

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY – NOVEMBER 4, 2013 – 5:30 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Alys C. Lawson, Mayor Pro Tem Irby L. Koon, and 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, Billy Joe Sawyer, Building Official; Foster Hughes, Park, Recreation and Tourism Director; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Freddie DuBose, Public Utilities Director; Rick Baker, Fire Chief; Michael Leinwand, Planning Director; Cindi Howard, Human Resources Director; Jerry Barnhill, Public Works Director; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director-Elect; and Linda Vereen, Interim City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kathy Ropp, Blake Lanford, Joe Ann McKnight, Queen E. Rodgers, Diane and Michael Merole, Joseph Smalls, Dave Rudnicki, Amanda Roof, Spivey and Ashley Hood and others

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Lawson recognized Reverend Mark Burlinson of Christ Community Church 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 Anderson, to approve the agenda contents. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Koon, to consider final reading of the flood damage prevention ordinance later in the meeting and approve only the minutes of the October 21, 2013, Council meeting under the consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Presentation of 2012 Quattlebaum Award winners. Congratulations and commendations were extended by Council to recipients of the awards for 2012 as listed below. Winners were introduced by Leinwand and awards were presented by Mayor Lawson on behalf of Council.

New Construction of a Home: Home of Michael Merola, Jr. at 1644 Wood Stork Drive
Restoration of a Home: Home of Curtis and Jennifer Elliott at 609 Laurel Street (not present)

Outstanding Restoration of Non-Residential Building: Amanda's Collection, Justin and Amanda Roof, 328 Main Street

Outstanding Sign Project: Edward Jones Investments, 702B Main Street, by Jimm Thompkins (not present)

Interior Design Effort: SoHo University, 1300 Highway 544, by Daniel Lauren (not present)

Landscape Project: CCU Open Space Project, corner of Highway 501 and University Drive and the Home of Spivey Hood, 303 Lakeland Drive

Contribution to Quality Development, Restoration, Landscape or Design by an Organization or Individual: Salvation Army Family Store, 1029 3rd Avenue and Salvation Army Center for Worship and Service, 1413 2nd Avenue

There was no nomination in the category of New Construction of Non-Residential Building.

B. Request for financial support for a Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program in Horry County. Blake Lanford, Regional Lead Agent, Clemson Cooperative Extension Agency presented the proposal for a Junior Master Gardener Program to be located at Collins Park. A part-time 4H Youth Development position will be required to coordinate this effort. Mr. Lanford requested matching funds from the City in the amount of \$4,250.00 to help support the program. Other matching funds for this position include: Horry County, \$6,250 (25%); Eat Smart Move More, \$2,000 (8%); and Clemson Extension Agency, \$12,500 (50%). Staff advised that funds are available in the current budget to approve the request for \$4,250 to match funding of the other entities as outlined in Mr. Lanford's request. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve City funding in the amount of \$4,250 to support the Junior Master Gardener Program. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. St. Nicholas BBQFest. John Wilkins, Co-chairman of the St. Nicholas BBQFest, presented information on plans to film a pilot for a new BBQ series called "Holy Smokers" for the "Destination America" television program. St. Nicholas BBQFest (formerly known as Winterfest) has been chosen for inclusion in the program. The filming will be done in Conway during the St. Nicholas BBQFest which will be held November 14-16. This item was presented as information only.

D. Employee Longevity Awards were presented to Kendal Dixon for five years of service with the Police Department and to Jimmy Hammond for 25 years of full-time service with the Fire Department. The presentations were made by Council Member White and the City Administrator.

RESOLUTION: Proclaiming November 16-24, 2013, as National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. In addition to adoption of the resolution proclaiming November 16-24 as National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, staff asked Council to consider making financial donations to Churches Assisting People and the Shepherd's Table to help support services being provided by these organizations. Additionally, the Shepherd's Table has availability for at least five volunteers to serve on Monday, November 18, 2013, at 4:15 p.m. City staff, including the Mayor and Council, was invited to participate. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve donations by the City in the amount of \$300 each to Churches Assisting People, The Shepherd's Table and The Samaritan House, an outreach program of Cherry Hill Missionary Baptist Church which also provides services to the homeless.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FINAL READING: Public hearing and final reading of Ordinance #2013-10-21 (C), establishing a Baby Memorial Garden Section in Rose Hill Cemetery, establishing the fees for the Baby Memorial Garden Section, and amending the fee for a Certificate of Interment in the remainder of the cemetery excluding the Pauper Section by amending Title 3, Chapter 3, Article B, Section 3-3-13 to add Subsection (i) defining Baby Memorial Garden Section; by adding Subsection (f) to Section 3-3-14 Ownership; and amending Section 3-3-21 (a) and (c) of the Rose Hill Memorial Gardens Regulations in the Code of Ordinances. Hughes reviewed the recommendations being made by the Rose Hill Memorial Gardens Committee. He also informed Council that three members of the Rose Hill Memorial Committee were in attendance at this meeting and that the committee is in agreement with a change in name from “Baby Memorial Garden” to “Infant Memorial Garden.” Appropriate changes to reflect same will be made in the proposed ordinance. Hughes reviewed with Council that the ordinance will set the fee for a certificate of interment in the Infant Memorial Garden at \$225 with \$25 of the fee being deposited into the City’s restricted fund for Rose Hill Memorial Gardens. In addition, the fee for a certificate of interment in all other sections of the cemetery except the Infant Memorial Garden and the Pauper’s Section will increase, in two increments, from \$225 to \$500. The first increase to \$375 will go into effect on January 1, 2014, and at that time, the portion of the certificate of interment fee that is deposited in the restricted Rose Hill Cemetery fund will increase from \$25 to \$50. On January 1, 2015, the second increase will go into effect and the certificate of interment fee will increase to \$500 with the portion of the fee that is deposited into the restricted Rose Hill Cemetery fund increasing from \$50 to \$100. The fee increases will not affect the Infant Memorial Garden. **Public Hearing:** There were no comments from the public. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds to approve final reading of Ordinance #2013-10-21 (A) as presented. **Discussion:** White conveyed concerns of local funeral home owners/directors who have expressed concerns about the rapid fee increase for interment certificates and asked about the possibility of a higher fee for non-residents. Hughes agreed that the committee could discuss the issue of a higher fee for non-residents at its next meeting. He also reported that the committee had endorsed the proposed fee increase and that, according to staff surveys, the proposed fees are still lower than other area cemeteries and none of the cemeteries surveyed had a different rate for non-residents. **Vote:** Voting in favor of the motion were Lawson, Koon, Timbes, Anderson, Goldfinch and Blain-Olds. Opposed: White. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE FOR FINAL READING: Ordinance #2013-11-04 (A) – An ordinance to amend Title 5, Planning and Development, Chapter 2 – Flood Damage Prevention and Storm Drainage Standards, Article A, - Flood Damage Prevention, of the City of Conway Code of Ordinances. First reading of this ordinance was approved at the October 7th Council meeting. Minor revisions made in the proposed ordinance since first reading were presented by Sawyer and reviewed as follows: Page 6 to read - (38) *Violation is the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with these regulations;* Page 10 to read ~~(e)~~ (b) Right to Appeal – *Any person aggrieved by the decision of the construction board of appeals or any taxpayer may appeal such decision to the court of common pleas, as provided in [the 1976] South Carolina Code of Laws.* **Motion:** Blain-Olds made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve final reading of Ordinance #2013-11-04 (A) with the revisions as presented. **Vote:**

Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #ZA2013-12-02 (A) accepting the petition of Clarence Smith to annex 0.15 acres of a portion of property that fronts McKinley Way (TMS# 150-00-06-034) and to rezone the property Institutional (IN) upon annexation. This property, which is a 30' easement consisting of .15 acres, provides the required second emergency access for Coastal Club (formerly known as Chanticleer Square). The access will have a permanent gate and will be used only for emergency access and for a water line connection. The Coastal Club property owner has an option to purchase this easement area but, in order to combine it with the Coastal Club property, annexation and rezoning by the City of Conway is required. Staff recommended first reading to approve the request by Clarence Smith to annex 0.15 acres of property that fronts McKinley Way and to rezone the property to Institutional (IN) upon annexation. **Public Hearing:** Dave Rudnicki, 601 Jefferson Way, Conway, spoke in opposition to this parcel being used for emergency access only to Coastal Club property. He indicated that there is already access to the back of the apartments and this additional encroachment would put a burden on his small community which is two streets over and has only one way in and out. He asked Council members to go look at the streets to be accessed before taking final action as these streets cannot easily accommodate fire trucks. There were no further comments from the public. Leinwand informed Council that this access will only be used in case of emergency; the access road will have a gate across it and only the Fire Department, not the Coastal Club property owner, will have the key. **Motion:** Koon made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2013-12-02 (A). **Discussion:** Timbes inquired if the county streets would easily accommodate fire trucks as mentioned during the public hearing. Chief Baker explained the process and requirements for the back-up protection of a secondary access. He also explained that, as the Conway Fire Department controls the gate, he could provide use of that access road for Mr. Rudnicki's neighborhood should it become necessary. Baker was requested look into placing signs with contact information on all emergency access gates controlled by the Conway Fire Department and provide this information along with a list of gate locations to the City Administrator to share with Council. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #ZA2013-12-02 (B) for the extension of a previously adopted moratorium through September 30, 2014, which relates to Sections 9.1.3.B.2, 9.1.3.B.3, and 12.1.2.D of the City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Staff recommended consideration of first reading to approve Ordinance #ZA2013-12-02 (B) for a nine (9) month extension of a previously adopted moratorium, through September 30, 2014, which relates to Section 9.1.3.B.2, 9.1.3.B.3, and 12.1.2.D of the City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The public hearing and consideration of final reading will be held on December 2, 2013. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2013-12-02 (B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. City Council asked the news media to assist in making the general public aware of this opportunity for development as there is no assurance the moratorium will be extended again.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. Planning Department vehicle (replacement) bids. Motion: Anderson made a motion,

seconded by Blain-Olds, to approve the purchase of a 4 x 2 half ton regular cab pick-up truck in the amount of \$20,178 from Conway Ford for the Planning Department. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Public Utilities Department vehicle (replacement) bids. Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the purchase of a Ford Explorer in the amount of \$24,822 from Conway Ford for the Public Utilities Department. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Building Department vehicle bids. Motion: Koon made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the purchase of a Malibu car from Palmetto Chevrolet in the amount of \$19,299 for the Building Department. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

D. Selection of Christmas card contest winner. Hughes reported there were 120 entries in the City's annual Christmas card contest. Staff had been asked to select the top five cards for Council's review. Hughes presented the five cards selected by staff and each Council member was asked to pick the card he/she liked best. The winning contestant will be notified by the City and invited for recognition at the December Council meeting.

ITEM FOR INFORMATION: Routine flushing of fire hydrants from 1st Avenue to 16th Avenue and from Temple Street to Lakeland Drive. DuBose informed Council that the Public Utilities Department plans to conduct a routine flushing of the fire hydrants from 1st Avenue to 16th Avenue and from Temple Street to Lakeland Drive. Work will be done from November 10th through November 12th. This flushing is in accordance with South Carolina DHEC requirements that flushing be completed at least once every three years. Notice to the public will be by newspaper, as well as the City's access channel and website.

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 _____, 2013.

Vicky Lefler, City Clerk