

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY – JANUARY 6, 2014 – 5:30 PM**

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

**STAFF:** Bill Graham, City Administrator; Michael Hardee, Finance Director, Allison Williams, Assistant Finance Director; Billy Joe Sawyer, Building Official; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Freddie DuBose, Public Utilities 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 and others (see attached list)

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

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Lawson recognized Rev. Sandra Poirrel of Trinity United Methodist 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 by Municipal Court Judge Andy Hendrick during the swearing-in ceremonies for Council Members re-elected/elected in the November 2013 election.

- A. Council Member Randle L. Alford** was accompanied by his wife, Dr. Siena Alford, and sons Ryan, Matthew and Bradley. Matthew Alford held the Bible during his father's swearing-in ceremony.
- B. Council Member William Goldfinch IV** was accompanied by his son, Mac Goldfinch, who held the Bible during his father's swearing-in ceremony.
- C. Council Member Jean M. Timbes** was accompanied by her friend, Mrs. Betsy Helms, held the Bible during Ms. Timbes' swearing-in ceremony.

The meeting briefly recessed for a reception in honor of Council Members Alford, Goldfinch and Timbes. The meeting reconvened at approximately 5:50 pm.

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. **Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2014-01-06 (A) accepting the petition by Gaylord Lee Kelley, Sr. to annex approximately 5.03 acres of property located at the northeast corner of Mill Pond Road and Church Street (TMS# 123-00-01-009, TMS# 123-00-01-011, and TMS# 123-13-07-016), and to rezone the properties Highway Commercial (HC) upon annexation**
- B. **Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2014-01-06 (B) Amendment to Article 4 Use Tables of the City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) relating to the Professional (P) Zoning District**
- C. **Final reading of Ordinance #2014-01-06 (C) Adopting an Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013**
- D. **Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2013-10-07 (B) accepting the request by Wendell L. Cooper to rezone approximately 1.3 acres of property located at 418 Wright Boulevard (TMS# 137-05-15-044), from Medium Density Residential (R-2) to Highway Commercial (HC)**
- E. **City Council minutes – December 2, 2013**

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

**ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM FOR 2014:** Mayor Lawson commented that Council has historically adhered to a rotation policy to fill this office, and based on that policy, Council Member Goldfinch would be next in line for this office. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to elect Goldfinch as Mayor Pro Tem for 2014. **Vote:** Goldfinch abstained; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried. Mayor Lawson noted that former Council Member Irby Koon served as Mayor Pro Tem during 2013 and expressed appreciation for his service.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

- A. **Rev. Bob Fogner** reported on the 2013 Veterans Day Celebration and, on behalf of the Horry County Veterans Memorial Committee, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Council recognizing the City’s financial support of this event. He was accompanied by Mr. Joe Todd.
- B. **Mr. Richard Bellamy**, a resident of Ridge Street, spoke to Council of criminal activities he said were taking place in his neighborhood, such as loitering, prostitution, open use of drugs and alcohol, etc., and shared his concerns that not enough was being done by the Police Department to address these problems.

There was no further input from the public.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Donation of funds for future dog park.** James and Nora Battle presented a check in the amount of \$240 to be earmarked for a future City dog park. Mr. and Mrs. Battle raised these funds by coordinating “The Burley Jari” run in November 2013 at Lake Busbee. Mayor Lawson expressed appreciation to the Battles for the donation on behalf of Council.

**ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: 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.** Leinwand advised that this property is contiguous to the City limits. There is a house on the property and the property is currently served by City water. There has been a recent change in ownership of the property and annexation can be required in order to change the City water account. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2014-01-21 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

#### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- A. Authorization to apply for 2014 PARD grant.** Hughes presented staff’s proposal to apply for this grant for a proposed project to install sidewalks at Collins Park. The proposed project would consist of an 800 linear foot (-/+ ) sidewalk that would begin at the fountain, continue to the Mary Thompson Center, and end in a connection to the existing sidewalk at the playground along Parkview Street. This project would complete the connectivity of the sidewalks in Collins Park. The estimated cost is \$18,000 and a 20% match (\$3,600) would be required. If the grant is awarded, the matching funds would come from the proposed 2014-2015 Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department’s Budget. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to authorize the application for the 2014 PARD grant with the proposed project as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Authorization to apply for Justice Assistance (JAG) Competitive Grant.** Gosnell presented staff’s proposal to apply for this grant to upgrade the in-car analog video recording systems in the Police Department’s front-line vehicles. The funds would be used to upgrade 15 analog recording systems to digital systems, replace nine analog recording systems that cannot be upgraded to digital, and purchase and install a wireless access point to automatically download video to a dedicated server. The total cost of the digital upgrade is \$97,407 with a 10% match (\$9,740). The matching funds will be included in the proposed FY 2014-2015 budget. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Alford, to authorize the application for the 2014 Justice Assistance (JAG) Competitive Grant as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

## WORKSHOP ITEMS:

### A. Discussion of water and sewer capital recovery fees relative to economic development.

Graham reported that recent contacts by the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation (MBREDC) had brought up the possibility of looking at ways to make the initial cost of water and sewer capital recovery fees more affordable to help recruit new industries. He shared information on the recently implemented rate structures established by the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority for large users and those receiving incentives from County or State governments to locate in this area. This information was compared to the City's current rate structure using two examples provided by MBREDC. The GSWSA's new rates cap impact fees at one REU upfront for recruited industries (non-recruited capped at 100 REUs) and the remaining expense is spread over time with a demand charge. Graham asked Council for direction with regard to its interest in comparable incentives. He advised that any other upfront cost such as lines or pump station upgrades would have to be negotiated and would not be a part of these incentives. During discussion there was concern that incentives should be tied to true economic development in terms of jobs over a definite period of time. Graham commented that it would be no financial hardship for the City to offer an incentive package similar to that of GSWSA and that doing so by ordinance instead of on a case-by-case basis would facilitate MBREDC's recruiting efforts. **Outcome:** There was consensus for staff to move forward with drafting a proposed ordinance establishing an economic incentive rate schedule that reduces the upfront cost of initial capital recovery fees for water and sewer services with the remaining expense spread over time with a demand charge. The proposed economic incentive rate structure, at this time, is to be only for new business/industry being recruited by MBREDC with Horry County and/or State incentives.

**B. Discussion of recommended HUD/CDBG Year 7 (2014/2015) projects.** Graham informed Council that it is anticipated that the City will receive \$343,283 for Year 7 projects. A public hearing will need to be held at the next meeting on these projects. Graham reviewed each proposed project with Council. The same amount as last year (\$13,000) is proposed for the Jail Diversion Program. The County and City of Myrtle Beach also contribute to this program. The proposed amount for sidewalks and drainage projects is \$255,000 and includes the Whittemore/Brown Street Project and Lincoln Park outfall drainage improvements. Council had previously agreed the Whittemore/Brown Street Project would be next in line. Graham advised Council that staff has proposed that the Lincoln Park outfall project be moved up in priority on the 2014 Capital Drainage Improvement Projects list and added to the proposed Year 7 HUD/CDBG budget due to immediate need and that Council consider at its Budget Retreat starting the Chicora Subdivision project in FY 2014-15 using City storm water funds. There was no disagreement to this proposal. The proposed Home Repair Program's allotment is less than previous years at \$73,283 and may be adjusted on actual grant amount received. The remaining \$2,000 in the proposed budget is allotted for administrative costs. During discussions, Council asked for more information on the Jail Diversion Program and the Home Repair Program before a final decision is made on the projects. **Outcome:** Council was in agreement with the proposed infrastructure-sidewalk and drainage projects and there was no opposition voiced to the allotment for administrative costs. Staff will arrange for reports to be given on the Jail Diversion and Home Repair

Programs and a public hearing on the proposed projects will be scheduled for the next Council meeting.

**C. Discussion of potential Ride III Transportation projects for consideration.** Graham commented that, in light of recent news reports of a potential Ride III Program, it would be prudent for the City to be prepared on projects to ask for and he encouraged Council to work toward getting a City representative on the Ride III Commission. Information presented on potential projects discussed by staff included the Conway Perimeter Road (beltline), roadway extensions/improvements at Highway 501 and Powell Street, and support for Horry County's widening of US Highway 701 from Conway to Highway 22. Detailed information was given on each project with a project description, plan references and maps of the proposed project routes. Graham also shared sample photographs of how the existing two-lane sections of the proposed beltline could become neighborhood amenities with proper planning if/when four-laned. Graham recommended that he and Mayor Lawson be authorized by Council to meet with the Chairman of County Council and/or the County Administrator to discuss City representation on the Ride III Commission. Graham provided clarification on how the potential projects were determined and there was discussion on other possible projects. Graham invited Council members to make him aware of other streets or projects they would like to be considered. **Outcome:** There was consensus that the City Administrator and Mayor Lawson should meet with the County Council Chairman and/or the County Administrator to move this process forward and to discuss City representation on the Ride III Commission.


**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to enter into executive session to discuss a proposed settlement relative to a legal claim and negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this 21<sup>st</sup> day of

January, 2014.

  
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Vicky Leffler, City Clerk