

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CITY COUNCIL BUDGET RETREAT
CONWAY RECREATION CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
1515 MILL POND ROAD
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
FRIDAY – MARCH 15, 2013 – 8:00 a.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Alys C. Lawson, Mayor Pro Tem Irby L. Koon, and the following 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; and Vicky Lefler, City Clerk

OTHERS: Kathy Ropp of *The Horry Independent*

Graham opened the workshop by commenting on the City's current strong financial position and the progress that has been made under the guidance and leadership of Council. The unreserved fund balance is anticipated to be \$5.8 million at the end of this fiscal year.

The FY 2013-14 budget proposal totals \$33,429,775 which is an increase of \$387,250 over this fiscal year's budget. The budget proposal does not provide for a tax millage increase. Increases in insurance and retirement costs were reviewed and discussion followed on concerns of some Council members that no merit or cost of living increase for employees was included in the budget proposal. No increase in water and sewer rates is being proposed. One new full-time position (Human Resources Officer) and one new part-time position (Custodial Worker) are in the proposed budget.

Graham and Hardee then provided Council with a fund by fund review of the FY 2013-14 budget proposal and discussion was held on anticipated revenues and proposed expenditures.

During the discussion on anticipated revenue and proposed expenditures for the Hospitality Fee Fund, Mayor Lawson suggested one way to fund the \$92,000 needed for a 1% cost of living increase for employees would be to forego the proposed allotment to Capital Improvements Reserve and Council Marketing and direct those funds to the General Fund, keep the allotments to nonprofit organizations the same as last budget year, and authorize staff to find the balance needed. This would help keep employees whole in light of increasing retirement and insurance costs. Council agreed with this suggestion and staff was asked to make this revision in the budget proposal.

Council members then had an informal discussion and gave input on their concerns and general priorities for the City for the upcoming budget year.

Council also agreed to move forward with the adoption of the budget as proposed by staff. Staff will make adjustments in the budget proposal based on discussions and direction received from Council in this Budget Retreat, with a public hearing and first reading to be held at the April 15th Council meeting and final reading at the May 6th Council meeting.

As this concluded the entire agenda for the Budget Retreat, the Saturday session of the Retreat was canceled. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 15th day of April, 2013.



Vicky Lefler, City Clerk