

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CONWAY CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY – MARCH 12, 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, Irby L. Koon, William M. Goldfinch IV, and Jean M. Timbes.

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp, Steve Jones, Rev. Eddie Hill, Luke Anderson, Rein Mungo, Eddie Paul, and others

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Lawson recognized Rev. Eddie Hill, Chaplain at the J. Reuben Long Detention Center, who gave the invocation. Rev. Hill expressed appreciation to Council for its help in initiating assistance programs for inmates at the detention center. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: City Council minutes – February 27, 2012. Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: Luke Anderson appeared before Council to ask for the City’s support for “Terror under the Bridge,” an annual Halloween event that shares a portion of its proceeds with children’s charities. Mayor Lawson asked Mr. Anderson to work with the City Administrator who will report back to Council on this issue.

Eddie Paul of Conway Journal/Rivertown Radio reported that Rivertown Radio now averages over 350 listeners of City Council meetings.

There was no further public input.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Requests for special events

1. **Stories in Stone at Lakeside Cemetery and the Bryan House, March 31, 2012, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.** The Horry County Historical Society has requested a special event permit for this event. Approximately 144 people are expected at the cemetery and 200 people are expected at the Bryan House throughout the day. Staff recommended approval of the special event with the cost of any City support services provided to be absorbed by the City's operating funds. Mrs. Shirley Long Johnson spoke in support of the request and reviewed plans and media coverage for the event. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the special event application for Stories in Stone as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
 2. **Magrath Wedding Reception, June 9, 2012, 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm.** George N. Magrath, Jr., has requested a special event permit for this reception which will take place at 626 Lakeside Drive. Approximately 200-240 attendees are expected. The applicant would like an outdoor band to play until 11:00 pm; therefore, a request to waive the City's noise ordinance is being made. Staff recommended approval of the special event with the following conditions: waive noise ordinance until 11:00 pm, cars are to park along only one side of the street and cars shall not park over sidewalks. **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Koon, to approve the special event application for the Magrath wedding reception with the conditions as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Employee Longevity Awards** were presented to Willie Woodbury, Public Utilities, 5 years; and Tim Chapman, Police Department, 20 years. The presentation was made by Council Member Timbes and the City Administrator.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

- A. **Ordinance #ZA2012-03-26 (A) Accepting the petition of Paul and Wendy Harmer to annex approximately 0.91 acre of property located on Long Avenue Extension (TMS 111-00-01-052) and to rezone the property R-1 (Low Density Residential) upon annexation.** The property owners plan to soon build a single family house on the property, and because the property is contiguous to the City limits, annexation will be required before City utility services can be provided. The property owners have requested that the property be zoned Low Density Residential (R-1). Even though the Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Rural Residential, Leinwand advised Council that R-1 zoning would also be appropriate because of its intent and because surrounding parcels are zoned R-1. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Koon, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2012-03-26 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. **Ordinance #ZA2012-03-26 (B) Accepting the petition of Thomas and Susan Mungo to annex approximately 0.36 acre of a portion of property located at 2412 St. Andrews Lane (TMS 123-00-02-076) and to rezone the property to R-1 (Low Density Residential) upon annexation.** The applicants recently purchased this property from Conway Golf Club, Inc., and have combined it with their property into one parcel. The plat of the combined parcels has been recorded at the Horry County Register of Deeds Office. The purchased property is currently located in Horry County and the applicants are requesting that it be annexed into the City and rezoned R-1. The Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Existing Residential. Staff recommended approving first reading. **Motion:** Goldfinch made

a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2012-03-26 (B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- C. Ordinance #2012-03-26 (C) Granting unto the Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., a Body Corporate and Politic, a Franchise to Own, Operate and to Maintain within the Corporate Limits of the City of Conway, an Electric Utility Light and Power Plant, Transmission and Distribution System.** Graham advised Council that the City and Horry Electric have agreed to update and renew Horry Electric's franchise agreement and that the proposed franchise agreement was developed by staffs of both organizations. If approved, the new agreement will replace the franchise agreement dated July 27, 1981, and is for a term of five years. Graham noted that the approval of this franchise agreement would not take away any territory serviced by Santee Cooper. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2012-03-26 (C). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Acceptance of bid for catch basins for Sugar Hill Area sidewalk and drainage projects, HUD Year 3.** After advertising for bids, a bid opening was held on March 6, 2012, for catch basins that will be used during the construction of the various HUD Year 3 sidewalk and drainage projects in the Sugar Hill Area. A map showing the project area was reviewed. Two bids were received: Mid-Atlantic Drainage, Inc., \$26,212.68, and Hanson Pipe and Precast, \$27,870.56. Staff recommended that Council accept the lowest and most qualified bid which was submitted by Mid-Atlantic Drainage. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to accept the low bid as recommended by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Improvement Grant application.** The recommended project for this grant application is to beautify the medians along US Highway 501 from University Boulevard to Singleton Ridge Road (from near Lowe's Home Improvement Center to the colleges). The project design includes the removal of all the Bradford pear trees and the planting of four primary species including Sabal Palmettos, Crepe Myrtles, Indian Hawthorns, and Muhley Grass. The City and County would work jointly to process the application; Horry County would apply for the grant as it is the Keep America Beautiful affiliate. The \$20,000 grant requires no match; however, the City would provide labor for the installation of landscaping improvements. Staff recommended that Council approve the partnership with Horry County on this grant including the proposed project and the provision of labor for the landscaping improvements. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve staff's recommendation as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Law Enforcement Memorandums of Understanding with the Cities of Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach.** Gosnell presented copies of these proposed agreements and advised Council that these cities reciprocate by providing assistance during Conway's "Round the Fourth" festival. Staff recommended that Council approve the MOU's and authorize the City Administrator and Chief of Police to execute the agreements. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve staff's recommendation as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- D. Partnership Agreement with Shoreline Behavioral Health Services for participation in Community Action for a Safer Tomorrow program.** Gosnell reported that the intent of this program is to address underage drinking and DUI-related vehicle crashes. Partnering law enforcement agencies providing off-duty officers to participate in alcohol-related enforcement activities will be reimbursed for the officer's overtime at the rate of \$25/hour. The partnership agreement will expire on June 30, 2012, or when funding is depleted, whichever comes first. Staff recommended that Council approve the partnership agreement and authorize the Police Chief to execute the agreement with Shoreline Behavioral Health Services. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve staff's recommendation as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Graham announced that the Conway Recreation Center has won the 2012 MASC Achievement Award for the 10,001-20,000 population category. The award will be presented at the MASC Annual Meeting at Hilton Head Island on June 30th.
- The Conway Recreation Center has been voted Horry County's Best Health/Fitness Center by readers of *The Horry Independent*.
- The City has been awarded a 2012 Historic Preservation Service Award by the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation for its Historic Design Review District Community Appearance Guidelines. City Council was invited to attend the awards ceremony on March 30, 3:00 pm, outside the Governor's Office in the State House in Columbia.
- Graham reminded Council of the Gun Buy Back initiative scheduled for March 24, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the National Guard Armory and A Father's Place.
- Graham reported that the Public Works Department's 1995 John Deere bulldozer is experiencing major mechanical problems that will cost over \$22,000 to repair. The Public Works Director has located two bulldozers, one in Jacksonville, Florida, and one in Valdosta, Georgia, with less than 2000 hours. This is less than half the 4,100 hours on the City's existing dozer. The Public Works Director is planning a trip on March 20th to look at these two dozers which are equal to the City's dozer in horsepower and size. The dozer in Georgia is a 2006 John Deere 650JLGP with 2000 hours, asking price \$59,100. The dozer in Florida is a 2005 John Deere 650JLGP with only 1100 hours, asking price \$54,900. Graham advised Council that there is sufficient revenue, over expected expenditures, available within FY 2012-13 to cover the cost to purchase either of these two bulldozers. He recommended that Council authorize the Public Works Director and the Superintendent of Fleet Maintenance to inspect the two dozers and to purchase, depending on availability, the dozer that best meets the City's needs at a purchase price not to exceed \$59,100. In response to a question from Blain-Olds, Barnhill advised that the cost to transport the dozer would be approximately \$1,300 and recommended the hiring of a transporter. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Koon, to move forward with the purchase of the used bulldozer for the Public Works Department as presented by the City Administrator. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- Graham presented a special event request from Jason Collins of the Conway Ministers Association for "Stations of the Cross" to take place on Friday, April 6, 2012, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at Riverfront Park. Approximately 125 participants are expected and appropriate insurance has been obtained for the event by the applicant. Exclusive use of the park is not requested. No City support services are requested. Staff recommended that Council approve the request. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the

special event request for “Stations of the Cross” as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Mayor Lawson recognized and welcomed Susan Chapman from Senator Lindsey Graham’s Office.

Timbes noted the flowering of shrubs and trees, which marked the beginning of the beautiful spring season in Conway.

Anderson congratulated the Chapmans on their wedding anniversary. He also commented on the productive Budget Retreat and the new Georgetown promotional effort.

Goldfinch complimented Katie Ognibene, Aquatics Coordinator, on her efforts to raise awareness of swimming as a sport. He also reported, for those who have interest in hunting and recreational use of firearms, that Horry County is proposing restrictions on the use of weapons in unincorporated areas. Mayor Lawson asked staff to provide Council with a copy of the proposed regulations.

Mayor Lawson thanked staff for their work to prepare materials for the Budget Retreat.

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

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

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

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee: Reappointed George Bullock for a three-year term.

Bike, Hike and Paddle Committee: Reappointed Joe Burch, Avery Jones and Dr. Thomas Badgett for three-year terms.

Community Appearance Board: Appointed Amber Wall for a four-year term and Jason Pippin to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2014.

Construction Board of Appeals: Reappointed Joe Pike for a three-year term.

Employee Grievance Committee: Reappointed Pat Livingston and Barbara Tessier for three-year terms.

Housing Authority Board of Commissioners: Appointed Clayton Mauldin to an unexpired term ending April 24, 2015.

Recreation Advisory Commission: Reappointed Tom Fox and Hillary Howard for three-year terms.

Water Quality and Drainage Commission: Reappointed Buddy Freeman for a three-year term.

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