

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY – JUNE 2, 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; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Foster Hughes, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Rick Baker, Fire Chief; Michael Leinwand, Planning Director; Billy Joe Sawyer, Building Official; Freddie DuBose, Public Utilities Director, Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; and Debbie Smith, Interim City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp, Rev. Bob Fogner and others.

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Lawson recognized Rev. Bob Fogner who gave the invocation. On behalf of Council, she thanked him and his Veterans group for their efforts in promoting patriotism in Conway. 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 – May 19, 2014.** **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Recognition of Hi Tech Construction as a River Friendly Business.** Tim Kirby, Chairman, Water Quality and Stormwater Drainage Commission advised Council that Hi Tech Construction had earned a certification as a River Friendly Business. Representatives from Hi Tech Construction were unexpectedly unable to attend this meeting and will be presented a window decal and a certificate of recognition at a later date.

B. Employee Longevity Award was presented to Tammy Carter, Police Department, 15 years. The presentation was made by Council Member White and the City Administrator. Shon Doctor, Public Works Department (Streets), 10 years of service, was also recognized but was unable to attend.

C. Recognition of Educational Achievements of Employees – Council recognized and congratulated Police Captain Tammy Carter who recently graduated from the South Carolina Certified Public Management Program and Police Lieutenant Reginald Hill was also recognized and commended for receiving the FBI’s Law Enforcement Executive Development Trilogy Award in May.

PUBLIC INPUT AND ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION: APPROVAL OF JAG GRANT APPLICATION

The Police Department received notification on April 24, 2014, that the City is eligible to receive a direct award of \$11,931 through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program to be used for approved law enforcement purposes. Staff requested authorization to submit the application to receive the 2014 JAG Direct Award with the funds to be used to upgrade the police in-car audio-video recording systems from analog to digital. **Public Input:** None. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve the 2014 JAG Direct award grant application 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. Preceding discussion of workshop items, Graham introduced Debbie Smith to Council and others present as the recently employed Interim City Clerk. Mayor and Council welcomed Mrs. Smith.

WORKSHOP ITEMS:

A. Discussion on the rezoning request for 33.85 acres of property behind Rivertown Row Subdivision from Planned Development (PD) to Medium Density Residential (R-2).

Graham reported the original PD called for 63 houses and 54 townhouses with a total of 117 housing units. First reading on this rezoning request was held on May 5, 2014 and was tabled at that time. The applicant (Beverly Homes) is proposing to rezone the property to R-2 and construct single family homes. The revised plan has no attached housing or multi-family housing included. Concerns expressed by residents of the adjacent subdivision during the public hearing of May 5, 2014 included loss of buffer area, drainage, and the location of the second entrance into the subdivision. Mayor Lawson commented that the original PD provided for a landscaped buffer between homes in this parcel and homes in the adjacent parcel and any changes made should include this buffer. In reference to the second access, Baker advised Council if rezoning is approved, that once Phase I is complete, for safety there must be a second entrance before Phase II can begin. After much discussion, the Beverlys advised their preference was to continue with the R-2 request and revise their plan and include a 15 ft landscaped buffer, as opposed to leaving the property zoned PD and reduce the number of lots if necessary.

Outcome: Staff will revisit the interpretation of “open space” and the first reading may be

scheduled for consideration at the next council meeting and if so the residents in the neighborhood will be notified. To revisit this item at a later date -Graham suggested we advertise for the first reading and possibly take action on this item on the June 16 agenda. Alford suggested the interpretation of "open space" be reviewed. Staff will also check on the status of Rivertown Landing and Carsens Ferry with regard to use of that property for the second entrance.

B. Discussions on Resolutions - The Deputy City Administrator reported on survey results of neighboring municipalities' criteria for issuing proclamations and resolutions. The City's current procedures and possible alternatives were discussed. **Outcome:** Council was in general agreement that resolutions will be used for legal type documents and to recognize the retirement of City employees. Proclamations will continue to be issued according to the current procedure for special recognition of people, groups and occasions and at the Mayor's discretion. Mayor Lawson invited Council Members and staff to bring back for discussion any ideas for other options they may have in the future.

C. Discussion on Longevity Award - Graham reported, that in 2011, Council agreed to decrease longevity awards by 25% as a result of the recession. Reinstating the original longevity award amounts would add approximately \$8,600 to the FY 2014-2015 budget. The current budgeted amount for longevity is approximately \$26,000; if a 25% increase is reinstated, the annual cost for Fiscal Year 2014-15 will be approximately \$35,000. There was some discussion on using these funds for such things as wellness bonuses and/or a part-time nurse practitioner. Graham also asked Council to consider increasing the Employee of the Year cash award from \$250 to \$500. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to increase the Longevity Awards by 25% to the original amounts and increase the Employee of the Year award from \$250 to \$500. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and consider an Advisory Committee appointment. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to come out of 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 16th day of June, 2014.


Debbie Smith, Interim City Clerk