

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY – MARCH 18, 2013 – 5:30 p.m.**

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, and Jean M. Timbes;
ABSENT: Council Member 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; Freddie DuBose, Public Utilities Director; Rick Baker, Fire Chief; Michael Leinwand, Planning Director; and Vicky Lefler, City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp, Press Courtney, Robert Hucks, Wendy McKewen, Blake Lanford, Tommy Moore, Mitch Godwin and students in his Law and Banking Principles Class, and others (see attachment)

CALL TO ORDER: After calling the meeting to order, Mayor Lawson stated that City Council and City employees were deeply concerned for the families of the Windsor Green community in the Carolina Forest area who had lost their homes in the fire over the past weekend and asked everyone to be in prayer for those who had suffered losses. The Salvation Army and Goodwill are accepting items to assist those in need. The American Red Cross has asked for monetary contributions which can be made online and Mayor Lawson encouraged all citizens to make a donation to the cause.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Lawson recognized Chaplain Mike Belue of the Waccamaw Baptist Association 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 Blain-Olds, to approve the agenda contents. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: **City Council minutes – March 4, 2013.** Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the consent agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- A. **Collins Park community demonstration garden project.** Blake Lanford, Regional Lead Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension, reviewed the proposal from Eat Smart Move More Horry County to establish a community demonstration garden in Collins Park. The small, raised-bed fruit/vegetable/flowers garden initiative will be located between the tennis courts and the Collins Park Building. Representatives of Eat Smart Move More and Clemson Extension will be responsible for installation and regular and long-term maintenance of the garden. The City would be responsible for site coordination, providing water and minimal

onsite storage of hand tools. Staff recommended approval of the project. By consensus, Council approved the Collins Park Community Garden Project as proposed by Eat Smart Move More – Horry County.

- B. **Proposed resolution of recognition and requested donation to the Conway Cluster vision for the Conway Attendance Area Schools.** Press Courtney, Robert Hucks II, and Wendy McKewen gave a presentation on the “TLC” initiative (technology, leadership, and college and career readiness) and the developmental program chosen to help implement the objectives of the initiative. Council was requested to show its support by adopting a resolution and making a financial donation toward the cost associated with implementing the initiative. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to adopt a resolution of support and make a \$1,000 donation from City Council general fund contingency account. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. See attachment.
- C. **Proposal for HTC to provide free WiFi at Conway Riverfront Park/Marina.** Brent Groome, HTC Chief Executive-Customer Operations, reported on this free public WiFi access which is now in operation. Council received a copy of the press release which included the conditions for use and a copy of the proposed signage to be installed near the entrance to the park (free-standing sign) and on the windows of the Marina Store doors (decals). Mayor Lawson asked Groome to thank everyone at HTC who had worked on this project and to convey the City’s appreciation for HTC’s cooperation with the City.
- D. **Special event request: Best of the Best Wingfest, May 25, 2013, 11:00 am-6:30 pm.** Leinwand advised that this event is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. He displayed by powerpoint the original (Option 1) special event area contained in the application, and in response to staff concerns regarding restricted boater access and parking, an Option 2 special event area was shown which would relocate the kids’ area and arts and crafts from the marina parking lot area to the tennis center parking lot. Both maps showed the proposed designated special event area for the public consumption of beer and wine during the event. Kelli James of the Conway Chamber of Commerce answered questions regarding the special event application. In regard to the possibility of relocating the arts and crafts vendors, James noted that these vendors usually brought a large amount of merchandise and locating them inside the park would make set up difficult for them. In response to concerns of restricted marina access and parking, James advised Council that Option 2 was acceptable for this year’s event provided there is assistance with traffic control for pedestrian safety. **Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the special event application for Best of the Best Wingfest, using the Option 1 special event area (marina parking lot), with the cost of City support services provided to be absorbed by the City’s operating fund. **Vote:** Koon and Timbes voted in the affirmative; all others voted in the negative. Motion failed. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the special event application for Best of the Best Wingfest, using the Option 2 special event area (tennis center parking lot), with the cost of City support services provided to be absorbed by the City’s operating fund. This motion also authorized the City Administrator to provide additional resources as necessary to assist with staging the event and to ensure the safety of pedestrians, especially in the area of the tennis parking lot. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- E. **Employee of the Month Award for February** was presented to Corporal Chris Johnson of the Police Department. Johnson was commended by City Council for having been selected

as the recipient of this award. The City Administrator, accompanied by the Police Chief, made the presentation.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

- A. Ordinance #ZA2013-04-15 (C) accepting the request by Patricia Skipper to annex approximately 1.5 acres located at 3931 Long Avenue Extension (TMS# 111-00-01-054) and to zone the property Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation.** Leinwand advised Council that this vacant property is contiguous to the City limits and annexation is required in order to provide City utilities to the property. The Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Existing Residential; R-1 is a permitted zoning district in this land use category. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2013-04-15 (C). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Ordinance #ZA2013-04-15 (D) accepting the request by Forrest Beverly to annex approximately 0.75 acres located at 2510 Graham Road (TMS# 123-00-02-168) and to zone the property Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation.** Leinwand stated this vacant property is also contiguous to the City limits. The property owner has requested annexation so that City utilities will be provided to the property. The Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Existing Residential; R-1 is a permitted zoning district in this land use category. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2013-04-15 (D). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: Reaffirming the City's Risk Management Policy. Baker reported that SC Municipal Insurance Trust and SC Municipal Insurance Risk Fund guidelines require members to annually adopt a commitment to prevent and control accidental loss. To meet this guideline, staff prepared and presented for Council's consideration a resolution reaffirming the City's risk management commitment. Baker also gave a brief progress report on the City's safety program. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Koon, to adopt the risk management resolution as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. See attachment. Mayor Lawson asked the Fire Chief to convey Council's appreciation to his firefighters for their cooperation and assistance to the Horry County Fire Department during the recent fire in the Windsor Green community.

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION: Removal of Bradford pear trees from medians of Highway 501 South (from Atlantic Avenue to Wild Wing Boulevard). Hughes reported that an Horry County, Myrtle Beach and SCDOT joint project is currently underway to remove Bradford pear trees from the median of Highway 501 between Myrtle Beach and Conway. Within the City limits, Hughes informed Council that there are 15 Bradford pear trees growing in the median of Highway 501 South between Atlantic Avenue and Wild Wing Boulevard. The City Arborist has inspected all 15 of these Bradford pear trees and recommends that they be removed due to their age and condition. Staff recommended that Council authorize the removal of these trees. If approved, the project will be scheduled to coincide with the Horry County, Myrtle Beach and SCDOT joint project referenced above and the work will be done by the City's Public Works Department. **Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve staff's recommendation 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 ITEM: Discussion on proposed RFP for lease of Riverfront Tennis Center.

Hughes reported that staff had been studying how to have a more effective operation at the tennis center and, to that end, had created this draft Request for Proposals for lease of the Riverfront Tennis Center. He stressed that no changes are being proposed in current fees or services and any such changes would be presented to Council at a meeting for approval. In response to questions from Council, Hughes reported that expectations for maintenance of the courts is addressed in the RFP; some building maintenance (replacement of deck boards, steps, some doors and windows, etc.) will be done this budget year; the RFP allows opportunity for proposing new ideas for operation of the store and merchandise to be sold, tennis center activities, leagues, etc.; the current staff may or may not be retained but a tennis professional at the center would be required. Graham stated that if there were no concerns or further questions, staff would proceed with issuing the RFP. **Outcome:** There was no opposition voiced to issuing the RFP as presented.

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 15th day of April, 2013.

Vicky Lefler
Vicky Lefler, City Clerk