

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
CONWAY CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY – FEBRUARY 4, 2013 – 5:30 p.m.**

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

**STAFF:** Bill Graham, City Administrator; Michael Hardee, Finance Director; Billy Joe Sawyer, Building Official; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Jerry Barnhill, Public Works Director, Freddie DuBose, Public Utilities Director; Rick Baker, Fire Chief; Michael Leinwand, Planning Director; and Vicky Lefler, City Clerk

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Kathy Ropp, the Reverend Tripp Jeffords, Hillary Howard, Jessica Cannon, Ashley Silvey, Steven Benford and others

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

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Lawson recognized the Reverend Tripp Jeffords of St. Paul's Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** **City Council minutes – January 22, 2013.** Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the consent agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. Special event requests:**

Mayor Lawson abstained from discussion and vote on the special event requests for Gathering of the Green and Rivertown Music and Arts Festival because her place of employment may be a participant in the events. Mayor Pro Tem Koon presided over the meeting during consideration of these two special event requests.

- 1. Gathering of the Green, March 15, 2013.** Hillary Howard with Conway Downtown Alive has requested a special event permit for this event to be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between Laurel and Elm Streets. The applicant has requested the closure of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from Laurel Street to Elm Street from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Leinwand noted that the requested alcohol consumption zone is the same as

previous Downtown events. Maps showing proposed street closures and the proposed designated special event area for the public consumption of beer and wine during the event were included in the special event application. Staff recommended approval of the request with the cost of City support services provided to be absorbed by the City's operating fund. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the special event application for Gathering of the Green as presented. **Vote:** Timbes voted in the negative; Mayor Lawson abstained; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried. See attachment.

2. **Rivertown Music and Arts Festival, May 4, 2013.** Hillary Howard with Conway Downtown Alive has also requested a special event permit for this event to be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm in Downtown Conway. The applicant has requested the closure of portions of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Laurel Street to accommodate the event. Leinwand noted the requested alcohol consumption zone is the same as that for the Gathering of the Green event referenced above. Maps showing proposed street closures and the proposed designated special event area for the public consumption of beer and wine during the event were included in the special event application. Staff recommended approval of the request with the cost of City support services provided to be absorbed by the City's operating fund. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve the special event application for the Rivertown Music and Arts Festival as presented. **Vote:** Timbes voted in the negative; Mayor Lawson abstained; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried. See attachment.

Mayor Lawson presided over the remainder of the meeting.

3. **Earth Hour, March 23, 2013.** Kristi Falk of the Wellness Council for Coastal South Carolina has requested a special event permit for this event to be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm in Riverfront Park. As a part of this event, sponsors have requested that the lights at Riverfront Park and on the Laurel Street water tower be turned off from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. In addition to signage, Leinwand reported that the sponsors would be required to station at least one person at the park entrance prior to the start of the event to give notice that the lights will be turned off and the park will become dark for an hour during the event. Staff recommended approval of the request. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the special event application for Earth Hour as presented. **Discussion:** Koon stated his reservations about turning off the lights on City property, particularly property as iconic as the water tower. Goldfinch inquired if there were any FAA lighting requirements for the water tank. Baker responded the height of the tank determines the lighting requirement; a red light, which this tank does not have, would indicate FAA-required lighting for aircraft. **Amended Motion:** Anderson made an amended motion, seconded by White, to approve the special event application for Earth Hour, contingent upon FAA or other safety lighting requirements for the Laurel Street water tank. **Vote:** Koon voted in the negative; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

- B. **Employee Longevity Awards** were presented to Shelley Hendrick, Fire Department, 5 years; Anthony Rabon, GIS, Planning Department, and Robert Robinson, Police Department, 10 years. Jane Mackey, Municipal Court, 25 years, was unable to attend. The presentation was made by Council Member Anderson and the City Administrator.

**C. Employee of the Month for January – David Williams, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department.** The City Administrator, accompanied by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, made the presentation. Reading from the nomination, Graham described Williams' actions to help resuscitate Mr. Howard Lee when Mr. Lee recently collapsed at the Recreation Center. City Council commended Williams for having been selected as the recipient of this award. Mr. Lee, accompanied by family members, was present at this meeting and also congratulated and thanked Williams.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:**

**A. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2013-03-04 (A) Accepting the petition of Two-Ten Investors, Inc., to annex approximately 11.37 acres of property (TMS #150-00-06-029) located at SC Highway 544 and to rezone it Institutional (IN).** The property owner has petitioned for the annexation and rezoning of this property which is contiguous to the City limits. Although the Comprehensive Plan recommends Highway Commercial or Planned Development zoning for the parcel, Leinwand reported that staff believes IN zoning would also be appropriate and noted the adjacent parcel to the south and the parcel across Highway 544 are zoned IN. Leinwand commented that staff has been informed that future development of the property would be a type of student housing and he advised Council that any proposed development would have to be evaluated and approved by the Technical Review Committee. The Planning Commission has recommended approving the annexation. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Koon, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2013-03-04 (A). **Discussion:** Mayor Lawson expressed concerns for the safety of students attempting to cross Highway 544 and suggested that ways be explored to direct students to safer routes such as dividers in the median. Anderson reiterated the Mayor's concerns and expressed concern regarding the need for additional street lighting. Staff was asked to stress to student housing developers and CCU the City's concern that everything possible be done to address these issues. Adding his concern for student safety, Goldfinch also asked that businesses' need for access be kept in mind. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**B. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2013-03-04 (B) Accepting the petition of Palmetto Chevrolet Company, Inc. to annex approximately 25.06 acres of property (TMS #122-00-03-055) located along US Highway 501 and to rezone it Highway Commercial (HC).** The property owner has petitioned for the annexation and rezoning of this property which is contiguous to the City limits. The Comprehensive Plan recommends Highway Commercial and Planned Development zoning for the front portion of the parcel and Forest Agriculture, Rural Residential, and Planned Development for the rear portion. Leinwand reported that staff believes HC zoning for the entire parcel would be appropriate as the property is along a major highway and the development process for new construction would be less complicated under a single zoning district. Leinwand commented that any future development of the property, if rezoned to HC, would have to be listed in Article 4 of the Unified Development Ordinance and it would have to be evaluated and approved by the Technical Review Committee. The Planning Commission has recommended approving the annexation. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** Mr. Robert Steven Benford, adjacent property owner, inquired about for buffers between this property and adjacent residential areas and wetland areas on the property;

Leinwand provided information regarding these inquiries. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2013-03-04 (B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION: Proposal to make Lewis Street two-way between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues.** Council discussed this issue at its meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff recommended that Council approve the proposal as presented. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the proposal to make Lewis Street a two-way street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEM FOR INFORMATION: Report from Police Department on status of criminal investigations and update on recent community outreach activities.** Gosnell gave an update on police investigations and reported on the recent candlelight vigil, community walks, and other community outreach activities. Results of recent law enforcement checkpoints were reported. Gosnell also reported on plans for upcoming activities including the Police basketball league and the second annual gun buy-back event.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

  
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Vicky Lefler, City Clerk