

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY – FEBRUARY 17, 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; Foster Hughes, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Timmy Williams, Beautification Director; Rick Baker, Fire Chief; Michael Leinwand, Planning Director; Cindi Howard, Human Resources Director; Freddie DuBose, Public Utilities Director; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; and Vicky Lefler, City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp, Rev. Jason Cook, Byron David, Bill Wiegand, Ann Alford, Jill Dale, Kristi Falk, Shirley Johnson, Brittany Gamser, Blake Lanford, and others

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Lawson recognized Rev. Jason Cook of The Refuge 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 #ZA2014-02-17 (A) Accepting the petition by Keith A. Benton Sr. and Norman Tommy Moore Jr. to annex approximately 2.02 acres of property located at 3412 Highway 701 South (TMS# 136-00-05-010) and to rezone the property Neighborhood Commercial (NC) upon annexation

B. City Council minutes – February 3, 2014

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

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Presentation of donation toward playground equipment by the Conway Kiwanis Club.
The Conway Kiwanis Club has committed to assist the City with the purchase of new

playground equipment for the Conway Recreation Complex. The cost of the playground equipment is \$25,000, and to cover the cost of this equipment, the Kiwanis Club has agreed to make annual donations to the City in the amount of \$5,000 for five years. Byron David, Club President, accompanied by Club Members Jill Dale, Ann Alford and Bill Wiegand, presented a check to Council for the first year's donation in the amount of \$5,000. Hughes commented that plans are to purchase and install the new equipment after July 1st (next budget year) and that funds are available and may be budgeted from the General Fund unreserved fund balance to implement this project. The four remaining donations by the Kiwanis Club will be used to repay the balance of \$20,000 to the General Fund. Mayor Lawson expressed appreciation on behalf of the City to the Kiwanis Club for this donation and assistance with similar projects in the past.

B. Special event requests

1. **Earth Hour – March 29, 2014.** Kristi Falk of the Wellness Council for South Carolina submitted this special event request. The event is planned to be held on March 29th in Riverfront Park from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. To further their goal of promoting environmental awareness, event sponsors have requested that the lights be turned off at the park and on the Laurel Street water tower for the last hour of the event. No City services have been requested. Staff recommended approval of the special event application. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the special event application for Earth Hour as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
2. **Stories in Stone 2014 – April 12, 2014.** Shirley Long of the Horry County Historical Society submitted this special event request. The event is planned for Saturday, April 12th, and tours are planned for 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, and 2 pm. Tours will begin at the Conway Visitor Center, proceed to Kingston Presbyterian Church, and end at Ultimate Gullah. Staff recommended approval of the special event application with the cost of any City support services provided to be absorbed by the City's operating funds. Mrs. Long was present and shared information on the event and event partners and sponsors. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the special event application for Stories in Stone 2014 as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Employee of the Month Award for January was presented to Le Hendrick, Battalion Chief, Fire Department. He was presented a certificate and will receive eight additional hours of vacation. Hendrick's family members were in attendance for the presentation which was made by the City Administrator, accompanied by the Fire Chief. Hendrick was commended by City Council for having been selected for this recognition.

D. ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #ZA2014-03-03 (A) Amendment to Section 7.2 of the City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance relating to access management for multi-family developments. This proposed ordinance was discussed by Council during the workshop portion of its meeting on January 21st. Graham commented that the primary purpose of the ordinance is to ensure that emergency access is provided multi-family developments such as student housing complexes. A public hearing on the

proposed amendment is scheduled to be held at the next Council meeting. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2014-03-03 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Acceptance of low bid for 2014 half-ton pick-up truck for the Public Utilities Department.** Public Utilities budgeted \$17,000 in the FY 2013-14 budget to replace a 2005 pickup truck with high mileage that is used by a meter reader. Specifications were prepared and bids were received from the following vendors: Conway Ford (\$17,910) and Palmetto Chevrolet (\$19,294). Bids include sales tax. The state contractor for this vehicle chose not to submit a bid. DuBose reported that the Public Utilities Department's Capital Improvement budget could absorb the amount that the low bid is over-budget (\$910) and he recommended that the bid submitted by Conway Ford be accepted. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to accept the low bid of \$17,910 submitted by Conway Ford for a 2014 half-ton pickup truck for the Public Utilities Department. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Proposed Collins Park Fruit Tree Project by Cooperative Extension Junior Master Gardener Program.** This proposed project consists of the planting of seven fruit trees in the park along the future sidewalk near the Mary Thompson Center parking lot at Collins Park. A map of the general location for the project was shared with Council. The seven trees proposed for planting are one pineapple guava, two persimmon, one Asian pear, two Satsuma Mandarin orange, and one Turkey fig. Staff recommended approval of the project with implementation to be coordinated by the City Arborist. Blake Lanford of the Clemson Cooperative Extension Agency was present and spoke in support of this request. He also introduced Miracle Lewis, the recently-employed 4-H agent, who will be working with the Junior Master Gardener Program. Ms. Lewis gave a progress report on the Junior Master Gardener Program which is in the beginning stages of implementation. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the proposed Collins Park Fruit Tree Project as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Proposed addition of Council Members' photographs and other information on City's access channel.** Council Member Alford has recommended that City Council Members' photographs and other information be added to the City's access channel. Hughes shared with Council a rendering of slides staff drafted to display this information on the access channel. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the display of the Council members' information on the City's access channel as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Staff will schedule appointments for new and updated photographs as needed; Mayor Lawson suggested that, for uniformity, the photography be completed prior to the slides being displayed on the access channel.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

- A. Proposed refinancing of certain outstanding City bonded indebtedness.** Hardee advised Council that, with the assistance of Frannie Heizer of McNair Law Firm, an evaluation was

made of the possible savings of refinancing certain bonded indebtedness of the City. That evaluation resulted in an estimated potential net savings of \$200,000 to \$250,000 through refinancing certain identified bonds. Staff reviewed with Council a spreadsheet showing the City's outstanding debt and those bonds proposed to be refinanced. Estimated costs for refinancing would be prepayment penalties, \$28,658, and bond issuance costs, \$18,500. Staff recommended that they be given authorization to work with bond counsel to prepare the necessary ordinances and solicit bank bids for the refinancing of the identified bonds. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Anderson to approve staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Report on winter storm recovery operations and plans. Graham reported on recovery efforts from the winter ice storm of February 11-13, 2014, and shared with Council the estimated storm-related costs, primarily for overtime and fuel, incurred by department. The debris removal plan currently being implemented was reviewed. Approximately 90 tons of debris have been transported to the Horry County Solid Waste Authority landfill. It is estimated that it will take approximately 2-3 weeks to make a complete sweep of the City, with a second sweep to follow as homeowners continue to put debris curbside. Noting that the City "piggy backs" on the County's debris removal contract, Graham reported that it has not been determined if the County will meet the minimum threshold which is necessary in order for the City to utilize its contracts with FEMA-approved debris removal and monitoring companies. He advised Council that, in the meantime, plans are to continue with debris removal by City crews. Council was in agreement with the Mayor's suggestion that at least one additional Saturday workday for debris removal by City crews is needed. Graham expressed his appreciation to all employees, especially emergency personnel and workers in the Beautification Department, who have worked so hard during the storm. He also thanked the Mayor and Council for their care and concern for City employees and citizens for their patience and cooperation. The Mayor and Council recognized and expressed their gratitude, not only to the Department Heads in attendance, but also asked that a letter of thanks be sent to all other City employees as well. Staff was asked to post appropriate notices (tree trimming information, garbage pickup schedules, debris removal progress, etc.) on the access channel and website to keep the community informed during clean-up operations.

C. Discussion of schedule and location for 2014 Budget Retreat. Graham reported that staff's preparations for the annual Budget Retreat have been significantly delayed by the recent winter storms. Because of this delay, he recommended that the Budget Retreat be postponed for at least two weeks and that it be held locally. After a discussion of open dates, Council agreed on the following dates/times for the Budget Retreat: March 27, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm; March 28, 8:00 am-5:00 pm; and March 29, 9:00 am-noon. Meetings will be held in the conference room at the Conway Recreation Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by White, to enter into executive session to discuss 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.

PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS: Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to authorize the City Administrator to sign a letter of intent to sponsor a “Technology Villages Program” for Conway in partnership with Coastal Carolina University and Clemson University as discussed in executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 3rd day of March, 2014.



Vicky Lefler, City Clerk