

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
CONWAY CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY – JANUARY 9, 2012 – 5:00 p.m.**

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

**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:** Family members and friends of Mayor Lawson, Council Members Anderson and White and Council Member-Elect Blain-Olds, and others

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

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Lawson recognized Rev. Charles Pee of Friendship Baptist Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE:** Oaths of Office were administered to the Mayor and Council Members re-elected/elected in the November 2011 election. See attachments.

**A. Mayor Alys C. Lawson.** Municipal Court Judge Andy Hendrick administered the Oath of Office. Mr. Ed Lawson held the Bible during his wife's ceremony.

**B. Council Member Thomas J. "Tom" Anderson II.** Municipal Court Judge Andy Hendrick administered the Oath of Office. Mr. Anderson's wife, April, and children, Caroline and Thomas J., held the Bible during the ceremony.

**C. Council Member Larry White.** Municipal Court Judge Andy Hendrick administered the Oath of Office. Mr. White's daughter, Larita White, and beloved friend, Leola Gore, accompanied by Mr. White's granddaughter, Janya Jackson, held the Bible during the ceremony.

**D. Council Member Barbara Blain-Olds.** Municipal Court Judge Andy Hendrick administered the Oath of Office. Mr. Jesse Olds held the Bible during his wife's ceremony.

The meeting briefly recessed for a reception in honor of Mayor Lawson and Council Members Anderson, Blain-Olds and White. The meeting reconvened at approximately 5:30 pm.

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

## CONSENT AGENDA:

**A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2012-01-09 (A) Accepting the petition of Cynthia and Mark Rogers to annex approximately 0.40 acres of property located at 8 Clemson Road (TMS 151-19-02-042) and zone the property Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation**

**B. City Council minutes – December 12, 2011**

**Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM FOR 2012:** It was noted that, historically, Council has adhered to a rotation policy to fill this office. In accordance with the list of previous Mayors Pro Tem and this rotation policy, Council Member White would be next in line for this office.

**Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to elect White as Mayor Pro Tem for 2012. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Mayor Lawson expressed appreciation to Anderson for serving as Mayor Pro Tem during 2011.

**PUBLIC INPUT: Mr. Steven Finch,** principal of Conway High School, addressed Council seeking support of “Everything Conway Night” at BB&T Coastal Field. The event, scheduled for April 7, 2012, is a fundraiser for Conway High School and consists of a double-header highlighting the Conway High School Alumni baseball game at noon and the Pelicans’ opening weekend game at 7:05 pm. Information on support packages for the event, including the pricing options and amenities, was shared. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to purchase an “Everything Conway Night” Gold Package at a cost of \$480 and distribute the 40 field box tickets that are included in the package among City employees. **Discussion:** White inquired as to the method of ticket distribution. Mayor Lawson suggested that Council consider the motion on support for the program at this time and, if approved, determine the details on ticket distribution later. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Mr. Finch’s request to use the City’s logo on promotional materials for this event was granted by Mayor Lawson.

There was no further public input.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

**A. Recognition of Wall Engineering, LLC, as a River Friendly Business.** Tim Kirby, Chairman of the Water Quality and Drainage Commission, presented a certificate and decal to Ms. Amber Wall, representing Wall Engineering, LLC, in recognition of this business’s recent designation as a “River Friendly Business.” On behalf of Council, Mayor Lawson extended congratulations on this achievement.

**B. Special event request: Dr. Martin Luther King March and Rally.** Concerned Citizens Operation Reach Out has requested a special event permit for this event which is scheduled for January 16, 2012, beginning at 10:30 am at the Horry County Courthouse. The march will begin at the Courthouse and will end around noon at Mason Temple Church on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Approximately 100 people are expected to participate in the event. No street closures were requested. Staff recommended approval of the request with the cost of any City services provided to be absorbed through the City’s operating budget. **Motion:**

Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve the special event application for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March and Rally as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- C. **Employee Longevity Awards** were presented to Anthony Campagna, Vehicle Maintenance; Roger Kimball, Public Works Department (Solid Waste); and Jonathan Deal, Fire Department (5 years). The presentation was made by Council Member Timbes and the City Administrator.

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

- A. **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.** This property is contiguous to the City limits. The property has a house on it and 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 Low Density Residential. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA 2012-01-23 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. **Ordinance #ZA 2012-01-23 (B) Accepting the petition of Susan Leva to annex approximately .20 acres of property located at 632 Lesia Lane (TMS 150-17-02-015) and to zone the property Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation.** This property is contiguous to the City limits. The property has a mobile home on it and 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 Medium Density Residential. Leinwand noted that, if annexed, the structure on the property would become a legal nonconforming use. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to table first reading of Ordinance #ZA 2012-01-23 (A). **Discussion:** In response to a question from Blain-Olds, Leinwand advised that, in his opinion, if the property is annexed, the mobile home could not be replaced if destroyed or damaged greater than 50% of its value but it could be repaired or replaced if the damage was less than 50% of its value. Leinwand noted that most homes on this street are double-wide mobile homes but homes on the surrounding streets are mostly single family detached dwellings. Timbes asked if any of other properties with double-wide mobile homes on this street are within the City. Leinwand responded that this was the first of such parcels on that street for which an annexation request had been received; however, the Mayor noted that other parcels were annexed nearby with mobiles and Leinwand noted that there was a recent annexation on Sellers Road which included a mobile home park. Mayor Lawson also noted the concern that failure to annex would never facilitate any movement toward conformity and would continue to create doughnut holes that may never get annexed. Graham stated that, staff could research the issue in more depth; however, in regard to nonconformity, he believed the mobile home could be replaced if the property was not vacant more than 180 days and that a legal opinion would probably need to be obtained. He also asked Council to consider the need for consistency in requiring annexation of properties when they become contiguous to the City limits as a condition to receive City services. Anderson informed Council that his concerns were safety-related and pertained to the timely provision of emergency services to this

property due to its location. Mayor Lawson called for a vote on the motion to table by a show of hands. **Vote:** Anderson, Goldfinch and Timbes voted in the affirmative; Mayor Lawson, White, Blain-Olds, and Koon voted in the negative. The motion failed. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of ZA #2012-01-23 (B). **Vote:** Mayor Lawson, White, Blain-Olds, and Koon voted in the affirmative; Anderson, Goldfinch and Timbes voted in the negative. Motion carried.

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

- A. Judicial video network system for municipal court bond hearings.** Discussions have been ongoing with the Horry County Sheriff's Department/Detention Center and City Court officials regarding installation of a Judicial Video Network System (JVN) for the purpose of setting bonds remotely via a secure video link between the detention center and City Court. The JVN is a more efficient, cost-effective and secure method to set bonds and take guilty pleas versus the current practice of physically transporting prisoners from the detention center to the City Court. Staff estimated that the system will pay for itself within the current FY budget cycle. In order to implement the video network system, Horry County has specified the use of CISCO® equipment to meet the specific requirements of the South Carolina Supreme Court and to ensure future modifications and upgrades to the County network do not jeopardize the integrity of the system. The cost of the CISCO® JVN equipment is \$8,313.84 and the cost of supporting software connections is approximately \$2,500. Total cost is \$10,813.84. As this is a non-budget expense, staff proposed to fund this project from the Police Department's surplus personnel budget (due to military activations and existing vacancies). Staff recommended that Council approve the purchase of the Judicial Video Network equipment and authorize the City Administrator, City Judge and Police Chief to execute the JVN Memorandum of Understanding with Horry County. **Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve staff's recommendation concerning the Judicial Video Network System as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Gun buy back program.** Gosnell informed Council that, in early November 2011, Councilman White made an inquiry through Mayor Lawson to the City Administrator, regarding the Conway Police Department conducting a Gun Buy Back Program. As a result, a meeting was scheduled and those in attendance included Horry County Sheriff Phillip Thompson, representatives from the Solicitors Office, the City Administrator, Council Member White and Mayor Lawson. Discussions focused on how to organize, fund, and initiate a joint Gun Buy Back Program. It was agreed that the program would be beneficial and it would be most likely attract guns from both within the City and the surrounding areas. Accordingly, a program sponsored by both the City and the Horry County Police Department would be appropriate. Additionally, community buy-in and participation would be desirable and make the program more productive and to assist with that, the idea of soliciting contributions from individuals and businesses was identified as a worthwhile means of support for the program. Following this initial meeting, Horry County Police Chief Johnny Morgan has agreed to partner in this joint effort and will contribute up to \$5,000 to support the Buy Back Program. Staff recommended that Council approve up to \$5,000 to match the County's contribution and allow staff to work with the Horry County Police and Sheriff's Departments to develop the details for promotion and implementation of the Gun Buy Back Program. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Koon, to approve staff's recommendation as presented. **Discussion:** In response to an inquiry from Blain-Olds, Graham advised that he will work with Gosnell to identify funding sources in the budget to

implement the program. Gosnell informed Council that guns purchased in the Buy Back Program would be destroyed and that implementation of the program would take approximately two to three months. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**C. New security camera system for Conway Police Department.** The security camera system currently in operation at the Police Department is antiquated, does not record, and replacement parts are no longer available to support preventative maintenance and repairs. Due to the safety concerns that this situation presents with a 24/7 operation, a new security system and recording platform is needed. The proposed system includes a 16 channel DVR, seven interior and four exterior infrared cameras and a 42" monitor. The system will have the capability to be remotely monitored and to expand without replacement of the head end equipment. Bids were solicited and opened on December 13, 2011. Five bids were received; Horry Telephone Cooperative submitted the low bid of \$7,545.85. Council received a copy of the bid tabulation sheet for its review. Staff recommended that Council accept the low bid with funding for the security system to be paid from the Police Department's Federal Drug Seizure and Forfeiture Account. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Koon, to accept the low bid of \$7,545.86 for the new security camera system for the Police Department which was submitted by Horry Telephone Cooperative. **Vote:** Anderson abstained; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried. See attachment.

**D. Riverwalk and Riverfront Park/Marina surveillance camera system.** Horry County is applying for a SC Department of Public Safety Grant on behalf of the City to fund a surveillance camera system for the Riverwalk and Riverfront Park/Marina. The total cost of the entire project is estimated at \$173,000. In the event the total grant request is not funded, the project can be broken into three phases of work. Should phasing the project become necessary, Gosnell asked Council to consider giving priority to Phase I. The three proposed phases (if necessary) are:

Phase I - Covers the Marina Store/parking lot, Riverfront Park entrance/boat slips, and the park's interior where the walkway splits. Ten pan, tilt, zoom (PTZ) cameras are planned for this section at an estimated cost of \$64,000.

Phase II - Begins at the Main Street Bridge entrance to the Kingston Point Condominiums. Eight PTZ cameras are planned for this section at an estimated cost of \$49,000.

Phase III - Kingston entrance to the Riverwalk to the lower river warehouse under the Main Street Bridge. Six PTZ cameras are planned for this section at an estimated cost of \$37,000.

Start up expenses include recording and management servers for the Police Department, software/camera licenses, monitor and other incidentals and are estimated to cost approximately \$23,000.

There is no cash match for the grant on the part of the City; however, the City will provide conduit to encase the camera/power connections and labor to install the conduit under the Riverwalk and/or trench the conduit where applicable for the power/camera connections and wireless link to the County. The system would be hard wired with a wireless connection to the County' E911 Center which will provide connectivity to the Conway Law Enforcement Center. The system will be monitored by Conway Police personnel at the Conway Law Enforcement Center. The estimated cost of the conduit, less labor for the entire project, is \$1,654. The cost for Phase I is approximately \$513; Phase II is approximately \$741 and Phase III is approximately \$400. In addition, under the provisions of the grant and at the

request of the County, the City would be required to maintain the system after the warranty period ends. The proposed system's Panasonic PTZ cameras have a 3-year warranty. A maintenance contract is available for \$190 per month for Riverfront Park/Marina (Phase I) and \$290 per month for the Riverwalk (Phases II & III). The combined monthly cost of all three Phases would be \$480 per month. The maintenance contract would begin when the warranty period has expired. Staff recommended that Council authorize the County to apply for funding for the surveillance camera system on behalf of the City and approve implementation of any funds received as presented. **Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

- Reminded Council of the Horry County League of Cities meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, at the Conway Recreation Center.
- Asked Council to consider the dates of March 1-3 for the Annual Budget Retreat and advise of any conflicts.

#### **COUNCIL INPUT:**

Mayor Lawson and all Council members welcomed Blain-Olds as the newest member of City Council.

#### **White**

- expressed appreciation for his election as Mayor Pro Tem.
- asked Council to consider recognition of Kenneth Hemingway, Jr. ("Junior") for his selection as Most Valuable Player in the 2012 Sugar Bowl.

**Koon** expressed appreciation for support received during his recuperation.

**Timbes** welcomed everyone back for the New Year.

#### **Anderson**

- also asked for public recognition of Junior Hemingway.
- thanked staff for the beautiful Christmas lights.

#### **Goldfinch**

- complimented Gosnell and the Police Department for their professional assistance with the political entourage in Conway on January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- commented on the advantages and cost savings benefits of the judicial video network system for the City.
- asked that the clear Christmas lights on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue be left turned on year round.

#### **Mayor Lawson**

- welcomed Mrs. Calhoun's class to this meeting.
- commented on the judicial video network system and asked staff and Council members to look at what other cities are doing that is innovative, saves money, and utilizes new technology and other ideas that might be used to help make Conway more progressive.
- thanked staff for assistance at Christmas holiday events and special functions.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds to enter into executive session to consider appointments to boards, commissions and committees. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by White, to come out of executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees. Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to make the appointments as listed below. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Lakeside Cemetery Committee: Reappoint John Dennis, Jr., Miriam Little, Deborah Vrooman, and Ben Burroughs for three-year terms to expire December 31, 2014.

Planning Commission: Reappoint Gerald Wallace and Henry Grabarz for three-year terms to expire December 31, 2014.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Reappoint Georgia Johnson and Alex Hyman for three-year terms to expire December 31, 2014.

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

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Vicky Lefler, City Clerk