

March 21, 2022

CITY OF CONWAY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONWAY CITY HALL
229 MAIN STREET, CONWAY
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022 - 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Alex Hyman, Mayor Pro Tem
Council Members: Amanda Butler, William Goldfinch, Beth Helms, Justin Jordan, Larry White

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; John Rogers, Deputy Administrator; Mary Catherine Hyman, Deputy Administrator; Jeff Leveille, Technology Services Director; June Wood, Public Information Officer; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Allison Hardin, Planning & Development Director; Dale Long, Police Chief ; Wayne Calhoun, Police; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Timmy Williams, Grounds & Maintenance; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Kayla Fleming, Associate Judge; Kent Bitting, Public Utilities Superintendent; Ashley Smith, Recreation Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Captain Antwan Nesmith, Fire Department; Sergeant Anthony Kroneker, Fire Department; Sergeant Phillip Moore, Fire Department; Lt. Timothy Chapman, Police; Willie Woodbury, Public Utilities; and Alicia Shelley, City Clerk

OTHERS: Hillary Howard, Bill Cooper, McNew's and approximately 8 others regarding the rezoning on McKeithan Street.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order. Josh Tietje of the First United Methodist Church gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The requirements for posting notice of this meeting under South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) were met.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hyman, to approve the March 21, 2022 meeting agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-03-21(A) to annex approximately 0.25 acres of property located at 2637 Oak St (PIN 325-15-04-0122) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential (SF20) to City of Conway Low/Medium Density Residential District (R-1).**
- B. Special Event – Groovin’ on the Green – May 6, 13 and 20, 2022**
- C. Approval of Over-Purchase of Pipe for Public Works**
- D. Acceptance of Bid for Fourth Avenue Underground Electrical Service Conversions, Phase II**
- E. Special Event – Conway Riverfest 2022 – June 25, 2022**

F. Approval of February 21, 2022 City Council Minutes

G. Approval of March 3-5, 2022 Budget Retreat Minutes

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: **Motion:** Hyman made a motion, seconded by White to approve the March 21, 2022 consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried

PUBLIC INPUT:

There was no public input. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to close public input. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- A. Employee of the Month – Public Safety** – Hendrick presented Captain Antwan Nesmith and Sergeant Anthony Kroneker with an award certificate for Employees of the Month for March.
- B. Presentation of Longevity Awards – February 2022 – 30 years: Lt. Timothy Chapman, Police; 15 years: Willie Woodbury, Public Utilities** – Emrick and Jordan presented longevity awards to Lt. Timothy Chapman, Police – 30 years; and Willie Woodbury, Public Utilities – 15 years.
- C. Recognition of Employee for the Graduation from the South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association** – Hendrick recognized Sergeant Phillip Moore for graduating from the South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association Leadership Institute.
- D. Request to annex approximately 35.89 acres of property located on Lite Rd (PIN 324-00-00-0007 & 324-00-00-0006) and request to rezone from Horry County Commercial Forest Agriculture (CFA) to City of Conway Low Density Residential (R-1).** Hardin informed Council that the applicant has petitioned to annex approximately 35.89 acres located between Highway 65 and Highway 813 and to rezone the property to R1. The application contained a typographical area that indicated R3 however the attached email clarifies the error and also staff’s report reflects the intended request of the R1 zoning. City of Conway water access is available and the sewer in this area is provided by Grand Strand Water & Sewer. The properties are in X flood zone. The Comp Plan identifies the property as Rural Residential, which has a typical density of two units per acre. R1 zoning has an average of five units per acre, based on minimum lot size of 7,500 sq. ft. In a one-mile radius of the properties proposed for R1 zoning, the properties in Conway city limits are also predominantly R1. Staff and the Planning Commission recommends approval of annexation and the R1 zoning. The public hearing and first reading will be held at the April 4 City Council meeting.
- E. Request to rezone three (3) parcels (PINs 368-02-02-0031/0032/0033) totaling 0.39 acres located at 813 and 815 Wright Blvd, and between Wright Blvd/Hwy 378 and**

Carpet Alley, from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) and Mixed Use (MU) to Low Density Residential (R-1) in order to construct a garage for the home at 815 Wright Ave. Hardin informed Council that the applicant applied to construct a garage behind her home, which does not have enough space due to size of the lot, size of the house and the required setbacks. She owns the lot her house is located on, the lot beside it and also the lot behind her house. In order to allow the garage on the same parcel as the house, staff has determined that combining the three properties would meet all requirements.

Hardin stated that further review of the project showed the applicant faced more zoning challenges: The house site and vacant frontage site are zoned NC (Neighborhood Commercial) and the proposed garage site is zoned MU (Mixed Use). Simply combining the lots would result in a split-zoned property and run afoul of City of Conway policies that direct staff to avoid split zoning. Staff determined that the easiest solution was to rezone the proposed garage property to match the house site and vacant frontage, which was zoned NC. In researching the potential issues of combining the lots under NC, staff found yet another challenge: Single family residential homes are not allowed in the NC zone. Ms. Tenny's home was therefore a non-conforming use, and non-conforming uses are not allowed to expand. Building a garage as an accessory structure to a residence would be expansion of a non-conforming use and is not allowed by code.

Hardin said that with this revelation, staff began looking at the rest of the area and determined that many houses were zoned NC in the neighborhood, and started to look for a solution that would handle other similar issues. Staff evaluated allowing single family residential uses in the NC zone, and determined that would unnecessarily open up large tracts of land to residential development where commercial development was called for. Staff also evaluated overlay zones, but overlay zones are not intended to amend the list of uses in a zone – they're intended for more strict regulations or to recognize regional importance under unified design standards.

Hardin then said at this point, staff had to concede that the issue was one without a good answer, and reverted to looking for solutions to allow Ms. Tenny to construct her garage. The closest and easiest answer was to have Ms. Tenny request to extend the R-1 zoning adjacent to the proposed garage site over all involved sites. The Planning Department advised Ms. Tenny of this and received an application for this solution.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING

- A. Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-04-04(A) to rezone approximately 0.47 acres of property located at 1705 McKeithan St (PIN 338-06-03-0071) from City of Conway Low Density Residential (R1) to City of Conway Neighborhood Commercial (NC).** Hardin informed Council that this property is bound on two sides by properties that are zoned R1, and on the other two sides by properties zoned NC. The property has been utilized in the past as a daycare and a residence. The owner is interested in opening a funeral home. The UDO classifies funeral homes as a civic/institutional service and where funeral homes are allowed in Conway, they are a conditional use, subject to the conditions in Section 5.1.12 Funeral Homes and Mortuaries.

Funeral Homes are not permitted in R1. The Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as R1 on the Future Land Use Map. She stated that the setbacks for this application would be 30 ft. from the front and the side abutting R1, and 15 ft. for the rear abutting NC and the side street of 18th Avenue. Planning Commission recommended approval, albeit not unanimously, with parking concerns and impacts to the area being discussed. Staff looked at parking off site and determined that there are no parcels available within 200' that meet the requirements.

Bill Cooper, property owner, spoke in favor of the request and asked Council to explain what businesses are allowed in the NC zone, particularly bar and grills. Blain-Bellamy said that bar and grills are allowed in the NC zone.

Mr. McNew spoke in opposition to this request, along with approximately 8 others in attendance.

Blain-Bellamy told McNew that they did receive his letter and all the signatures from the community that opposed this rezoning.

There was no further public input. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to close public input. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion: Hyman made a motion, seconded by Jordan to deny this request. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-04-04(B) to annex approximately 18.6 acres of property located at 3525 West Hwy 501 (PIN 326-00-00-0025) and request to rezone from Horry County Commercial Forestry Agriculture (CFA) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC). Hardin informed Council that this request is being made to create commercial uses on the property, which is currently vacant. This property is contiguous to the Conway city limits via frontage on Highway 548. Other properties in this area that are in the city limits are zoned Highway Commercial. The Comprehensive Plan future land use map splits this parcel between Highway Commercial and Low Density Residential. Water services are provided by the City of Conway in this area, and are available to this property via the main line along Highway 501. Planning Commission recommended approval.

There was no public input. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to close public input. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hyman to approve first reading of this request. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

FIRST READING

First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-04-04(C) to annex approximately 6.1 acres of property located at 2827 Long Ave Ext (PIN 324-15-01-0005) and request to rezone from

Horry County Residential (SF40) to City of Conway Low/Medium Density Residential District (R-1). Hardin informed Council that the applicants purchased the property in September 2021, applied for a permit with Horry County and that triggered the annexation requirement. This request will fill a donut hole. This property is contiguous to the Conway city limits, and other properties on the same side of Long Ave Ext have been previously annexed and zoned R1. The R1 zoning district requirements must be met on any future permitting processes.

Motion: Hyman made a motion, seconded by White to approve first reading of this request.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION

A. Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Fee in Lieu of Open Space at White Oak Estates Subdivision – Hardin stated that the applicant is requesting approval of the fee-in-lieu of providing open space for White Oak Estates development, in accordance with the UDO which states that if less than one acre of open space is required for any major subdivision, the developer shall submit a fee in lieu of providing open space. The fee is determined by calculating the fair market value of the unimproved land per acre and multiplying that by the required open space. In this case, Horry County Land Records (website) provides a current market value of \$97,370 for the property, currently totaling 3.59 acres, or approx. \$27,122.56 per acre. The required Open Space for this development is .323 acres (16 lots x 2.53 x 0.008). Therefore, the open space fee is calculated as .323 acres x \$27,122.56 = \$8,760.59. Planning Commission recommended that City Council consider the fee-in-lieu of open space request, for \$8,760.59, so that the City may acquire or improve recreational park and open space area to serve the development through other offsite means.

Hyman stated that DOT will soon be widening Cultra Road.

White asked if the open space could be placed somewhere else. Hardin said that there is not enough room to even consider the open space.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain Bellamy to accept the fee in lieu of open space for White Oak Estates.

Goldfinch stated that since the homes will be built facing Cultra Road and at some point, it will be widened, is there anything that the City has in place to require that they be built off from the road instead of so close. Hardin responded that there is an overlay on Cultra that requires a 50' space between the right of way for landscaping and the like. In the beginning of this project there was 3 sidewalks required and city staff worked with the developer not to waste the time of installing and then them going away in a few years.

Blain-Bellamy stated that her concern is that when the city accepts the fee in lieu, and as the city grows larger we have no public space at all, do the fees actually make sense. She said that she is concerned that when we accept small fees from a developer here and there and then 10 years we want to construct a park, that we don't have the funds from the fee in lieu to accomplish the goal. Hardin said that staff would look into and that fee in lieu's

could be used for a match grant. Blain-Bellamy asked staff to look into sidewalks fee in lieu too. Hardin said that staff would look into those as well.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- B. Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Fee in Lieu of Open Space at South Oaks Phase 2 Subdivision** – Hardin informed Council that the applicant is requesting approval of the fee in lieu of providing open space for South Oak Phase 2 in accordance with the UDO which states that if less than one acre of open space is required for any major subdivision, the developer shall submit a fee in lieu of providing open space. The fee is determined by calculating the fair market value of the unimproved land per acre and multiplying that by the required open space. In this case, Horry County Land Records (website) provides a current market value of \$30,860.00 for the property, currently totaling 2.57 acres, or approx. \$12,007.78 per acre. The required Open Space for this development is .081 acres (4 lots x 2.53 x 0.008). Therefore, the open space fee is calculated as .081 acres x \$12,007.78 = \$972.63. Planning Commission recommended that City Council consider the fee-in-lieu of open space request, for \$972.63, so that the City may acquire or improve recreational park and open space area to serve the development through other offsite means.

Motion: Hyman made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch to accept the fee in lieu of open space for South Oaks Phase 2. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- C. Consideration of Duty Weapon to be Placed into Surplus** – Long stated that Lieutenant Tim Chapman is retiring from the Conway Police Department March 31, 2022 and he is requesting that his duty weapon be placed into surplus and awarded to him as a retirement memento to honor his 30 years of service.

Blain-Bellamy asked if it could be mounted. Long said yes.

Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Hyman to authorize the weapon to be placed into surplus status and awarded to Chapman. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Blain-Bellamy said that in the future any other law enforcement officers with 30 years of service be awarded their duty weapon as well.

- D. Consideration of Obtaining Ownership of Pine Street and Ninth Avenue from SCDOT** – Harrelson stated that City staff recommends obtaining ownership of Pine St. from 9th Ave. to Church St. and 9th Ave. from Church St. to Hwy 378. Obtaining these streets will allow for staff to design better roadways within the City that SCDOT may allow, but often times have such strict regulation it's mere impossible to complete. 9th Ave. and Pine St. will offer a variety of future use projects potentially connecting neighboring communities that are currently not connected. Obtaining these roadways would not result in any additional maintenance cost to the City due to Public Works staff already maintaining the road, sidewalks, and any stormwater installed for several years.

Motion: Hyman made a motion, seconded by White to approve staff to obtain ownership of Pine Street from Ninth Avenue to Church Street and Ninth Avenue from Church Street to Highway 378 from SCDOT. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Goldfinch asked if we could install lights in this area as it is very dark and the city has special needs and others that walk this area. Harrelson said for now it will be the typical roadway lights but hope to install better more decorative lighting in the future.

- E. Consideration of a Resolution to Amend Projects for the City of Conway HUD/CDBG Entitlement Grant for Year 9 (2016-2017) and Year 10 (2017-2018) –** Rogers stated that the City of Conway has a balance of 286,344.82 in its HUD CDBG entitlement allocation. Council previously appropriated \$143,143.31 to the Smith Jones Pool Project, with another appropriation to the Small Business Support Program. The Small Business Support Program was successful and closed out with a remaining balance of \$2,896.04 in Year 9 and \$140,305.47 in Year 10. That remaining funding must be reallocated to different programs. The Smith Jones Pool Project is currently underway. It involves fixing and rebuilding the Pool at Smith Jones Park. There is also the opportunity to add a splash pad to the pool area. The balance from the Small Business Support Program can be moved to the Smith Jones Pool Project to facilitate a splash pad. Council may also supplement this project from local funds. With the proposed changes, \$286,344.82 would be available in CDBG funding for the pool project.

Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Jordan to allocate all remaining HUD/CDBG funds for year 9 and year 10 to the Smith Jones Pool Project. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Emrick informed Council of the following:

- The fuel price increases are pretty impactful for our fleet and budget. To give you a sense of our fuel consumption, we are averaging 332 gallons of gasoline and 282 gallons of diesel usage every day. At the current prices of \$4 a gallon for gasoline and \$5 for diesel, we will spend far more than the budgeted \$453,000 for this fiscal. We are working with each department to find ways to reduce our fuel usage while the prices remain so high. Some of our departments are going to a 4-day, 10-hour day, work week. By doing this, our Public Works Department estimates it can save \$1000 per month on fuel at the current pricing.
- DHEC has had our permit application for the Smith-Jones Pool for 4 weeks now, it has not been expedited or approved as yet. I would ask that we let this run its normal permit course and no one on Council call DHEC about it.
- On Friday and Saturday of this week, Conway Downtown Alive is hosting the first ever Waccamaw Sportsmen's Expo at various sites downtown and at the marina. This event features dock diving dogs, cooking demonstrations, a fishing tournament, and other demonstrations and events throughout the two-day event. We are expecting a large crowd for this two-day event.

- The Gullah Geechee Community Day was a few weeks ago. The numbers were good, about what we saw in 2020. The one addition this year was the inclusion of the paper puppets lead by artist, Dennis Mcnett. I threw a few pictures up on the screen to show you what this looked like. In the last year, Conway has hosted at least 6 parades, with each having its own uniqueness. This one may take the cake though.
- On March 26, Camp Great is hosting a 3v3 basketball tournament at the Sports and Fitness Center.
- CCU is the home of another Champion. Mellissa Jefferson is the first ever individual national champion from Coastal. She also set the record for the Sunbelt Conference and had the sixth fastest time in the 60 meter all time in NCAA Division 1 Indoor Track & Field.
- On April 8th, Coastal Baseball will host City of Conway night. I'll have more details for you on this a little closer to that game, but put it on your calendar. We play Georgia State that night.
- As you know, the Budget Retreat was a few weeks ago. There were a lot of items that came out of the meetings that staff has been diligently plugging away on. You will see some of those items start to pop up on Council agendas for the next several months. Today, the 9th Avenue and Pine Street issues came out of the Budget Retreat. I bring this up only to let you know, that these items will be coming forward for approval as we are able to do so.
- I've kept it somewhat short tonight, that is because we have three Department Head reports. First up is Ashley Smith, followed by Chief Hendrick and then Robert Cooper. Unless there are any questions, I will turn it over to Ashley.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Recreation – Smith gave an update to Council on the following:

Infrastructure

1. Parking lot at Football/Soccer Fields – paving today
2. Road from Mill Pond to Athletic Offices - playground
3. Parking lot Mill Pond Road Entrance
4. Parking lot behind Field A and Bojangles
5. Construction of new maintenance building Phase 2 is starting today
6. Completion of Phase 1 of new Athletic Storage Building
7. New pool deck at Sports and Fitness Center to start in April

Programs

1. Fishing Derby was this past weekend
2. Hosted the SC Wheelchair Association Championships on Saturday and Sunday with 10 teams participating.
3. Easter egg hunts to be held as follows:
 - Hearing impaired April 9
 - Night time April 14
 - Easter Egg Hunt April 16

4. Spring Break camp is full.
5. Registration for Summer Camp is almost full.
6. Sports camps will work in conjunction with the Kingston Soccer Club, Conway High School and CCU. Registration starts in April.

Athletics

Since 2013, we have averaged 768 participants in Spring Sports. In 2020 we had 832, Last Year 906 and this year we have 1193 participants.

508	soccer	4 fields, split
379	baseball	6 fields
144	softball	2 fields
84	TT soccer	1 field
78	TT baseball	1 field

-Annual Spring Sports Family Fun Day April 2, 9:00 am

We have booked 11 dates for weekend Softball and Baseball tournaments. Next one is this weekend. The last softball tournament/camp we had drew over 1000 participants, not including their families. We are hoping to partner with area businesses to keep these families in Conway to shop and eat. Once we get a couple of hotels and they don't have to travel to that place by the ocean, we will be a destination.

Fitness

Our outdoor fitness area is located by Pete Wilks field. There are 3 machines and a path that will take you through the complex. Also getting a new machine for wheel chairs.

Other

BJ Thompkins has been chosen to participate in the Little League World Series as a groundskeeper. He is one of 4 from SC to be chosen. BJ and his staff do a tremendous job and this is huge for our department.

We have been working with the Low Country Food Bank to host free food giveaways once a month. We started the partnership during Covid and have continued. We average about 500 families that receive food. We will continue to work with them to help our community.

Fire Department – Hendrick informed Council of the following:

Fire

- Overall call volume was up from 3,485 incidents in 2020 to 3,725 in 2021 which is lower than the 3,816 incidents in 2019
 - COVID played a huge factor in the dip
- Mentioned last year in September's report that we were on pace to shatter the record for Structure Fires, but only had 3 more last year to end with 21 total which was only 2 more than 2020 (.55% in 2020 and .56% in 2021)
- Medical incidents were 43.39% in 2020 and 42.68% in 2021
- Vehicle accidents were 14.11% in 2020 and 13.64% in 2021
- In September 2020 I reported that the average age of Fire employees was 38 and that has changed to 37

- At that same meeting the average years in the fire service was 11.3 and that is now 13.4
- As of 3/14 we are fully staffed with 35 total employees (30 suppression and 5 administrative)
- We promoted 7 employees in 2021 and 1 already in 2022
- We are in the process of scheduling an EMT-Basic course for approximately 12 employees
- We are one protective equipment order away from issuing each employee two sets of protective equipment. This was a goal for our cancer initiative to give each employee two sets of gear so they will not have to wear soiled equipment after incidents
 - Adding the new gear extractor and dryer (Firehouse Subs Grant), our employees should never be subjected to the harmful cancer-causing carcinogens

Emergency Management

- Full activation of the EOC in January of this year
 - Was a good exercise
- Made a few changes to the Emergency Operations Plan
- Will make changes to the EOP and bring them back to council in May

Risk Management

- SCMIT (WC)
 - 30 claims in 2021
 - 29 claims in 2020
 - Goal for 2022 is 20 claims
- SMIRF (Property & Liability)
 - 41 claims in 2021
 - 10 at-fault incidents
 - 39 claims in 2020
 - Goal for 2022 is 20 claims
- 8:00 – 9:00 and 1:00 to 2:00 are the two hot spot hours for employee injuries
- Wednesday is the day of the week with the most injuries
- Accidents were 07:00 to 08:00 and Wednesdays
- MASC/OSHA safety audit in February
 - Identified several areas of improvement and those have since been mitigated
 - Better prepared for an OSHA inspection
- Revamped the accident and injury reporting process to make it more user friendly for departments
- Clearly identified the OSHA/Safety training for each department so that we are compliant
 - Easier to access videos for a group setting
 - Rainy days
 - 92.5% completion rate in 2021
 - Goal is 100% completion rate in 2022

Building Department – Cooper told Council that since his last update in April of 2021, the Building Department issued 1342 total permits. Of the 1342 total permits issued this year, 240 were new single-family dwellings. The department has performed 10,515 inspections including

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property maintenance inspections. We have attended many conferences for continuing education including the Building Official Association of South Carolina Conference in Myrtle Beach and Coastal Code Enforcement Conference in Folly Beach. The month of May is Building Safety Month, which is an international campaign, celebrated every year to raise awareness about building safety. We are also planning a career day at Kingston Elementary in April.

Cooper said that Facilities Maintenance is currently working on or just completed the new Planning and Building Department, new HVAC ductwork at the Finance Department and the extension of electrical services on Ashpond Road for the Celebration of Lights.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Helms asked for an update on the road behind Chick Fil A. Emrick said they are still working on all of the legal issues and waiting on the permit from DOT.

Helms then advised staff to look for property to purchase for Recreation. She said that as the numbers are growing we need something for the kids and this is a priority for her.

Helms stated that she has received numerous calls on the roundabouts on Main Street. Emrick said that no decisions have been made and that this was only an idea from the consultants.

Helms then thanked staff for all their hard work.

Hyman stated that he is excited about the upcoming Wildlife Expo and all the events in the city that are put on by the city, Downtown Alive and the Chamber of Commerce. He said that the Recreation Center is exploding.

Hyman thanked Brandon and then encouraged all departments, due to the prices going up to purchase materials in advance as it is cheaper to buy now. He reiterated what William previous said that we are stewards of taxpayer's money. He thanked staff for a fantastic budget retreat and said that this Council is very good at getting out of an Escape Room.

White said that at budget retreat it was mentioned to get electric motorcycles and he asked if the city has thought about the power stations. Emrick said that we have currently have two in the parking lot at Laurel and Elm Street and two at the library. He then said we are looking at grants to install more. He then said that the motorcycles only need regular power, not the special stand.

White thanked the city for the wheelchair bicycles.

White then stated that he was so glad that the city has funding for the Smith Jones project.

Goldfinch asked that as we continue to talk about higher energy prices and the toll that takes on everyone, is there any thought in purchasing in bulk and storing it. Emrick said that the infrastructure in putting a distribution facility in place is high and at this point we think it would negate any cost for the fuel purchasing since we are now under the state contract for purchasing

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and get today's prices and not tomorrow's. Blain-Bellamy added that it might be more plausible if we are certain that prices will continue to rise.

Goldfinch then stated that a young man was killed in an automobile last week and another department posted things on Facebook and family members found out on Facebook. He stated that he hopes the City has safeguards in place to prevent things like this happening. Emrick said that as fast as we are growing and how big we are getting but we are very small in terms of social media.

Goldfinch then piggybacked on what Helms said about the roundabouts, but in 12 years he has never been bombarded with more concerns. He tells everyone that the city has not discussed it and that this was an idea from some consultants who offered the idea as a solution per the survey about traffic on Main Street. Emrick said that the number one complaint from the master plan survey was traffic on Main Street and we are very limited on what we can do, so the consultants said that this is something that you can do. Goldfinch then encouraged everyone to read the entire story and not just the headline.

Jordan said that everyone had already touched on what he had but he did want to say that he watched the CCU track meet and the young lady was blazing fast and to see her win a national championship was great.

Jordan thanked staff for a great budget retreat in making Council's life easier.

Butler said that she also watched Mellissa Jefferson of CCU in her match and that is a lot of pride that we can take into our city for someone from Coastal winning such a great accomplishment.

Butler continued to encourage everyone to follow up with Conway High School on the spring sports and doing a wonderful job with them.

Butler gave Smith and the Recreation Center a thank you for giving our young folks an opportunity to play spring sports.

Blain-Bellamy said that she is very supportive of opportunities to buy commodities in advance that we use regularly and have storage for it and she encouraged all departments to do this.

Blain-Bellamy said that she visits all over the place and saw in a public restroom this past week that an open hand with a folded thumb with repeated raises of the hand means that the person needs help and cannot get away. She said the city was approached a few years ago about putting signs in the lady's restrooms so we may be able to aid someone, and she would like for Council to revisit that idea.

Blain-Bellamy said that in Clemson in June there will be a Conference of the International Town & Gown Association, who represent towns that have a university in their city or town, and since we are growing towards that trend, that is something that the city may want to take advantage of.

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Blain-Bellamy thanked staff and said that she enjoyed the retreat as well as she has grown every year.

Blain-Bellamy said that she values our Recreation Department but that as the numbers grow and we need more facilities, she would like to see some funds used for something different, other than sports, such as culture/arts offered to our children and citizens.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 4 day of April, 2022.



Alicia Shelley, City Clerk