

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY – APRIL 7, 2014 – 5:30 PM**

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**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; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Foster Hughes, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Wanda Lilly, Arborist; 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. Wallace Evans Jr., Hillary Howard, Tommy Moore, Jimmy Day, Dee Nesbit, Kelli James, Leslie Wilson, Christa Caperton, Kellah F. Webster, Jeff Mishoe, and others

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

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Lawson recognized Rev. Wallace Evans Jr. of A Father's Place who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** **City Council minutes – March 17, 2014.** **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- A. Special presentation by County Councilman James Frazier, District 7.** County Councilman Frazier presented a check to the City in the amount of \$52,000 from Horry County Council to be used for recreational purposes. County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus accompanied Councilman Frazier. Mayor Lawson accepted the check and expressed appreciation on behalf of the City and Council.
- B. Police Department and Salvation Army summer camp partnership.** Gosnell and Major Bret McElroy of Salvation Army reported on plans to combine the Police Department's Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program and the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club Summer Program into a combined 10-week summer camp that would operate

from June 9 to August 15, 2014. The camp will run Monday-Friday, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm and be held in the Salvation Army's 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue facilities. A maximum of 50 campers will be accepted. Meals for the campers will be provided free of charge by Langston Baptist Church (breakfast) and Waccamaw EOC (lunch & snacks). After Blain-Olds expressed concerns that fewer campers would be accepted than previously served in the GREAT program, Gosnell noted that the GREAT Program had difficulties in the past with the large number of campers being managed by only a few police officers and the limitations of the camp's previous location at Darden Terrace. Some of the benefits of partnering with the Salvation Army, Gosnell informed Council, would be that a bus and driver could be provided for field trips which will reduce transportation expenses, the facility is more conducive, daily hours for the program will be expanded to 5:30 pm, additional staff will be provided, and a spiritual element will be added to the program. Major Bret McElroy of Salvation Army spoke on provisions for assistance with enrollment fees, and reductions in fees for absences. Gosnell reported that opportunities to expand the program in the future will be explored based on evaluation of this year's experience.

**C. State Accreditation of the Conway Police Department.** Leslie G. Wiser Jr., representing the State Accreditation Council for Law Enforcement, presented the certificate of state accreditation of the Conway Police Department to Police Chief Gosnell. The Police Department was granted accredited status by the South Carolina Police Accreditation Coalition on March 13, 2014. Wiser gave special recognition in accreditation efforts to Chief Gosnell, Captain Tammy Carter, and Lieutenant Selena Small. Gosnell and his department were congratulated by Mayor Lawson and Council on this landmark achievement.

**D. Special event requests:**

- 1. River Read – April 12, 2014.** Barbara Blain-Olds of the Waccamaw Community Foundation submitted this special event request. The second annual River Read festival is planned for April 12<sup>th</sup> in Riverfront Park from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. A map depicting the location of the event accompanied the special event application. Blain-Olds gave an overview of the day's activities, noting that the event coincided with "Drop Everything and Read" day. Staff recommended approval of the special event application with the cost of any support services provided to be absorbed by the City's operating funds. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the special event application for River Read as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- 2. Gamecock Club Fanfest – April 23, 2014.** Patrick McFarland and Wayne Hiott of The Gamecock Club submitted this special event request. The event is planned for Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Riverfront Park; event set-up will begin at noon, the event will begin at 5:30 pm and end 8:00 pm. Maps depicting the event location and the proposed designated special event area for the public consumption of beer and wine during the event accompanied the special event application. The event sponsor has agreed to pay the cost of City support services provided for the event by personnel from the Conway Police, Fire, and Parks, Recreation and Tourism Departments (\$260). Staff recommended approval of the special event application. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the special event application for the Gamecock Club Fanfest as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Mayor Lawson abstained from discussion and voting on the special event request for Alive after Five 2014. Mayor Pro Tem Goldfinch presided over the meeting for this item of business.

3. **Alive after Five 2014.** Hillary Howard of Conway Downtown Alive submitted this special event request for 2014 Alive after Five events which are planned for the first Thursday of each month beginning June 5<sup>th</sup> and ending November 6<sup>th</sup>. As a part of this year's events, Conway Downtown Alive has requested that local businesses within the designated special event areas be allowed to sell beer and wine for public consumption from their establishments, if they desire, between the hours of 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Maps showing proposed street closures and the proposed designated special event areas for the public consumption of beer and wine during the events accompanied the special event application. The applicant also requested the flexibility to expand street closures, at the discretion of Conway Downtown Alive, Fire Department and Police Department, on Laurel Street (from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (from Main Street to Elm Street) depending on turnout for events. Staff recommended approval of the special event application with the cost of any support services provided to be absorbed by the City's operating funds. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the special event application for Alive after Five 2014 as presented by staff. **Discussion:** Timbes expressed concern regarding the extent of the alcohol consumption zone and noted that the zone included an area where no restaurants were located. Blain-Olds also expressed her concern that the alcohol consumption zone should be more restrictive. **Vote:** Mayor Lawson abstained; Blain-Olds and Timbes voted in the negative; Alford, Anderson, Goldfinch and White voted in the affirmative. Motion carried. See attachment.

Mayor Lawson presided over the remainder of the meeting.

4. **Best of the Best Wingfest – May 24, 2014.** Jimmy Day of the Omar Shrine Temple submitted this special event request. Plans call for the event to be held on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, in Riverfront Park from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Maps showing the location of activities and the proposed designated special event area for the public consumption of beer and wine accompanied the special event application. The park will remain open to the public and there is no charge to attend the event. The applicant requested only standby police and medical assistance from the City. Staff recommended approval of the special event application with the cost of support services provided, if any, to be absorbed by the City's operating funds. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve the special event application for Best of the Best Wingfest as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
5. **Riverfest 2014.** Dee Ann Nesbit and Kelli James of the Conway Chamber of Commerce submitted this special event request. The event is planned for Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, with activities located in the Downtown area, Riverfront Park, Marina Drive, and the parking lot at the Tennis Center. Vendors and the stage will be relocated this year which will reduce the need for street closures to only Marina Drive from Elm Street to the parking lot entrance at the Horry County Government and Judicial Center (11 am to 7 pm). Activities in Riverfront Park are planned from 3:00-11:00 pm.; there will be a \$5 admission fee to the park during that time. The applicant also requested to sell beer/wine

during the event in Riverfront Park from 3:00 pm-10:30 pm. Maps showing the location of activities and the proposed designated special event area for the public consumption of beer and wine accompanied the special event application. Staff recommended approval of the special event application with the cost of support services provided to be absorbed by the City's operating funds. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve the special event application for Riverfest 2014 as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- E. **Employee Longevity Award** was presented to Shawn Burns, Beautification Department, five years. Burns' wife and his immediate supervisor, City Arborist Wanda Lilly, were present for the presentation which was made by Council Member Alford and the City Administrator.
- F. **Employee of the Month Award for March** was presented to Desk Officer Lisa Hill, Police Department. She was presented a certificate and will receive eight additional hours of vacation. The presentation was made by the City Administrator, accompanied by the Police Chief.

#### **ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:**

- A. **First reading of proposed ordinances relating to the request to rezone property at 707 Main Street (TMS 137-02-15-002 / PIN 33813020024).** This property, the former location of Magnolia Bridal and Formal Wear, was recently purchased by Leslie Wilson. Leinwand reported that Ms. Wilson has several proposed future uses in mind for the two vacant structures on this property that are not permitted under the property's current zoning designation. To be able to implement these proposed uses in the future, Ms. Wilson has requested that the property be rezoned from Professional to Neighborhood Commercial. Leinwand informed Council that, since the future land use category for this property is now Mixed Use for which only Professional is a permitted zoning district, Ms. Wilson has also requested that the future land use category for this property be changed to Neighborhood Commercial which has Neighborhood Commercial and Planned Development as permitted zoning districts. Council was advised that the Planning Commission has recommended approval of both requests. Leinwand informed Council that, based on the current uses and zoning along the entire Main Street Corridor from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, staff recommends approval and asked Council to consider first readings on the proposed ordinances individually.
  - 1. **Ordinance #ZA2014-05-05 (A) Accepting the request by Leslie Wilson to amend the City of Conway Comprehensive Plan to change the future land use category of the property located at 707 Main Street (TMS 137-02-15-002 / PIN 33813020024) from Mixed Use (MU) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC).** **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2014-05-05 (A) as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
  - 2. **Ordinance #ZA2014-05-05 (B) Accepting the request by Leslie Wilson to rezone approximately 0.78 acres of property located at 707 Main Street (TMS 137-02-15-002 / PIN 33813020024) from Professional (P) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC).** **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve first reading of

Ordinance #ZA2014-05-05 (B) as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- B. Ordinance #ZA2014-05-05 (C) Accepting the request by Northstar Investments LLC to annex approximately 0.25 acres of property located at 619 University Forest Circle (TMS 138-24-01-167 / PIN 38301020017) 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 vacant house on the property and the property is currently served by City water. There has been a recent change in property ownership and annexation can be required in order to change the City water account. The Comprehensive Plan identifies the land use category of this property as Medium Density Residential with the permitted zoning districts of Low Density Residential, Medium Residential, and Planned Development District. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2014-05-05 (C). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

## RESOLUTIONS:

- A. Recognizing April as National Fair Housing Month.** Council annually adopts a resolution recognizing April as National Fair Housing Month as designated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Leinwand presented the resolution drafted by staff for Council's consideration. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to adopt the resolution Recognizing April as National Fair Housing Month as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Supporting supplemental funding and application for a Safe Routes to School Grant.** Leinwand reported that staff had drafted the resolution that was presented in support of Conway Elementary School's application for a Safe Routes to School grant. The grant requires that 70%-90% of the funds be spent on infrastructure projects and the remainder be spent on non-infrastructure programs. The infrastructure portion of the grant application is for sidewalks and drainage on Sherwood Drive and Snowhill Drive from 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the school and on Magrath Avenue from Lakeland Drive to the school. These projects are included in the school's Safe Routes to School Travel Plan that was developed in 2011-12 and endorsed by City Council in 2012. Although no match is required, Leinwand advised that staff believes the likelihood of the grant being awarded would increase with the commitment of supplemental funding by Horry County Schools and the City of Conway. Horry County Schools committed \$58,000 to assist with the construction of these sidewalks in August 2013. Staff recommended that Council adopt the resolution and approve \$58,000 in supplemental funding toward the infrastructure projects in support of the grant application. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to adopt the resolution and approve the supplemental funding as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Resolution to decrease funding and amend projects – HUD/CDBG Entitlement Grant 2014-2015.** In January 2014, Council approved the projects for HUD/CDBG Year 7 based on an estimated budget of \$343,283. Leinwand advised Council that, according to the Horry County Community Development Office's 2014 HUD allocations, the City's funding was decreased \$38,918 and the total allocation for Year 7 is now \$304,365. To reflect this

reduction, staff proposed that the Home Repair Program allotment be reduced from \$73,283 to \$34,365 in the Year 7 budget and recommended that Council adopt the prepared resolution to decrease funding and amend projects for HUD/CDBG Entitlement Grant Year 7 that reflects this reduction. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to adopt the resolution to decrease funding and amend projects for HUD/CDBG Entitlement Grant 2014-2015 as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

- A. **Memorandum of Understanding with City of North Myrtle Beach for police services.** Gosnell reported that the proposed agreement with the City of North Myrtle Beach will automatically renew annually unless terminated in writing at the discretion of the chief law enforcement officer to the other party. A copy of the proposed agreement was provided for Council's review. Staff recommended approval of the agreement. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the memorandum of understanding between the City of Conway and the City of North Myrtle Beach to provide mutual aid and law enforcement support as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. **Proposed managed services agreement with Horry Telephone Cooperative.** Graham reported that, shortly after the City's former IT coordinator resigned to accept employment elsewhere, HTC contacted the City with an offer to provide network security and managed services, remote telephone support and on-site support of the City's PC servers and IT network infrastructure. Managed services support by HTC would provide 24/7 security and monitoring of network hardware and software and unlimited support for the City's IT technician. Graham informed Council that the implementation of the proposed agreement would entail some initial network setup to enable HTC's monitoring and security as well as some training by HTC of the City's IT technician. The cost of the initial set up and training is \$5,013.50. The cost of the three-year managed services agreement is \$2,535 per month which amounts to \$30,420 per year. Graham reported that the proposed agreement would result in savings conservatively estimated at \$89,000 to the City over its three-year term. Staff recommended that Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into the proposed managed services agreement with HTC and to sign the work authorization for the initial set up and training by HTC necessary to implement the agreement. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to approve staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Anderson abstained; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried. See attachment.

**ITEM FOR INFORMATION: Report on recent gun buy-back event.** Gosnell reported on this event which was held on March 29<sup>th</sup> at A Father's Place. A total of 122 guns were collected, two of which were reported as being stolen. The event started at 9:00 am and was slated to end at 3:00 pm; however, due to the overwhelming response, funds supporting the buy-backs were depleted by noon and the operation was suspended at that time. The event again involved a partnership of local law enforcement agencies, including the Horry County Sheriff's Office, Horry County Police Department, SC Highway Patrol, along with the Conway Police Department.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

Vicky Lefler  
Vicky Lefler, City Clerk