

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
TUESDAY – JANUARY 21, 2014 – 5:30 PM**

---

**PRESENT:** Mayor Alys C. Lawson, Mayor Pro Tem William M. Goldfinch IV, and Council Members Randle L. Alford, Thomas J. Anderson II, Barbara Blain-Olds, Jean M. Timbes, and Larry A. White

**STAFF:** Bill Graham, City Administrator; Michael Hardee, Finance Director; Billy Joe Sawyer, Building Official; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Timmy Williams, Beautification Director; Rick Baker, Fire Chief; Michael Leinwand, Planning Director; Cindi Howard, Human Resources Director; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; and Vicky Lefler, City Clerk

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Kathy Ropp, Eddie Hill, Melissa McCloud, Wallace Evans, Jr., J. V. Mott, Bob Calliham, Sharon Proctor, Sheriff Phillip Thompson, Gareth Beshears and others

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Lawson recognized Rev. Kevin Lambert of Coastal Community Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2014-01-21 (A) Accepting the petition by Daniel C. Brown to annex approximately 0.25 acres of property located at 2607 Oak Street Extension (TMS# 123-00-01-002) and to rezone the property Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation**

**B. City Council minutes – January 6, 2014**

Motion: Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the consent agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

**A. Mary Ellen Scarborough** thanked the City for its response to what appeared to be a recent serious violation of the City's tree protection ordinance and for welcoming citizen input to improve the language and increase sanctions in this ordinance.

**B. Ms. Melissa McCloud**, principal, brought greetings from the Academy of Hope, and briefly reviewed for Council the mission and offerings of this charter school. Ms. McCloud announced that, as a result of placing in recent local competition, the academy's robotics team will advance to state competition next month and she asked Council to consider providing some financial assistance toward the team's transportation and lodging at this event.

There was no further input from the public.

#### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. Presentation of the FY 2012-13 City of Conway Audit Report.** Bob Calliham of Smith Sapp Bookout & Calliham presented results of the audit which included a clean opinion on the City's financial statements. He also reported that a review of the City's system of internal controls revealed no material weaknesses and no instances were noted of any compliance matters required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. Ms. Sharon Proctor accompanied Mr. Calliham.

**B. Employee of the Month Award for December** was presented to Officer Mary W. Cody, Police Department. The presentation was made by the City Administrator, accompanied by the Police Chief. Alston was commended by City Council for having been selected as the recipient of this award.

**PUBLIC HEARING/ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION: Proposed projects for Year 7 of the HUD/CDBG Entitlement Grant (2014-2015).** Leinwand briefly reviewed the proposed projects, including estimated costs. Council previously discussed each of these projects in depth at its meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The total projected budget amount for Year 7 is \$343,283. Sheriff Phillip Thompson and Gareth Beshears gave a presentation on the Jail Diversion Program. Specific information included criteria for participation, process for admission to the program, how they define "success" of the program, the approximate financial investment per program participant, etc. Sheriff Thompson stated that federal grants for inmate workforce training were dwindling but he is receptive to working with local businesses toward this effort if funding should become available. Leinwand gave a general overview of the status of the Home Repair Program. Graham commented that, should actual funds received differ from the estimated amount or if any projects come in under/over budget, a reallocation of funds will be necessary and a budget amendment, approved by Council, will be required. Staff recommended approval of the proposed projects as presented for Year 7 of the HUD/CDBG Entitlement Grant. **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION: Appointment of Council Member to Firemen's Insurance and Inspection Fund Board of Trustees.** This three-member Board provides oversight for the Firemen's Insurance and Inspection Fund and is composed of the Mayor, the Fire Chief and one Council member appointed by City Council. Council Member Anderson has served on the Board for the past two years. Chief Baker asked Council to consider an appointment for 2014. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to

reappoint Council Member Anderson to the Firemen's Insurance and Inspection Fund Board of Trustees for 2014. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #2014-02-03 (A) Amending the Business and Professional License Ordinance for the City of Conway to amend provisions for insurance companies.** Graham reported that the proposed ordinance was requested by the Municipal Association and is similar to an ordinance adopted by the City in 2012. It updates the City's Business and Professional License Ordinance and designates MASC to act as the City's agent for purposes of distributing the municipal broker's tax collected by the State Department of Insurance. As in 2012 ordinance, the proposed ordinance authorizes the mayor to sign the collection agreement with MASC. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2014-02-03 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:**

**A. Fiscal year 2013-2014 budget update** was presented as information by Hardee.

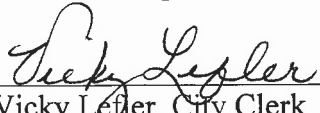
**B. Midnight Basketball Outreach Program** information was shared by Chief Gosnell. The program will be held from February 22-April 5 and games will be played on Saturdays from 4-6 pm. Gosnell reported last year's program had over 100 participants.

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

**WORKSHOP ITEM: Discussion on proposal to amend Article 7, Streets and Circulation, of the Unified Development Ordinance to add connectivity requirements for multi-family developments.** Graham reported that staff believes this is an important issue in light of the recent increase in large student housing projects along Highway 544. He discussed the proposed requirements in the amendment, which was developed with the assistance of legal counsel. Graham informed Council that the proposed amendment had been discussed by the Planning Commission and it was the Commission's opinion that a second access should be to public property, not private property. Graham clarified that the second access referred to in the proposed amendment as being across developed property and to adjoining property would be a locked, gated easement across the back of the property that would be accessed only in order to provide emergency services; it would not be a public right-of-way used for everyday traffic. He also commented that the UDO currently requires cross access for major traffic generator properties in Highway Commercial districts. Council then held a lengthy discussion that included concerns regarding individual property owner rights, possible impact on projects that already have approved plans, change in wording ("shall" instead of "may"), and requirements being quantified. Chief Baker explained the dangers that exist when a multi-family development has only a single access; in the event of a major fire, a single access could become blocked and residents may be trapped. **Outcome:** There was no opposition to the Mayor's suggestion that, based on Council's concern for the safety of residents in multi-family developments, staff should move forward with the text amendment, including a change in wording from "may" to "shall." The amendment will require a public hearing and consideration of an ordinance by Council.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vicky Lepier, City Clerk