

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY – DECEMBER 1, 2014 – 5:30 PM

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

STAFF: Bill Graham, City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Michael Leinwand, Planning Director; Billy Joe Sawyer, Building Official; Cindi Howard, Human Resources Director; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Michael Hardee, Finance Director; Rick Baker, Fire Chief; Le Hendrick, Battalion Chief, and Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp, Rev. Rhett Talbot, Greg King, April King, Noah King, Edna Jackson, Blake and Catherine Hewitt, Mark Wolf, Maria Whitehead, Kristi Falk, and others.

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Lawson recognized Rev. Rhett Talbot of Kingston Presbyterian 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: City Council Minutes – November 3, 2014. Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve the consent agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Recognition of 2014 Christmas Card contest winner. Noah King was recognized as the artist of the 2014 Christmas card for the City of Conway. A student at Kingston Elementary School, he is the eleven-year-old son of Greg and April King. On behalf of Council, Mayor Lawson presented Noah a gift certificate and a framed edition of his Christmas card.

B. Presentation of 2013 Quattlebaum Award winners. Congratulations and commendations were extended by Council to recipients of the awards for 2013 as listed below. Winners were introduced by Leinwand and awards were presented by Mayor Lawson on behalf of Council.

New Construction of a Home: Home of Edna Jackson at 1508 Tinkertown Avenue

Restoration of a Home: Home of Blake and Catherine Hewitt at 801 Sixth Avenue

New Construction of Non-Residential Building: (1) Scholars Academy at 104 Chanticleer Drive East and (2) Horry County Schools Early College high School at 2050 501 East Building 400

Outstanding Restoration of Non-Residential Building: (1) Coast RTA at 1418 Third Avenue and (2) Hardee's at 1506 Church Street

Outstanding Sign Project: (1) Dilly Beans at 219 Laurel Street and (2) L. Cole Smith Attorney at Law at 705 Main Street

Interior Design Effort: Trademark Home Exteriors at 1011 Third Avenue

Landscape Project: There were no nominations in this category.

Contribution to Quality Development, Restoration, Landscape, or Design by an Organization or Individual: (1) Consign For Equine at 1111 Fourth Avenue and (2) Hucks and Washington at 1508 Main Street

C. Recognition of Robert Cooper, Building/Safety Inspector, and Cindi Howard, Human Resources Director. Robert Cooper and Cindi Howard were recognized for their recent graduation from the Municipal Association's Risk Management Institute. The City Administrator made the presentation.

D. Employee of the Month for November was presented to Boyce Lilly, Public Works Department. Lilly was commended by City Council for having been selected as the recipient of this award. The presentation was made by the City Administrator, accompanied by the Public Works Director.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #ZA2015-01-06 (A) Accepting the request by Coastal Educational Foundation to rezone approximately 0.98 acres of property located at 701 SC Highway 544 (TMS #150-00-07-022 / PIN 38205020001) from Highway Commercial (HC) to Institutional (IN). Leinwand informed Council that, when this parcel was annexed into the City in May 2014, initial plans for development included a restaurant. Since then, Coastal Educational Foundation has purchased the property and, to keep the zoning consistent with surrounding properties associated with Coastal Carolina University, the Foundation has requested the property be rezoned IN. He further advised Council that, if the rezoning is approved, an electronic message center would be approved should one be requested in the future as they are permitted in IN zoning districts. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2015-01-06 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. Authorization to apply for Justice Assistance Grant (Competitive Grant). Gosnell requested permission from Council to apply for a 2015 JAG Competitive Grant. Funds from

the grant, if awarded, would be used to purchase a complete digital recording system (cameras and microphones) to equip Police Department two interview rooms (\$5,542.16 including tax) and a five-terabyte server to be used for long-term storage of in-car video (\$28,061.73 including taxes/S&H). The total cost of the server and recording system is \$33,603.89. The grant, if awarded would require a 10% match on the part of the City (\$3,361) and awards are expected to be announced in June 2015. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to authorize staff to apply for the 2015 JAG Competitive Grant as requested by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- B. Proposal for City-wide wireless camera network.** Gosnell informed Council that bids had been solicited for the installation of a city-wide wireless camera system to monitor activities in the City parks, the Riverwalk, and at the Recreation Complex. Specifications for the nine-camera wireless network called for police hot spots to be included at each location to provide officers the ability to remotely connect to the network and monitor any camera from their vehicle's mobile data terminal. Video collected by the cameras would be stored on either a network video recorder, digital video recorder, or both. Copies of aerial photographs depicting the proposed locations for the cameras were shared with Council. Two bids were received: Horry Telephone Cooperative (\$58,831.79) and A Services Group (\$41,769.10). Gosnell reported on the particulars of the equipment of each bid and the associated expenses necessary to install and operate the system (electricity and internet). He further advised that a total of \$38,000 was included in the Police Department's budget to purchase the camera system; however, funding is available in the Department's operational budget to cover the overage in purchase price and recurring costs. Staff recommended that Council accept the bid submitted by A Services Group. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the purchase of the wireless camera system ("Wildfire camera network") from A Services Group as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Purchase of safety systems to equip seven new police department vehicles.** Council approved the purchase of seven replacement patrol and administrative vehicles for the Police in August. Staff requested permission to purchase the emergency lighting and audio systems through State Contract Procurement Services and the striping needed for the new vehicles at a total cost of \$17,870.65. Funding is available in the Police Department's FY 2014-15 budget to support the purchase. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the purchase of the safety systems and striping for the seven new police department vehicles as requested by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Purchase of bucket truck for the Beautification Department.** Hughes informed Council that, after conducting research on new and used bucket trucks and visits by the Beautification Director and Vehicle Maintenance Superintendent to several dealerships in the Carolinas and Tennessee that had pre-owned bucket trucks for sale, staff recommended the purchase of a 2007 Ford F550, 4 x 2, with a 2007, 42-ft, Altec AT37G lift and bucket offered for sale by Nesco Rentals for \$35,500 (plus \$300 state sales tax). The truck is currently at a Nesco rental location in White House, Tennessee. Hughes advised Council that the Beautification Department has \$30,000 allotted in its FY 2014-15 budget for the purchase of this truck; however, funds are left in the budget allocation for the replacement service truck that has already been purchased that can be used to cover the amount that the bucket truck is over-

budget. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the purchase of the pre-owned bucket truck from Nesco Rentals. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- E. Purchase of dump truck for the Public Works Department.** The FY 2014-15 Public Works (Street) budget includes \$100,000 for the replacement of a 1999 tandem dump truck. The following bids for the new dump truck were submitted per the City's specifications: Florence Truck Center, \$110,921.63 and Triple T Truck, \$98,664.00. Bids do not include sales tax. Staff recommended that Council accept the low bid which was submitted by Triple T Truck, and the optional two-year extended warranty on the engine and exhaust system parts and labor offered by Triple T for an additional \$1,250 for a total of \$100,214 (including \$300 sales tax). **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to accept the low bid submitted by Triple T Truck for a 2016 Freightliner dump truck and extended warranty as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- F. Contract for asphalt for street resurfacing, street patching and other asphalt projects.** The FY 2014-15 budget includes \$585,011 for various street resurfacing and asphalt repair projects within the City. These projects were in the CTC request and were approved for 50% matching funds. In addition, the Recreation Department has \$19,000 included in its FY 2014-15 budget for paving the Recreation Center parking lot and \$31,000 for paving an 8' asphalt walking trail at the Recreation Complex. Total amount budgeted for all of these asphalt projects is \$635,011. In November, the City accepted bids for street resurfacing and asphalt repair work. The overall low bid of \$609,543 was submitted by Southern Asphalt. Council received a copy of the bid tabulation sheet, a list of streets to be resurfaced and the various locations of asphalt repairs within the City, and maps of the parking lot and walking trail. Staff recommended that Council award the contract for asphalt work for street resurfacing, street patching and other asphalt projects to Southern Asphalt based on this company's low bid in the amount of \$609,543. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to accept the low bid and award the contract for asphalt work to Southern Asphalt in the amount of \$609,543 as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- G. Selection of dates for City Council walk-through and Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening Ceremonies for Public Safety Facility.** Dates set for these events were December 15th at noon (walkthrough) and January 6th, 9:30 am to noon (Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening).
- H. Determination of plans for annual budget retreat.** Santee Cooper has advised that the it would not be able to accommodate the City's budget retreat at Santee Cooper's Wampee Conference Center on March 12-14 and Graham reported that the only other dates available are March 5-7 (unless those dates also get preempted). Council asked staff to request the Wampee Conference Center for March 5-7 and, if those dates get preempted, hold the budget retreat at the Recreation Center on those dates.

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

WORKSHOP SESSION

- A. **Presentation on collaborative efforts between The Nature Conservancy and the City relative to Conway area conservation properties.** Maria Whitehead with the Nature Conservancy gave a progress report on efforts that are being undertaken by a partnership of the City, The Nature Conservancy, and other conservation groups relative to conservation lands near the Conway city limits, including a report on a recent visit by Congressmen Tom Rice to see examples of projects underway. Whitehead informed Council that the Waccamaw National Refuge had been granted a minor expansion and would now be able to take title to additional conservation property to be managed for the public's benefit. Commenting on a new initiative of the Department of the Interior, Whitehead commented that she was hopeful Conway would be among the first 50 cities in the country to get Urban Refuge Initiative designation. Graham remarked that the City is continuously working with The Nature Conservation and the local US Fish and Wildlife representatives, and others on conservation projects. **Outcome:** Whitehead was asked to continue to periodically update Council on the partnership's efforts.
- B. **Discussion on proposal for a smoke free ordinance.** At its September 15th meeting, Council reviewed and discussed a model smoke-free ordinance and staff was asked to prepare a draft of smoke-free regulations for discussion at a future meeting. Staff reviewed with Council the process followed in preparing the draft regulations which are for smoke-free workplaces, and after a brief review of the proposed regulations, there was discussion on several areas of concern. Following this discussion, Council provided direction in some areas where changes were desired and staff was asked to research further the proposed regulations pertaining to hotels/motels and assisted living facilities/nursing homes and the provisions for enforcement. **Outcome:** There was a consensus that staff will prepare an ordinance for consideration of first reading by Council at its next meeting. The ordinance will be based on direction given by Council at this meeting and will include any needed revisions pertaining to hotels/motels and assisted living facilities/nursing homes based on staff's research. Any changes desired at that point can be made before second reading.
- C. **Discussion on GSATS Transportation Alternative Projects.** Leinwand reported that the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments is accepting proposals for Transportation Alternative Project grants and he reviewed the criteria that will be used to rank the proposals should funding requests exceed money available (\$500,000). A minimum 20% local match is required and additional points can be earned based on the amount of funding requested, connectivity of the project, and local commitment and level of support and benefit. The following sidewalk projects were presented for Council's consideration: Country Club Drive from Long Avenue Extension to the railroad; US Highway 378 from Parmley Drive to Ernest Finney Avenue; and Elm Street from 16th Avenue to Mill Pond Road. Council and staff discussed the possible ranking of these projects, according to the established criteria and the amount of matching to be provided by the City. Chestnut advised that he has been in contact with SCDOT in regard to the sidewalk crossing the bridge on Oak Street, but had not yet received an answer. **Outcome:** Consider an application based on the Elm Street project at an estimated cost of \$289,000 at the next Council meeting. If SCDOT does not find the

sidewalk crossing on the Oak Street bridge to be feasible, the Country Club Drive sidewalk project will be considered for the application.

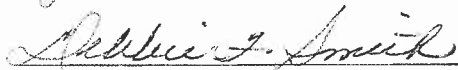
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to enter into executive session to discuss legal advice from the City's attorney [pursuant to Section SC §30-4-70(a)(2)] and a personnel matter [pursuant to Section SC §30-4-70(a)(2)]. Motion carried.

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

Discussion on personnel matter [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(1)]. Motion: Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by White, to accept the City Administrator's recommendation to promote Battalion Chief Philip "Le" Hendrick to the position of Fire Chief effective December 27, 2014. Hendrick will replace Fire Chief Rick Baker who has resigned effective December 26, 2014. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 5th day of January, 2015.



Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk