

August 1, 2022

CITY OF CONWAY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONWAY CITY HALL
229 MAIN STREET, CONWAY
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022 - 4:00 P.M.

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

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City 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; Brandon Harrelson, Public Works Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Rock Rabon, Fleet Maintenance Director; Ashley Smith, Recreation Director; Katie Dennis, Planning Concierge; Jason Perzan, Assistant Fire Chief; and Alicia Shelley, City Clerk

OTHERS: Lois Edwards, SC Forestry Commission; Chairette & Mike Mathis; Hillary Howard, Conway Alive; Cheryl Moore Adamson; Alan Todd, CCU Professor; Devin Parks, Conway Chamber of Commerce; and approximately 10 others in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order. Pastor Matt of Seacoast 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 Butler, to approve the August 1, 2022 meeting agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-08-01 amending Article 2, Definitions and Article 5, Section 5.2.8 – Residential Swimming Pools & Spas, of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), regarding requirements for residential swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas.**
- B. Approval of Horry Georgetown Fire Chiefs' Association Mutual Aid Contract**
- C. Special Event – Conway Christmas Parade – December 10, 2022**
- D. Special Event – Under the Lights 5K – December 7, 2022**
- E. Special Event – Zombie Fun Run – October 13, 2022**

F. Approval of July 18, 2022 City Council Minutes

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Hyman to approve the August 1, 2022 consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Cheryl Moore Adamson asked that the City construction crew be assigned to board up the windows at the Whittemore Elementary School as to mitigate any further damage.

Alan Todd, Professor at CCU supported Ms. Adamson's request to board up the windows at the Whittemore Elementary School.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

A. Presentation of Longevity Awards – July 2022 – 25 years: Mannie George Griffin Jr., Solid Waste; 20 years: Vili Schwenke, Police. Emrick and Helms presented Mannie George Griffin with his longevity award for 25 years with the City of Conway.

B. Presentation of Tree City USA designation – Lois Edwards, South Carolina Forestry Service – Hardin stated that the Tree City USA Program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forestry Service. Tree City USA communities must have a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. In 2021, the City of Conway applied for continued designation as a Tree City USA. Staff was recently notified that our designation was approved for the 37th consecutive year. Hardin said that last year's tree-based activities included two tree give-a-ways in which more than 1,200 trees were given to residents, donated by Clemson Extension and the PowerPlant program, an Arbor day event, installation of an experiment in pervious pavement around tree wells on Laurel St, tree plantings around the Sports and Recreation center, staff trainings on healthy pruning practices, and dozens of on-site reviews as requested by citizens for advice on how to keep our community's trees healthy.

Lois Edwards with the South Carolina Forestry Commission then presented the City of Conway with the Tree City USA designation for the 37th consecutive year.

C. Discussion of a Request from Middle Men Properties LLC to annex approximately 0.81 acres of property located on Hwy 378 (PIN 337-15-01-0017) and request to rezone from Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC). Hardin stated that this annexation request consists of 0.81 acres located in the 2600 block of Highway 378 near Green Pond Circle. The property is currently vacant, within our utility service area, and zoned Horry County Highway Commercial. The annexation is sought to comply with the City of Conway policies regarding connection to utility services. Hardin showed Council the plat where this

parcel is located and said that the next request on the agenda is the adjacent parcel on the referenced plat. The requests are being done separately as they both have PIN numbers and different owners. Hardin stated that this request will go to the Planning Commission as a public hearing on August 4 and after receiving the input, Planning Commission will then make a recommendation or defer the item for additional information. If Planning Commission makes a recommendation, staff will forward to City Council at their next meeting on August 15 for first reading of the ordinance. Hardin said that property owners within 200' have been notified. The future land use map supports the Highway Commercial zoning district.

Hyman asked if Council needed to make a motion to send to Planning Commission. Hardin said no, that this is just to inform them of what is going on in case they get calls.

White asked what was going on the property. Hardin said she does not know, but that it will be commercial.

White said that he spoke to the lady that lives in the first house and she did not get a letter. Hardin said that she would check and deliver a letter to her if needed.

- D. Discussion of a Request from MMH 378, LLC to annex approximately 0.82 acres of property located on Hwy 378 (PIN 337-15-01-0010) and request to rezone from Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC)** Hardin informed Council that this annexation request was the same as the previous and is adjacent to the previous parcel as shown on the map. The property is currently vacant, within our utility service area, and zoned Horry County Highway Commercial. The annexation is sought to comply with the City of Conway policies regarding connection to utility services. This request also has the same schedule as the previous request and if Planning Commission makes a recommendation, staff will forward to City Council at their next meeting on August 15 for first reading of the ordinance. Hardin said that property owners within 200' have been notified. The future land use map supports the Highway Commercial zoning district.

Hardin said that there are buffer requirements between R1 and HC zoning districts.

White said that he had the same comment as before and that the lady that he spoke to lives in the first house behind the church. Hardin said that she did not receive a letter because that parcel is outside of the 200' zone.

- E. Discussion of a Request from Peggy J Jones to rezone approximately 0.33 acres of property located at 1312 Forest View Road (PIN 338-14-01-0030) from Low-Density Single Family Residential (R1) to Professional (P).** Hardin informed Council that this property is located at 1312 Forest View Road and the owner of the property would like to rezone from R1 to Professional. The site currently has a residential structure on it and the structure was the site of a fire in 2018. Hardin told Council that there was a history of the code activity on this property in their packet. The Future Land Use map calls for this property to remain as a Low-Density Residential use. Hardin said that letters have been sent to the property owners within 200' and that staff has received 9

email opposition letters. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 4 and that information will be forwarded to City Council at their meeting on August 15.

FIRST READING

- A. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-08-15 (A) to rezone 0.65 acres of property located on Shoffner Rd (PIN 325-13-04-0016) from Professional (P) to Highway Commercial (HC).** Hardin informed Council that this property on Shoffner Road is currently zoned Professional and the applicant would like to rezone to Highway Commercial to construct retail shops. The P zoning district does allow some uses that would fit in a strip commercial center, but the HC has more flexibility and would allow for more tenant options. Property to the west and north of the parcel are already zoned HC; the neighboring lot on Shoffner Road has a three-door strip commercial center, and behind this parcel is the Food Lion shopping center on Highway 701 N. Hardin said that the Future Land Use map in the Comprehensive Plan calls for the subject property – as well as the adjacent Food Lion shopping center – to be used for Industrial development. The Industrial designation was likely placed on Shoffner Road to accommodate the industrial properties at the end of the street. Hardin stated that after Planning Commission closed the public hearing, they unanimously voted to recommend approval and recommended that staff revisit the Future Land Use map for potential updates in this area that would accommodate the Food Lion shopping center and other entities. Hardin said that staff supports the Planning Commission’s recommendation.

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

White asked staff to label specific items on the maps so Council is aware of where the location is located, such as Food Lion. Hardin said yes, that staff will label the photos.

Blain-Bellamy asked about revisiting the request after the land use map has been updated and would staff’s recommendation change. Hardin said it is just an error on the future land use map and that staff’s recommendation would be the same.

- B. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-08-15 (B) to rezone 0.29 acres located in the 600 block of Main St (PIN 338-13-03-0033) from Professional (P) to Low/Medium Density Residential District (R-1).** Hardin informed Council that The Mathis’ have owned this property since 1993 and that the lot is vacant. The Mathis’ also own 610 Laurel Street, the lot that abuts the subject property. The owners would like to construct a greenhouse on their property. The current lot at 610 Laurel Street already has an accessory structure and there is not enough yard left to accommodate a greenhouse, so the Mathis’ have applied to build a greenhouse in their “back yard” property that fronts on Main Street. Greenhouses are allowed as an accessory structure to a primary use but since the Mathis’ “back yard” is officially a different piece of property and has no primary structure, that means that neither the greenhouse nor any other accessory structure could be located on that site. The Mathis’ want to join the two properties as one lot and before that can happen the lots need to share the same zoning designation as R1. The Future Land Use map calls for the subject property to remain as Professional. This property is in an overlay zone and site plan review would be required by the Community Appearance Board. The potential alternative is instead of

rezoning all of the lot that abuts Main Street is to rezone a portion of that lot that could be combined with the property that fronts at 610 Laurel Street. The alternative amended boundary would make the 610 Laurel Street lot approximately 16,200 sq. ft. and zoned R1 and the new lot 151 that abuts Main Street would remain Professional and be approximately 8,000 sq. ft. Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the original request, citing that Main Street had other properties zoned R1 in that area and that Mr. Mathis had convincingly showed how difficult it would be to use the proposed 8,000 sq. ft.

Mike Mathis stated that he and his wife want a greenhouse. Mathis said that there are large oak trees on the site that prevent any business from building there, drainage issues especially between the trees, and no driveway on the lot. Mathis said that he would like the whole lot to be R1.

Goldfinch stated that he has confidence in anything that goes before the CAB.

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

C. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-08-15 (C) Granting a Non-Exclusive Franchise Agreement to Abel Wilson, d.b.a. A Coffee Movement for a mobile vending unit.

Hardin informed Council that Abel Wilson is requesting a franchise agreement to sell coffee via a mobile food vending service Tuesdays through Saturdays from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. on city owned property at 935 Second Avenue. In order to utilize public property such as parking, sidewalks and public land for private enterprise, a vendor must enter into a Franchise Agreement with the City. For a Franchise Agreement to be valid, it must receive two readings of City Council as an Ordinance. Prior to the first reading, the applicant did place a legal line advertisement, noting the meeting, in a newspaper of general circulation, three different days, with the third ad running no later than seven calendar days before the first reading. Hardin said that staff also told Mr. Wilson that the property has been discussed as the future site of a multi-unit development and that any permitting action or sale of the property would necessitate invoking the 30-day revocation clause that is built into the franchise agreement.

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

D. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-08-15 (D) to amend Article 6 – Design Standards, of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), to increase the maximum height limit for parcels zoned Highway Commercial (HC) in the Gateway Corridor Overlay (GCO).

Hardin informed Council that the current maximum height allowed in the HC zoning district is 50-feet, city wide. With the recent approval of the Hotel Incentive Program, the maximum height is a deterrent for possible future hotels along Highway 501 within the Gateway Corridor Overlay. Additionally, the current building height limit in the HC zoning district within unincorporated Horry County is 120-feet, county wide. In order to facilitate development of property within the Gateway Corridor Overlay, staff proposed to amend the UDO to increase maximum height limitation on Highway 501 between Lake Busbee and Carolina Forest Boulevard for parcels zoned HC only to sixty-five (65) feet above base floor elevations.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Bellamy to approve first reading of this amendment. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- E. First Reading of Ordinance #2022-08-15 (E) Article J, Chapter 5 - Hotel Incentive, of the City of Conway Municipal Code to amend the Hotel Incentive Program.** Emrick stated that since the creation of the Hotel Incentive Program that allows reimbursement of property taxes, reimbursement of hospitality taxes, and expedited review period, that the Conway Chamber of Commerce has met with hotel developers. Due to the current inflation rates, the incentive that the City is offering is not quite enough so the amendment is to change the years of reimbursement on some of the incentives from 5 to 7 years. Also, being cleaned up in this amendment is the Hospitality tax rebate as it will start when the Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

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

Goldfinch thanked the Chamber for working with the developers and the City.

Blain-Bellamy stated that this is what the City has wanted for a long time and she thanked staff as well.

CONSIDERATION

- A. Consideration of a Request for Waiver of Sidewalk Requirements for the Proposed Whittemore Park Middle School, 500 El Bethel Road –** Hardin stated that the engineer for the Whittemore Park Middle School project off El Bethel Road has requested a waiver of sidewalk requirements for this project. Hardin explained the site plan. There are two sections of sidewalk along El Bethel: the one south of the driveway, which is closer to Hwy. 378, about 3,150 linear ft.; and the one north of the driveway, closer to Crabtree Creek and approximately 5,900 linear ft. Hardin said that staff had concerns about exempting the new middle school from requiring sidewalks, so Conway and Horry County Schools staff discussed finding a middle ground. Horry County Schools engineers have developed an alternative request that calls for installing the 535.5 ft. section on the north side of the school driveway and waiving the 396.5 ft. section. This would provide a connection to the McLeod property and the neighborhood across El Bethel. This would reduce the amount for the Horry County Schools cost for the sidewalk waiver to \$9,662.71.

Blain-Bellamy asked what is staff's recommendation. Emrick stated that connecting to a vacant property is a positive for the City as the chance for that to be developed is high and we would have to put in a sidewalk to connect eventually.

Blain-Bellamy said that sometimes when we do accept the fee in lieu and if that sidewalk is established years later, then we could be selling ourselves short.

Ryne Hardwick with ADC Engineering further explained the request and stated that the school district is putting in a signalized intersection that will include a crosswalk to get over to the residential neighborhood on the other side of the street.

White stated that some kids along this path may be walking to school and we need these sidewalks. The Complete Streets Program insures that kids are able to walk to school.

Emrick said that where El Bethel ends is currently the beginning of the Perimeter Road project which would include a multi-use pathway and the sidewalk would connect to that pathway.

Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White to deny the sidewalk waiver request. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- B. Consideration of a Request for Waiver of Sidewalk Requirements for Elmhurst Phase 5** – Hardin informed Council that the applicant, Jimmy Gerald requests a waiver of sidewalk requirements for this phase of the subdivision, located on Medlen Parkway. Two lots would have frontage along Medlen Parkway in this phase of Elmhurst and under the current regulations, 255 linear feet of sidewalk would be required along the frontage of this subdivision on Medlen Parkway. The property owner does not foresee connectivity. Using \$24.37 per linear foot for labor and construction, the estimate for a payment in lieu of sidewalk construction including the sidewalk, grading, and clearing is \$6,214.35.

Blain-Bellamy asked where this was in relation to Oak Tree Farms. Emrick pointed it out on the map.

White said that he had the same concerns as the previous request and that this could be a walkable community and if the City doesn't have sidewalks, then they would be walking in the streets.

Motion: White made a motion to deny the sidewalk waiver request.

Davis Inabnit further explained the applicants request for the waiver of sidewalk requirements and stated that the City of Conway has a pump station adjacent to these lots and no sidewalks across the street at Midtown Village. He then said that there are and will be sidewalks that connect throughout the neighborhood and that logistically this would be a sidewalk to nowhere, due to the flood zone.

Goldfinch asked for clarification on the map. Hardin stated that the FEMA floodway does run through this area.

Blain-Bellamy asked for staff's recommendation. Hardin stated that they did not support the waiver.

Blain-Bellamy seconded White's motion to deny the sidewalk waiver request.

Vote: White, Blain-Bellamy, Helms and Butler voted yes, with Goldfinch and Hyman voting no. Motion carried 4-2 to deny the sidewalk waiver request.

- C. Consideration of an Appeal of the Tree Board's Decision for Removal of a Landmark Live Oak Tree from Property at 206 Lakeland Drive** – Hyman recused himself from this request. Hardin informed Council that this is an appeal from the tree boards decision

for removal of a live oak tree at 206 Lakeland. Staff was called from someone in the neighborhood that there was some tree work going on and staff found that no tree removal permits had been issued for the project. A site visit was performed and staff then observed the remains of several large trees, including a large oak stump in the rear of the property. The fee assessed for the removal of the trees was \$10,800. When taking down a tree in the City of Conway you have options to replant or to mitigate the amount to replace. If the trees are taken down without a permit then that can be taken and multiplied by a mitigation factor. The measurement for this tree was 32" D.B.H. The total number of trees to be replanted is calculated as follows: $32" \text{ dbh} \times 3 = 96"$ divided by $4" = 24$ total trees if all trees are the minimum 4" diameter. The maximum fee would then be calculated by $24 \times \$450 = \$10,800$ in mitigation fees if no trees are replanted. The applicant would still need to go to the tree board for permission.

Hardin said that the applicant went to the tree board and provided a home inspection that recommended the trees within 10 feet of the home should be removed or considered for removal. The applicants discussed this with the tree board. The tree board recently approved their minutes and said, "After review of existing pictures it appears that the board would not have approved the removal of the tree if giving the option prior to it being cut." The tree board denied the motion for an appeal with a vote of 4-1.

Hardin said that the applicant did indicate that there were medical issues that prevented them from getting the permits prior to the removal but the applicant had also worked with the City Arborist in the past on other properties and was aware of the process.

Hardin stated that the applicant did appeal the tree boards decision as required by code and appealed to City Council in the timeframe.

Blain-Bellamy asked if the \$10,800 fee was arbitrary. Hardin said no, staff measured the tree and came up with the amount by using the formula. She then explained the formula.

Blain-Bellamy said that she understood the fee on the property owner and asked if we could also impose a fee on the person taking down the tree. She then said if it is not part of our ordinance, she would like for us to look at it.

Rosa Van Pelt stated that she is here to ask for relief from the fine. She said that there were lots of things going on at that time and that her husband was very sick.

Blain-Bellamy asked if someone took the tree down without Pelt requests. Pelt said no, that when she talked to the guy, he said it could fall on the roof at any time.

Blain-Bellamy asked if she had taken down trees before. Pelt said yes.

Blain-Bellamy asked if she had worked with Wanda Lilly, the City's Arborist in the past. Pelt said yes, just trimming in the past.

Blain-Bellamy asked Lilly to give some clarity on any former relationship with this homeowner. Lilly said she has worked with the homeowner multiple times and in 2021 on two separate properties for pruning and also discussed the protected tree removal process.

Emrick said that Ordinance 3-4-15 states: Denial of landmark tree removal permit. Any person denied a landmark tree removal permit by the tree board may appeal to Conway City Council. An appeal must be filed in writing within 10 working days of the denial of the permit to the City Arborist. Emrick said that he doesn't think that they can appeal the fine to City Council, all that they can appeal is whether the tree permit should be issued. So, if you find that the tree board made a mistake in denying the post cutting tree permit, then you could overturn that which would then overturn the entire fee process. According to what he read, he said City Council does not have the authority to reduce the fee. Emrick said that is his interpretation of reading it right now and he apologized for not catching it earlier but if you question that interpretation, he recommends that Council defer this request.

Blain-Bellamy said that it seems as though the applicant has come today to ask that City Council either remove the fee or reduce the fee and according to the City's Ordinance, City Council doesn't have the right to do that. She said that City Council can either support the tree board's decision or concur with them.

Emrick said that the tree board is a quasi-judicial board and any appeal of the fine amount would have to go to Circuit Court. Emrick then read from the Ordinance: The Conway tree board shall make the final determination of any penalty for the removal of a protected or landmark tree without a permit.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White to support the tree board's decision. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Hyman recused himself from this request.

- D. Consideration of a Hotel Incentive Application from Waccamaw Hotel LP for a Proposed Fairfield by Marriott, 2061 Highway 501 (PIN 383-07-01-0008)** – Dennis stated that she spoke to the applicant and they have requested deferral on their Hotel and Short-Term Rental Incentive Program Application until the Hotel Incentive amendment has been finalized.

Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White to defer this request. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- E. Discussion of Participation in the Waccamaw River Study** – Harrelson told Council that Horry County Government has recently entered into an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to perform a Waccamaw River and Watershed Study. This study will encompass the entire Waccamaw River and associated watersheds beginning in North Carolina and ending in Georgetown County at Winyah Bay. USACE will cooperatively investigate how this river and neighboring watersheds, contributing downstream backwaters, and coastal impacts such as storm surge collectively function in large flood events. The desired goal of the study is to collect and analyze the most current data with the latest technology to better understand what, if any, opportunities are available to reduce and mitigate impacts of riverine flooding on our community and economy. More specifically, this study would further investigate the feasibility of constructing a floodwater diversion canal connecting the Waccamaw River to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, constructing a floodwater diversion canal connecting the Pee Dee/Waccamaw Rivers to

Murrells Inlet or the Atlantic Ocean, and identifying and investigating any other flood mitigation strategy that can offer significant improvement to the resiliency of the region. The study will be completed within three (3) years of the start date at a total cost of no more than \$3 million. Horry County will be responsible for a 50% contribution for a total of \$1.5 million over the course of three years. Harrelson said that the City of Conway has received an invitation from Horry County to participate as stake holders in the study. A partnership for the study will be a giant leap into becoming a more flood resilient city. The City would provide valuable flooding information through photos, GIS, and our history. The study would not only provide answers to many flood related questions, but also allow City departments to re-evaluate flood ordinances, emergency management and future stormwater design. Staff recommends partnering with Horry County and USACE for the purposes of the Waccamaw River and Watershed Study along with a cash contribution of \$150,000, which would be \$50,000 per year for 3 years since 10% of the study is Conway. Funds would be taken from the Stormwater/Streets & Drainage reserve.

Blain-Bellamy asked if Horry County has requested the funds. Harrelson said no.

Motion: Hyman made a motion, seconded by Blain-Bellamy to partner with Horry County and the USACE and provide \$150,000 for the 3-year study. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Emrick informed Council of the following:

- The Terrace is starting to take shape. The lot has been partially graded, footers poured and set, and the block is mostly laid. The next step will be facing the block in brick and leveling out each of the terraces before the turf goes down and archway entrances are constructed. The goal is still September for completion.
- Last week, we had a partial failure of the sea wall at the marina, we believe due to the heavy rain storm we had. Fetter Marine removed some of the earth behind the wall on Saturday to relieve pressure. Today we met at the marina to discuss their next steps. In total, we are going to replace 120 feet of wall utilizing Hospitality Funds for the repairs.
- The new road behind Walgreens and Chick-Fil-A continues to make great progress. The new pond and stormwater infrastructure are all in place. The road is starting to take shape. Chick-Fil-A is currently closed for 12-16 weeks as they remodel and rebuild their drive thru. This is something we have worked closely with them on as we build the road we will tie it in to their new layout.
- Another Drive in Movie, Encanto, will be held on August 26, at 7:30 p.m. This is free for members of the Sports and Fitness Center and only \$2 for non-members.
- National Night Out is tomorrow from 6-8 p.m. at Smith Jones Park. This is a great chance to meet first responders from Conway, Horry County and South Carolina. And I believe, there are hot dogs.
- Friday from 4-7 p.m. at the Conway Walmart, the Police Department is holding the Cram-A-Cruiser event raising school supplies for families in need.

August 1, 2022

- The first day of school is only 2 weeks away, the 15th of August. As we have all year, staff members are encouraged to wear Green and Gold on Fridays for Tiger Fridays.
- Coastal is back in session on August 24, so get ready for a lot of activity around campus, including additional pedestrian traffic.
- There is a litter clean up event scheduled for August 25 at the Town Green beginning at 10:30 a.m.
- Some of you may have seen the fountain at the Laurel Street Roundabout and noticed its bright white change in appearance. The fountain was completed resurfaced a few weeks ago and an over eager contractor painted it white. We are not overly thrilled with the new look, but we are going to put water in the fountain and see if we want to repaint.
- The median beds on 501 between Lake Busbee and 544 will be sprayed tomorrow morning. When the summer heat fades, we will plant additional material in these beds to help fill them.
- Some very positive news that we received only this morning... Chestnut Bay has been identified for further review by FEMA under the BRIC grant. This is very positive and we will keep you posted for further updates as we receive them.
- Finally, as you all know, we have some fairly big tricks up our sleeves for October this year, and have no fear, those are going to stay under wraps for now. But we are putting together an increasingly impressive calendar of events for the month as part of those festivities, and we need to start promoting those. So, I'm going to highlight the calendar of October for you now. Keep in mind, we are still adding events.
 - October 1 — Halloween Carnival — Town Green — Also Parents weekend at CCU
 - October 3 — Spooky Boat Tours — Waccamaw Outfitters, every Monday and Wednesday evenings
 - October 7 — Working Title — Witches, Wizards and Warlocks Ride
 - October 8 — Halloween Boat Parade — Outdoor Movie Night at the Terrace
 - October 13 — Halloween Fun Run and 5k
 - October 14-15 — Smoke on the Waccamaw BBQ Cook Off
 - October 14 — Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Masquerade
 - October 15 - CCU Homecoming and City sponsor night
 - October 20 — 22 — Ghost Walk by Conway Downtown Alive
 - October 22 - Spooktacular Disc Golf Event — Waccamaw River Park
 - October 27 — 30 — Carrie at Theater of the Republic
 - October 28 — 30 — Haunted Trail — Waccamaw River Park
 - October 29 — Halloween Golf Cart Parade — Conway Downtown Alive — Corn & Costume — HC Museum
 - October 30 — Trunk or Treat — First United Methodist Church
 - October 31 — Halloween and The Rock Church's Halloween Event, Trunk or Treat First Baptist Church
- Tonight, we are starting a new update. Devin Parks, from the Conway Chamber of Commerce will give us a little update on Economic Development activities that he has been working on, on behalf of the City.

Devin Parks from the Conway Chamber of Commerce updated Council on the following items:

August 1, 2022

- Conway Riverfest
- Population
- Retail Trade Area
- Business License
- Foot Traffic after Covid Recovery
- Visitor Report for City and Downtown area
- Housing Market
- Proposed Lake Busbee Bypass Bridge Route
- Average Annual Return on Investment

Hyman asked Parks how many grocers he has talked to in the past year. Parks said that he has spoken to 8 national retail grocers, 2 of which have land under contract.

Goldfinch asked Parks what feedback he was getting from the grocery stores. Parks said they want to see immediate residential and commercial development within a certain area that they are looking at. They want to know how many of the residents are actually taking a trip down to Carolina Forest to shop at their other location. Parks said it is really about demand. The push back that we received 5 years ago is not what we are receiving anymore. Now it is a matter of them doing their due diligence and closing on that particular property.

Hyman asked if the population growth had anything to do with it. Parks said yes, that has put us on everyone's radar.

COUNCIL INPUT

Butler stated that all schools in the area will soon be back in session and asked to keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers.

Goldfinch said that he was at the Waccamaw River on Saturday with family and every boat that passed everyone was waving. He said that was nostalgic to him as growing up everyone knew everyone and waved at each other. He encouraged all to start waving. Goldfinch then showed a picture of a flower in the shape of a fish at the Marina and said that he appreciates that staff is creative and is always looking for ways to enhance the quality of life here in Conway.

Hyman seconded Goldfinch about waving to all as he lived on the river growing up, and would sit on the dock and wave at everyone that passed, as it was just a part of life. Hyman said that he is excited that the old train that was used for timber and is located off the bank along the river is going to be moved, as the same company that helped move the dilapidated boats have agreed to help again. He said that this a great opportunity to bring back history. He encouraged everyone to stay cool.

Helms said that being a flood victim herself, she was happy to see the Waccamaw River study. She thanked staff and the committees, as they have a hard job, and make Council look good.

Blain-Bellamy said that the League of Cities met last week and there was some good participation with the various municipalities across Horry County. She said that she thinks 3 cities were represented in full and it is a great opportunity to support each other and learn from each other. She said that she is no longer the President but would like for us to continue with the group. She then said at the meeting that it was brought to their attention about an appeal from A Fathers Place, one of her favorite charities that is for organizations and individuals. Blain-Bellamy said that they have done outstanding work building relationships between Fathers and their children, among lots of other things. One of their concerns is the rash of killings in Horry County rural areas, as we are all affected as there was a recent murder in Conway that was tied to, as she understood it, the string of murders that were happening in the Longs community. Their appeal is to put together funding that they qualify for and the funder requires that they first have \$6,000 to make themselves approvable for the larger piece of money for them to make some impact along the line of helping to discourage of whatever it takes and killing each other is not helpful. She thinks that this a great opportunity for them to help save lives. She then thanked everyone for attending and said that it was a really good meeting.

WORKSHOP

Discussion on Fire Department Training Facility – Hendrick gave an update on the fire training facility that has been talked about since fiscal year 2018-2019, saying most of the delays were due to Covid. Year to date we have spent \$32,807. The location was finalized and it will be at the City Shop Complex. The site has been cleared and ready to move forward. Hendrick said that the construction vendor went out on site and has sent in his proposal. The proposal was \$99,440.00. The fire department was approved for \$60,000 in 2019-2020, which we knew would not cover the full price due to inflation but would come close. We have \$25,000 in the budget for this year, therefore leaving us \$74,440 short. Hendrick said it is now on hold, but very exciting for the fire department as this facility has been needed for several years. Hendrick said that the fire department has been traveling since 1994 for this training and it would be nice to have their own and be able to do it in house. It is approximately a 210 day build so that would be completed in Spring of 2023. Hendrick said that we are coming to Council today to request the additional \$74,440. The construction vendor has agreed to accept the available \$25,000 as a down payment with the remaining \$74,440 being due upon completion of the project.

Emrick stated that Council does not need to make a motion on the budget tonight, but if in favor of it, it would be included on a future agenda.

Blain-Bellamy said that she is in support of the facility and can only imagine the difficulty in having to travel and is also surprised that our inability to pay for it now is only \$75,000 short. She believes that it will not only serve as an aid to Conway Fire Fighters but to others in the area.

Hendrick then showed Council the rendering of what it will look like.

Blain-Bellamy asked for the square footage.

Emrick stated that one of the delays was the location of the site. Hendrick said that the City did spend some money on the New Road property, and the Utilities Department has agreed to extend the lines and we have also been working with the Public Works Department on the site clearing,

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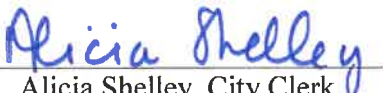
and Gavin will extend the power. Some of the expenses have been done in house so that makes a huge difference.

Perzan said it will be approximately 3,000 square feet.

Hendrick said that we choose this vendor as he is local and has already constructed 2 other training facilities in this area. All construction will be done on-site.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hyman, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:06 p.m. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 15 day of August, 2022.


Alicia Shelley, City Clerk