

June 20, 2022

CITY OF CONWAY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CONWAY CITY HALL  
229 MAIN STREET, CONWAY  
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 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; Steven Pearce, Police; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Timmy Williams, Hospitality & Beautification Director; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Kayla Fleming, Associate Judge; Alex Cook, Building Plan Reviewer; Ashley Smith, Director Parks and Recreation; Braxton Fleming, Public Works Superintendent; and Alicia Shelley, City Clerk

**OTHERS:** Hillary Howard, Conway Downtown Alive; Priscilla Fuller; Devin Parks, Conway Chamber of Commerce; Kelli James, Conway Chamber of Commerce; Aubrey Cooke, A Cup Full Café; Sherrie Cannon, Closet Envy; Spence Little, Montgomery Construction; and approximately 10 others in attendance.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order. Pastor Matt Wilson of Ekklesia 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: Hyman made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the June 20, 2022 meeting agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-06-20 (A) to annex approximately 2.82 acres of property located on Bohemia Court (PIN 383-11-01-0002) and request to rezone from Horry County Planned Unit Development (PUD) to City of Conway Light Industrial (LI).**
- B. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-06-20 (B) to annex approximately 3 acres of property located at West Hwy 501 (PIN 326-09-01-0001 & 326-09-01-0002) and request to rezone from Horry County Commercial Forestry Agriculture (CFA) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC).**
- C. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-06-20 (C) to rezone approximately 0.34 acres of property located on Sessions Street (PIN 338-06-03-0081) from City of Conway Low/Medium-Density Residential (R1) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC).**

- D. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-06-20 (D) to rezone approximately 39.45 acres of property located on Mill Pond Rd (PIN 338-00-00-0008) from City of Conway Low/Medium-Density Residential (R1) to City of Conway Conservation Preservation (CP).**
- E. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-06-20 (E) to amend to Article 6, Section 6.6.2 – Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), regarding size requirements as well as conditions.**
- F. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-06-20 (F) to amend Title 5, Chapter 3 of the City of Conway Municipal Code and Article 14 of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to move public hearing responsibilities to the Planning Commission, and amend the Planning Commission Rules and Procedures to reflect the change.**
- G. Final Reading of Ordinance #2022-06-20 (G) to dissolve the Special Tax Allocation Fund and terminate the designation of the Redevelopment Project Area**
- H. Final Reading of Ordinance #2022-06-20 (H) Updating the Procurement Ordinance**
- I. Final Reading of Ordinance #2022-06-20 (I) Updating the Utility Billing Ordinance**
- J. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-06-20 (J) to annex approximately 1 acre of property located at 3011 Long Avenue Ext (PIN 324-10-02-0008) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential (SF40) to City of Conway Low/Medium Density Residential District (R-1).**
- K. Resolution to Accept Spring Oaks Subdivision Letter of Credit**
- L. Approval of June 6, 2022 City Council Minutes**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Butler to approve the June 20, 2022 consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Sherrie Cannon of Closet Envy voiced her concerns with the construction on Third and Laurel. She informed Council that the construction crews are taking up numerous parking spots, the smell of the port o john is horrible, and scattered debris are all hurting her business. She said that the handicapped spot is also utilized by the crew often.

Cheryl Adamson of the Whittemore Racepath Historical Society told everyone Happy Juneteenth and gave the history of the holiday. Adamson then gave a quarterly update on the Whittemore Elementary School progress with a production of a preservation plan of story making and also said that the historical society is applying for grants.

Hillary Howard of Conway Alive told Council that she supports revitalization in Downtown Conway at Third and Laurel but asked them to consider that the construction crew to be good neighbors as they have debris scattered and the crews utilize the parking spots in that area all day.

Priscilla Fuller informed Council that she has been gone from Conway for about 40 years and she appreciates all the development and hard work from the City that she has seen take place while she was gone. She said that now that she is back in the area, she wants to give back to her community as she is part of the American Red Cross and the housing board. She said that she supported Juneteenth but was unhappy with the lack of presence from Council and staff at the event on Saturday. She stated that she would like to see events in other parts of the county and in other communities within the City.

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

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

**A. Employee of the Month of June – Public Safety** – Chief Long presented Officer Sara Prince with the Employee of the Month award. She also received a life saving ribbon and a challenge coin.

**B. Discussion of an amendment to Article 5, Section 5.2.8 – Residential Swimming Pools & Spas, of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), regarding requirements.** Hardin informed Council that staff is consistently looking for ways to revise the UDO to make interpretations for our ordinances easier for the citizens of Conway as well as staff. The Residential Swimming Pools & Spas section of the UDO is one section that is harder to convey to the public than others. An amendment to this section would enable our ordinance to be consistent with Horry County's zoning ordinance and make the ordinance itself simpler and clearer for interpretation. Currently, the ordinance states that the edge of water must be at least three and a half (3.5) feet from all required setbacks and from any buildings. Section 5.2 Accessory Uses & Structures states that the setbacks shall be a minimum of five (5) feet from all property lines. Therefore, the edge of water must be 3.5 feet from the 5 feet required accessory use/structure setback in order to comply. Staff feels that this ordinance could be simpler by enforcing a six (6) foot setback similar to Horry County. Swimming pools not capable of holding more than twenty-four (24) inches of water are exempt from permitting procedures. Planning staff has consulted with the Building Department staff to ensure that the applicant is made aware of any additional requirements from the Building Department in advance.

Goldfinch asked about the requirements for hot tubs that are incorporated with the pool. Hardin said that it would be considered part of the pool.

White asked if this is for any new pools going forward. Hardin said yes.

### **FIRST READING**

**First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-07-05 granting a non-Exclusive Franchise Agreement to Aubrey Cooke, d.b.a. A Cup Full Café LLC, for a mobile vending unit.**

Hardin said that Aubrey Cooke with A Cup Full Café has applied for a business license to operate a mobile vending unit to serve coffee to customers in the Town Green area of Conway. In order to process the business license for any mobile vending permit, the applicant has to secure permission from the location where the unit will be located. Ms. Cooke's request to locate in the vicinity of 200 Laurel Street includes public parking, sidewalks, and parking areas. To utilize these public properties, a vendor must enter into a Franchise Agreement with the City. For the Franchise Agreement to be valid, it must receive two readings of City Council as an Ordinance.

Aubrey Cooke, A Cup Full Café informed Council that she would like to operate in the Town Green Area Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. She serves coffee and energy drinks.

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

Hardin stated that the applicant has also achieved all ad requirements.

## CONSIDERATION

**A. Recommendation on Selection of Artist to Provide Public Art in the City of Conway** - MC Hyman told Council that on April 6, 2022 the City of Conway advertised publicly to select a firm to provide public art in the City. Proposals were required to be submitted to the City no later than May 5, 2022. Three firms submitted proposals, but only two were received by the deadline. Firms were ranked based on the following criteria: (1) The artists qualifications and project team submitted; (2) Project approach to providing the professional services requested. Design services proposed shall be detailed; and (3) Demonstrated successful professional project accomplishments for projects of similar technical nature, complexity, and time constraints, and for clients that are similar in size, location, and type to City. Staff conducted individual evaluations the week of May 9 and unanimously selected Girls Who Paint.

**Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Helms to authorize staff to enter into negotiations for a contract of services. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**B. Discussion on extension of temporary placement of construction dumpsters and safety fencing in right-of-way at Third Avenue and Laurel Street** – MC Hyman stated that 6 months ago City Council approved the temporary placement of two construction dumpsters in two parking spaces on Laurel Street, as well as a safety scaffolding tunnel on the sidewalk for demolition, framing and sheetrock. The property owner has requested an extension through July 30 to allow for final power washing and exterior painting.

Goldfinch stated that he was not aware until now that there were issues and he would like to understand that situation a little better as to what is going on to inconvenience Ms. Cannon.

MC Hyman stated that staff has talked to Ms. Cannon and that the building department has gone out to talk to the construction company as Ms. Cannon is blocked on both sides by all of the construction on Laurel Street; and that parking has become the biggest issue.

Cannon stated that the sidewalk and parking has been blocked for days.

MC Hyman said that staff has reached out to the construction company and property owner regarding these issues and has been trying to rectify the situation.

Blain-Bellamy asked that the construction company give them a lead time to get the project finished and what might happen in the meantime to free up access to other businesses.

Spence Little of Montgomery Construction stated that he met with the property owner, Robert Lewis and that they plan to remove the scaffolding and tunnel now and work off of an isolating lift for power washing and painting the building. They would like to park the lift in a third parking spot where the dumpster and port o john are located and that the sidewalk would be cleared. He said that the crew would start work at sunrise. He stated that per OSHA rules that would need to have removable barriers that could be put up at night. He then said that they would only need the three parking spots extended for loading and unloading as that is the only door into the building. He said that beginning July 1, the Montgomery Construction would be adding an additional man responsible mainly for safety and clean up. This guy would also be responsible for keeping the parking spot in front of the boutique clear of construction crews.

Blain-Bellamy asked if the dumpster and port o john could be located in the alley. MC Hyman stated that the alley is further down and not behind this building. Emrick added that there is no rear access to this building.

Blain-Bellamy then asked if there was not dual access required. Little said that was an issue during code review and lots of upgrades had to be done with the fire system.

Blain-Bellamy asked if staff has utilized their best everything to promote the reconstruction but not to deter the existing businesses. MC Hyman stated that staff likes the solutions that the construction company has presented.

There was more discussion amongst Council, staff, the construction company and the existing businesses regarding the parking spots, scattered debris, safety, and construction crew working hours, to try to come to a solution for all.

Hyman stated that it sounds like the construction crew needs to stay out of the parks and into the three, get it done as soon as possible and communicate with each other.

Little said that he is requesting an extension of the dumpster and 3 parking spots until September 20. MC Hyman said that what was approved on January 3, 2022 was the tunnel and the use of those 2 parking spots being blocked.

**Motion:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White to approve the extension as originally allowed for the 2 parking spaces until July 30. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- C. Discussion on Marina Slip Rental Agreement** – MC Hyman informed Council that recently, citizens have inquired about “Live Aboard” at the Conway Marina. The current Slip Rental Lease Agreement states: “City of Conway Zoning Ordinance will not allow single-family residence (live aboard) within the Marina basin and its confines. Staying on board vessel for other than recreation purposes is prohibited. OWNERS shall discuss overnight stay with Marina Dockmaster to ensure compliance.” The privately-owned Kingston Pointe Marina does not allow live aboard due to insurance requirements. Live aboard is offered at many surrounding marinas, including Bucksport, Myrtle Beach, and Charleston. These marinas include bathhouses and laundry facilities. At the City Council Budget Retreat, City Council directed staff to update the current Slip Rental Lease Agreement to allow live-aboard with certain conditions, as well as make necessary updates to the Agreement. Since that time, City staff has been working with David Sligh, attorney and the Marina Manager to create an updated agreement for review.

Hyman asked if temporary spots are available to travel in and stay. MC Hyman said yes, on the transient docks.

Matt Varnadore stated that they would be able to rent space on the transient docks for \$1 per foot.

White asked about safety issues. Varnadore stated that there is a process with information gathered. MC Hyman added that there are also insurance requirements.

David Sligh stated that to summarize, the document speaks for itself as the live aboard section was really the only thing that was unique to the update and that everything else was a clean-up that had not been looked at in a while.

**Motion:** Hyman made a motion, seconded by Blain-Bellamy to approve the updated agreement. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- D. Consideration of an Agreement to Lease City-Owned Property – 207 Jessamine Street** – MC Hyman stated that the City has acquired many lots in the floodplain through the FEMA buyout program. The use of the land must be restricted in perpetuity to protect and preserve the natural floodplain values, and the land shall be used only for purposes compatible with open space, recreational, or wetlands management practices. Maintenance and upkeep of these properties is also the responsibility of the City. City Council approved the use of private leases to neighboring property owners. These leases would allow the property owners to use and maintain the FEMA lots for personal use with certain conditions. The City has received an application for a license to lease a City-owned property acquired through the FEMA buyout program: Thomas J. Anderson II, owner of 204 Jessamine Street (PIN 339-09-02-0005) and PIN 339-09-02-0018 (doesn't have an address in GIS yet), has requested to lease 207 Jessamine Street (PIN 339-09-02-0015).

**Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hyman to give the City Administrator authority to enter into a signed agreement. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

White asked if these leases were on a first come first serve basis. MC Hyman said yes.

Goldfinch stated that he thought that precedence was given to adjacent property owners. MC Hyman said that each request does come before Council for approval.

- E. Establishment of a Recruitment Incentive Program for Employees** – Rogers told Council that certain city departments often struggle to recruit new employees and that a recruitment incentive program is being proposed. The program would create bonuses for existing non-department head employees who refer applicants to the City of Conway. To receive a bonus, the applicant must be hired by the City and complete their probationary period. At that time, the existing employee who made the referral will receive a \$500 bonus. If the position into which the new employee was hired requires a certification (such as a police officer or building inspector) and the candidate already holds that certification, the bonus is doubled to \$1,000. Bonuses will be available for positions in departments which have at least two job openings. Employees who make a successful referral, but leave employment with the City before their eligibility will not receive the bonus. To be eligible, the employees need not be in the same department.

**Motion:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Jordan to give approval of establishment of a recruitment incentive program. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- F. Consideration of Awards of 2022-23 Economic Development Grants** – Rogers informed Council that in April, the City began soliciting applications for Economic Development Grants. This is the third year of the grant program. The City sought innovative programs, events, or vendors to stimulate economic growth in the City. Applications were due May 6. The available funding totals \$150,000. Five applications were received from four organizations.

Roger said that the applications and staff recommendations were as follows:

Conway Chamber of Commerce

The Conway Chamber of Commerce is requesting funding for staffing and a variety of programs. The City has consistently funded their economic development director, along with some of their other marketing efforts. Staff recommend continuing funding of the economic development position, along with their multi-media marketing.

Amount requested:	\$150,000
Staff recommendation:	\$80,000

Conway Downtown Alive

Conway Downtown Alive is requesting funding for the Feel the TEAL Town Gown Initiative. The program involves pop-up events downtown that are meant to celebrate CCU pride and offer giveaways. The grant will also be used to purchase goods that will be used to increase the presence of teal in the downtown.

Amount requested:	\$12,700
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Staff recommendation: \$12,700

Conway Downtown Alive

Conway Downtown Alive is requesting funding for the Waccamaw Sportsmen's Expo 2023. This event was first held in 2022 as a partnership between CDA and the City.

Amount requested: \$37,300

Staff recommendation: \$37,300

Go Get Your You Foundation

Go Get Your You applied for funding for various activities that benefit veterans and the public at large. Their application raised questions of eligibility as written. This organization does conduct some activities that are eligible for this grant program and staff have scheduled a meeting with their director to go over steps to create a competitive application for the next funding cycle.

Amount requested: \$150,000

Staff recommendation: \$0

Horry County First Steps

Horry County First Steps is requesting partial funding for their Week of the Young Child events in downtown Conway. This program meets the grant's goal of providing events in Conway.

Amount requested: \$10,000

Staff recommendation: \$10,000

White recused himself from this request.

Goldfinch asked what funding mechanism was in place to supplement the balance of what the City normally would award the Chamber. Rogers said that Council increased their hospitality amount up by \$22,000.

Goldfinch then confirmed that what the Chamber was getting through this recommendation and the increase in hospitality funds would make the Chamber whole on what the City has historically done. Rogers said basically, yes.

**Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Bellamy to approve staff funding recommendations. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Blain-Bellamy asked what would be done with the remaining funds. Rogers said that the \$10,000 left would go back into the general fund.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Emrick informed Council of the following:

- The bids for Smith Jones Pool were supposed to be on the agenda for approval tonight, but we received no bids. Again, no contractor bid on the rebuild of Smith Jones pool. So,



we have to rebid the project and we are going to delay the bid until later in the season to hopefully attract more bidders. I will not update Council again, until we go out to bid again.

- Reminder that SCDOT has scheduled a public meeting at the Sports and Fitness Center on June 21, to discuss the intersection project at 378 and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The meeting is drop in style and from 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.
- Conway IOU Softball Allstars, who won the State Championship last year, are on their way back to the State Championship this weekend. Please wish our girls the best as they defend their crown.
- Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 5. Prior to the regularly scheduled meeting, we will hold a workshop at 3 p.m. One of the projects you asked for at the Budget Retreat for the upcoming fiscal year is a more impressive fountain at Riverfront Park. We have been working with an artist on some design ideas for this fountain, which he will present at this workshop. We have a few other items for the workshop as well.
- I want to bring to your attention an issue we are facing in our Solid Waste collection program. We have a number of residents utilizing 2 green trash carts for their waste removal. The fees that our residents pay monthly are for the pickup of one cart. There is an additional fee for a second cart. These fees offset what we are charged in landfill tipping fees. If someone is only paying for one cart, they are not paying for all of their tipping fees and these costs are then borne by their neighbors. So, we are cracking down on folks with two carts, to make sure they are paying for that increased level of service.
- This Saturday is both Riverfest and the WES Cheer and Football Camp. Expect lots of traffic around the Sports and Fitness Complex, downtown, the Riverfront and on the River itself. Fireworks start when its dark.
- There are some fun new happenings at the Recreation Department
  - The first ever Dive in Movie in the pool on July 6<sup>th</sup> for Finding Nemo
  - Shag Dancing Lessons on July 21
  - This last weekend, we hosted a 23-team travel baseball tournament, with teams from throughout South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.
- The new road behind Chick-fil-A is making great progress. The previous asphalt has been milled and the construction of upgraded stormwater infrastructure has commenced. When completed, this road will connect Mill Pond to 16<sup>th</sup> and will provide safe and easy access to the Recreation Department and the commercial entities fronting Church Street.
- Tonight, we have a Department head report from someone Council never gets to hear from, Allison Hardin, our Planning Director.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Planning and Development** – Hardin informed Council that Planning’s last report was in December 2021 and she said that she did not think the department could be busier but she admitted that her estimation was off-base.

The Planning Department currently stands at or above our totals against last year’s activities for reviews, including plats and subdivisions, fences and pools, and especially single-family houses. She said one staff member reviews those, and her week started with 65 permits on her list.

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Hardin stated that the Planning Department has upped their customer service game, providing 40% more courtesy visits before issuing zoning violations and more than doubled the residential courtesy visits. The result is that the department has written half as many residential violation letters as last year, and issued no residential violations to date.

Last year's total of 903 illegal signs removed has been met and topped, and the count continues as the department is winding down the primary election season. She then reminded everyone that tomorrow is the last day to remove your election signs if the candidate is not in a runoff election. The deadline for removing all signs for the runoff will be Tuesday, July 5.

Hardin said that Planning is not just about numbers, however, and since the last time we spoke, staff has been busy working to increase our knowledge of bicycle and pedestrian needs by attending the Horry County Trails Summit in May, we've evaluated the UDO for areas where we can clean up the language – and staff is bringing those to you monthly. The Planning Department participated in beautification projects like the Conway welcome sign at the high school and shared inspection duties with the Building department as we both try to fill the positions available in our departments. Speaking of which, Planning has a Planning Concierge position open, and Hardin said she is looking forward to scheduling interviews very soon.

Hardin stated that finally, with it being the end of the budget year, she thanked Council for their commitment to programs like Tree City USA, which has allowed the City this year to provide more than 1,000 trees for our citizens to take and plant in their yards or on their property, and gives staff the ability to purchase tools that are used to continually help make Conway more and more beautiful with each passing season. Staff is so fortunate to work in a community that is committed to increasing the quality of life for every resident, and gives us the tools – both tangible and intangible - to make that happen.

## **COUNCIL INPUT:**

**Helms** said that she spoke to the Jenkins family and they have suggested that the new road be named Jenkins Field Road. MC Hyman said that item would be on the next meeting agenda.

Helms then said that she wants staff to stay on the issue regarding the construction at Third and Laurel, and that we continue to help Ms. Cannon. She thanked Council for approving the boat slips along the river. Helms said she enjoyed the Mayor's reception and was not able to present as she had bad news regarding her dad but that he was going to be ok.

**Hyman** said that he enjoyed the Mayors banquet and that it was great. He said he is excited about the Planning Concierge position and it will be great that contractors and builders can reach someone and have everything explained to them. He then thanked the Chamber and said he is looking forward to Riverfest this weekend.

**White** asked where the Smith Jones pool bid was advertised. Emrick said Nationwide, mostly State but you can bid from anywhere.

White said that he attended the Juneteenth event and got jumped all over saying that we did not have trash receptacles there but they did come, thank you. He said that the grass was also not cut

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and requested that next time someone uses those facilities to make sure those things are done if possible.

White then said that Juneteenth is a Federal Holiday and requested that if it falls on the Monday of a City Council meeting again that we move it to the Tuesday following. Emrick said yes, it will be part of the Council set schedule in January.

**Goldfinch** said ditto on the comments about the Mayor's banquet last Thursday, it was amazing and staff did an amazing job with the gathering and it showed. He said that he had no idea that there were such incredible people who have accomplished such amazing things that are from Conway. He said it was an eye-opening great event, but that the roast went too long and he promised to be on script next time. He said that the two people that were roasted and honored had such a huge part in his life and has made him who he is for better or for worse, but it was such an honor. Goldfinch said that White stole his thunder about Juneteenth and it is a Federal Holiday and we should have that discussion. He then asked the Chamber if the Jell-O was ready and that he looks forward to sponsoring that event. He said that kids can jump in the Jell-O beginning at Noon on Saturday, as does his kids every year before it gets nasty.

**Jordan** also echoed what everyone else said about Thursday nights banquet and said that it was a great turnout. He then said that he was honored at one of those a few years ago and that is what lit the fire for where he is today. He then said that the Sports and Fitness Center has another tournament this weekend.

**Butler** said that she is also excited about the Planning Concierge position and reiterated to staff that thousands of wonderful minds have graduated from Coastal and she hopes that they are being considered and have applied. She wants to show them that Conway is a great place to work and live. She said that she attended Juneteenth, talked to some of the vendors and she would really love more collaboration, whether with the City, Smith Jones or the Chamber. Riverfest is a wonderful event that brings everyone to Conway together and she thinks Juneteenth could be another event that could bring everyone of Conway together.

**Blain-Bellamy** thanked everyone that took care of some important role in the awards banquet. She does not think we could ever acknowledge or thank everyone for their good deeds to the City but so many people were involved to make it successful so rather than name names she said, you know who you are, so many on council and staff and she thanked them all so much. Blain-Bellamy said there are great things going on and that she had a conflict and was not able to attend Juneteenth but would try her best not to miss another one. She said not to slight any other activity that is coming up but she personally put a plug in for the WES Foundation's Football & Cheer Camp on Saturday at the Sports and Fitness Center.

Blain-Bellamy said that in closing, Conway as she sees it as a whole is good at welcoming strangers and how else could someone like me be elected as Mayor. She said that a Congressman once expressed disbelief in her being the Mayor here saying that he did not think Conway was so diverse but what he is unaware of is who Conwayites are and how they think. She said that hatred among people that don't even know each other, to her, makes no sense in a civilized world but that it still exists. She said that last Tuesday, people from outside of our community came into Conway and infiltrated the residential communities with hate messages. She said that this time the hate messages were directed at our Jewish neighbors and her communications with the City's one

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victim, as they were texting and she did not know if he knew her or not but was in touch with her because she is the Mayor. She said that she mentioned to him that she understood his pain because she is and has always been black and has had such experiences her entire life. The victim apologized to her that it took this to sensitize him to the plight of other people who are often victims of hate. She said that they cried together understanding their shared pain, unaware that last weeks messages of hate came from outside of Conway, maybe even out of state, but still said we are reminded of the existence of deep hate in the hearts of people who live among us. Ill wishes and acts that make feelings burst into view, pains against people for their race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, country of origin, all remain as issues in our culture, and exists even in good ole Conway. She said she is not so naïve to believe that this will ever end but she will do what she can to become less and less an issue locally. She then said that a few people have identified themselves, who she believes to be forward thinking, aware, level headed people who want to join hands in this regard and who believe that with our working together that we may be able to make such incidents rarer and that people will become more comfortable within the confines of our City. She said this is not who Conway is and she has lived her for the majority of 70 years and she is asking that our staff devise a comprehensive plan to promote this work as it is worthwhile and menacing to people that we all care about. She said that the City cannot sit and act as if this did not happen as it just did on last Tuesday.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Helms to enter into Executive Session for the following: A. Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(A)(1)]; B. Discuss Economic Development Relative to Project October [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70 (A) (5)]. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Jordan to leave Executive Session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** Blain Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Jordan to approve the following board appointments as discussed in Executive Session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

A-Tax Committee – Adam Miller was appointed for a 3-year term expiring on 12/31/2024.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this 5 day of July, 2022.

  
Alicia Shelley, City Clerk