funds have been awarded to the City in the amount of \$150,000 for a total of \$187,500 including the previous award of \$37,500. These HOME funds, in addition to the current amount in the Housing Rehabilitation Program (\$111,664 including \$11,000 from FY 2014-15) totals \$299,164 for housing rehabilitation. **OUTCOME:** There was no disagreement voiced to the funding and projects proposed by staff; however, there was a consensus that the Smith Jones Community Center would be constructed only if title to the portion of the park property owned by the Smith Jones Board of Commissioners is transferred to the City.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to enter executive session to consider appointments to boards, commissions and committees and to discuss matters relating to the proposed location of a business within the City of Conway. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to come out of executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Consideration of appointment to boards, commissions and committees [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(1)]: Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the following appointments as discussed in executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee: Appointed Denise Blackburn-Gay to a three-year term ending December 31, 2017.

Construction Board of Appeals: Appointed Richard Garris to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2016, and appointed Mary Catherine Hyman to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2017.

Conway Housing Authority: Reappointed George N. "Buddy" Magrath to a five-year term ending April 24, 2021.

Lakeside Cemetery Committee: Appointed Robert Scarborough III to a three-year term ending December 31, 2018.

Planning Commission: Appointed Kendall Brown to a three-year term ending December 31, 2018, and reappointed Chris Guidera to a three-year term ending December 31, 2018.

Rose Hill Memorial Gardens Committee: Reappointed Levern Hill and Joseph Smalls to three-year terms ending December 31, 2018.

Water Quality & Drainage Commission: Appointed Hugh Schrowang to a three-year term ending December 31, 2018.

Recreation Advisory Commission: Appointed Brandon Anderson to a three-year term ending December 31, 2018.

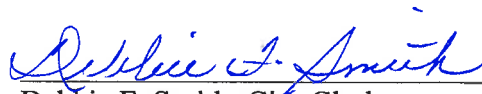
Tennis Advisory Committee: Reappointed Jan Dieter to a five-year term ending December 31, 2020.

Employee Grievance Committee: Reappointed Le Hendrick and Tyrone Williams to three-year terms ending March 24, 2019.

City of Conway's Appointee to Coast RTA Board of Directors: Reappointed Ivory Wilson to a three-year term ending April 30, 2019.

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 21st day of March, 2016.



Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk