

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY – JANUARY 23, 2012 – 5:30 p.m.**

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

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp, Rev. Bob Fogner, Gareth Beshears, Mark Wilson, 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. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Final reading of ordinance #ZA 2012-01-23 (A) Accepting the petition of Tara and Rhonda Marlowe to annex approximately .50 acres of property located at 472 Sellers Road (TMS 123-12-01-034) and to zone the property Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation

B. City Council minutes – January 9, 2012

Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Following the vote on the consent agenda, Blain-Olds noted the January 9th minutes did not show a second to the motion accepting the low bid for the security camera system for Police Department. Mayor Lawson asked that the January 9th minutes be so amended.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Dr. Mark Wilson reported to Council on the nesting habits of the Eastern Bluebird and the success of the Bluebird Trail project. The bluebird houses for this project were donated by Dr. Wilson and the late Mayor Greg Martin and were installed in several City parks in 2008 and 2009.

Lora Lynn Raynor addressed Council on several topics including an after-hours telephone message line for City Council; support for her petition relating to polydactyl cats; and the need for a DNR officer to be assigned to Horry County to help protect the wildlife.

There was no further public input.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: 2011 City of Conway Audit Report. Bob Calliham and Sharon Proctor of Smith, Sapp, Bookout & Calliham presented results of the 2011 City of Conway audit which included a clean opinion report with no significant audit findings and no material weakness or noncompliance issues.

PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed projects for the Horry County Entitlement Grant for HUD Year 5 (2012-2013). As part of the requirements of the agreement with Horry County and Myrtle Beach under the Urban County Entitlement Grant, the City must submit projects to be included in the annual action plan for Year Five. It is estimated that the City could receive approximately \$280,018 for 2012-2013. The projects proposed by staff were Jail Diversion and Re-Entry Program (\$13,000), Existing Infrastructure Projects (\$165,018), Housing Rehabilitation Program (\$100,000), and Administrative Costs (\$2,800). There was no comment from the public regarding the proposed projects.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #ZA2012-02-13 (A) Accepting the petition of Jill B. Marshall to annex approximately one acre of property located at 4088 Hagwood Circle (TMS 111-00-01-022) and to zone the property Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation. This parcel of property is completely surrounded by the municipal city limits. The property has a house on it and it is served by City water service. Ownership of the property has recently changed, however, and the City can require annexation in order to make a change in the water service account. The City's Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Existing Residential. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2012-02-13 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Consideration to amend Year 3 HUD projects and approve Year 5 HUD projects.** Leinwand gave a report on HUD projects for Years 1, 2 and 4, the proposed amendment to Year 3 projects, and the proposed projects for Year 5. Year 3 projects include sidewalk construction and drainage improvements in the Darden Terrace and Sugar Hill areas. One of the projects in the Sugar Hill area is a drainage-only project to close an open ditch behind the houses along Lincoln Park Drive. The piping design for this project will need to be permitted through the Army Corps of Engineers. As this permitting could be a lengthy process, Leinwand advised Council that the Horry County Community Development Office recommends separating this project from the other Sugar Hill projects to allow reimbursement requests and awards for the other Year 3 projects to proceed in a timely manner. Proposed Year 5 projects were reviewed in detail during the public hearing held earlier in this meeting. White inquired about including the remaining portion of Whittemore Street in the Year 3 projects and Leinwand responded that portion of the street was not included in the approved project but it could be eligible for consideration as a future project. In response to Blain-Olds, Leinwand advised that, should funding run short to complete the

drainage-only project on Lincoln Park Drive, Year 5 funds could be used to complete the project. Staff recommended that (1) the drainage-only project to close a ditch behind the houses on Lincoln Park Drive be identified as a separate Year 3 project with the remaining Sugar Hill sidewalk and drainage projects to be identified as one project, and (2) that the proposed projects for Year 5 be approved as follows: Jail Diversion and Re-Entry Program (\$13,000), Existing Infrastructure Projects (\$165,018), Housing Rehabilitation Program (\$100,000), and Administrative Costs (\$2,800) for a total of \$280,018. **Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by White, to approve staff's recommendations. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Bid for Fire Department squad truck. An amount of \$150,000 was included in the FY 2011-2012 budget to replace two small Fire Department squad trucks with one new fire squad truck which will be operated out of Fire Station #1. Bids were solicited for the replacement fire squad truck and a bid opening was held on January 3, 2012. Three bids were received: Spartan Fire & Emergency Apparatus of Roebuck, SC (\$146,828), Anchor-Richey EVS, Inc., of Taylorsville, NC (\$132,665), and Fire Equipment Services of Sumter, SC (\$127,329). All bid prices require sales tax of \$300 for the purchase of the truck. Staff has met with the low bidder to confirm his ability to build a fire squad truck to meet the City's specifications, expectations and delivery timeframe (by June 30, 2012). Once the new truck is received and is placed in service, Council's approval will be sought for the method of disposing of the squad trucks being replaced. Staff recommended that Council accept the low bid. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to accept the low bid of \$127,329 which was submitted by Fire Equipment Services of Sumter, SC, for the purchase of the Fire Department squad truck. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Update on Coastal Estates Housing and consideration of request to allow amenities center to be built during construction of first ten buildings in project. An amendment to the Coastal Estates PD was approved by Council in June, 2010, which included 11 student housing buildings with 12 four-bedroom units in each. At that time, Phase 1 of the project consisted of six student housing buildings and the amenities center. Approval was given upon the condition that all of the amenities were to obtain a certificate of occupancy in Phase 1 or a letter of credit or some other financial surety for their total cost was to be submitted to the Planning Department before Phase 2 began. The developers for the project recently advised staff of their desire to obtain permits to construct a total of 10 housing buildings before being required to put up a financial guarantee for the amenities. The developers have also informed staff that they have a contract to purchase a three-acre parcel of property adjacent to Coastal Estates and plan to request the property's annexation along with an amendment of the Coastal Estates PD. Mayor Lawson expressed concern relative to taking action on the present request before the annexation and PD amendment are considered by the Planning Commission and inquired as to the time frame for completion of the amenities center. Mr. McKenzie Jordan, President of Chancel Builders, responded that the amenities center is to be ready for occupancy no later than August. Jordan introduced Mr. Al Shuman, the developer, who concurred that August is the opening date for the amenities center. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion to approve the request to permit up to 10 student housing buildings in the Coastal Estates PD upon the condition that all amenities shall receive a certificate of occupancy or a cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit covering the amenities' total cost shall be submitted to the Planning Department before permits will be issued for any additional student housing buildings. Mayor Lawson asked if the developer would return to the original plan if the Planning Commission denied the requests. Jordan responded in the

affirmative and noted that the original plan could still be built and that the only change would be that the permit for the 11th building could not be pulled until the amenity center is put in place. Blain-Olds then seconded the motion. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Graham reported on the project to upgrade and add lights on the Highway 501/701 overpass bridge and bridge approaches, a project that the City has worked on for some time. The project has been estimated at \$55,000 for removal of existing lights, provision of conduit for new lights, and the purchase of new light poles and fixtures. Graham reported that, following recent negotiations, Santee Cooper has agreed to utilize underground wiring conversion funds for this project at no cost to the City. Graham recommended that Council approve utilization of underground wiring conversion funds for this project and authorize staff to move forward. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the City Administrator's recommendation as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- Graham displayed a US flag that was flown over the skies of Iraq during Operation New Dawn and presented to the City by Sgt. Quentin Dewitt. A letter of appreciation has been sent to Sgt. Dewitt.
- At its last meeting, Council discussed recognition of Kenneth Earl ("Junior") Hemingway, Jr., as MVP of the 2012 Sugar Bowl. There was no dissent to Graham's suggestion that a resolution be prepared for consideration at the next Council meeting and arrangements made to present it to Hemingway at a future Council meeting.
- The South Atlantic Division of the American Cancer Society has requested a special events permit for its 2012 Relay for Life event scheduled from 7:00 pm on April 27 to 7:00 am on April 28 at Riverfront Park. Setup for the event will begin at noon on April 27 and cleanup should be finished by 9:00 am on April 28. Approximately 350 participants are expected with about 25-35 tents. Graham recommended approval of the special event permit with the cost of City support services to be absorbed by the City's operating funds. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the special events permit for the 2012 American Cancer Society Relay for Life as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Koon

- commented on the removal of the overhead wiring at the rear door to City Hall and congratulated all those who were involved with this underground wiring conversion project.
- reported favorable comments and expressed support for year-round Christmas lights in the trees on 3rd Avenue.

Timbes

- asked Baker to elaborate on a news report of a Conway Fire Department hero. Baker reported on the rescue of a child in a recent early morning house fire on Altman Circle.
- suggested that information on the bluebird project be provided along the Bluebird Trail and that plaques or some other means be used to recognize citizen projects on behalf of the City.

Anderson reported on meeting the "Tuskegee Airman" in Conway and he and Blain-Olds discussed Anthony Hemingway, the director of the *Red Tails* movie, and Mr. Hemingway's ties

to the community. Anderson commented that information of this nature would be an asset on the City's website.

Goldfinch asked that the acoustics in Council chambers be addressed and that consideration be given to some type of voting equipment for Council members.

Mayor Lawson asked that additional lighting in Council chambers be addressed.

Blain-Olds

- reported positive feedback on the proposed use of security cameras in the park and proposed that the City look into using cameras at several major intersections in the City to photograph and ticket drivers who run red lights. Mayor Lawson suggested this may be a good Budget Retreat topic.
- asked that consideration be given to reducing the speed limit on Boundary Street. Mayor Lawson asked staff to look into this issue.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Vicky Lefler, City Clerk