

August 15, 2022

CITY OF CONWAY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONWAY CITY HALL
229 MAIN STREET, CONWAY
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 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; Mike Prosser, Police; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Kayla Fleming, Associate Judge; Brandon Harrelson, Public Works Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Rock Rabon, Fleet Maintenance Director; Billy Jo Thompkins, Recreation Maintenance Manager; Katie Dennis, Planning Concierge; David Crotts, Assistant Finance Director; Roseanne Dates, Grants Supervisor; and Alicia Shelley, City Clerk

OTHERS: John Richardson, Alan Todd, CCU Professor; Brad Parnell; Melissa Jefferson along with 15 others from CCU/family; and approximately 15 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: White made a motion, seconded by Helms, to approve the August 15, 2022 meeting agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. **Final 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).**
- B. **Final 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).**
- C. **Final 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.**
- D. **Final 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**

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- E. Approval of a Resolution Declaring August 16, 2022 as Melissa Jefferson Day in Conway**
- F. Acceptance of Bid for Replacement of Elevator at Conway City Hall**
- G. Approval of Participation Agreement with High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) to participate with Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP)**
- H. Approval of August 1, 2022 City Council Minutes**

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: **Motion:** Hyman made a motion, seconded by Jordan to approve the August 15, 2022 consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Alan Todd, Professor at CCU offered plywood to the City to board up the windows at the Whittemore Elementary School.

Brad Parnell spoke in opposition of the rezoning at 1312 Forest View Road.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- A. Presentation of a Resolution Declaring August 16, 2022 as Melissa Jefferson Day in Conway** – Mayor Blain-Bellamy presented Melissa Jefferson with a Resolution proclaiming August 16, 2022 as Melissa Jefferson Day. Coastal Carolina University officials and her family attended the meeting.
- B. Discussion of a request to annex approximately 3.95 acres located at 220 University Plaza Dr (PINs 383-14-01-0007, 383-14-01-0008 and 383-11-04-0026) and 1.89 acres located at 107 University Plaza Dr (PIN 383-14-01-0017) and zone all properties to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC)** – Hardin stated that this annexation consists of parcels located at 220 University Plaza Drive and 107 University Plaza Drive. The current zoning is Horry County Highway Commercial and the applicants wish to rezone to City of Conway Highway Commercial. The Future Land Use Map shows Highway Commercial and Industrial across the street and Institutional behind these parcels. The annexations are sought together to support a new hotel project that will be constructed in the City of Conway. Twenty-eight letters were sent to property owners within 200 ft, legal ad was run in the Horry Independent, signs were posted on the property, and to date no emails or letters have been received in response to the notifications. Planning Commission will hold the public hearing on September 1, 2022 and then staff will forward that recommendation for inclusion on City Council’s next available meeting for potential first reading.

White asked about the 200-foot requirement. Emrick said that is standard throughout other municipalities within the state. Hardin added that is the standard city block size but that it is not a state requirement, just a courtesy to the neighboring property owners.

C. Discussion of a request from Charles Merriam, Jr. to annex 0.25 acres located at 1621 Church St (PIN 338-10-03-0016) and rezone from Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC). Hardin informed Council that this parcel is located at 1621 Church Street between the new Bojangles and Zaxbys. This property is proposed to be converted into a quick oil change facility. This property is currently zoned Horry County Highway Commercial and is proposed to rezone to City of Conway Highway Commercial. This will fill a doughnut hole. The Future Land Use Map shows this parcel as Highway Commercial. Eight letters have been sent to property owners within 200 ft, legal ad was run in the Horry Independent, signs were posted on the property, and to date no emails or letters have been received in response to the notifications. Planning Commission will hold the public hearing on September 1, 2022 and then staff will forward that recommendation for inclusion on City Council's next available meeting for potential first reading.

D. Discussion of a request from Mungo Homes to annex approximately 17.71 acres located at the intersection of Hwy 813 and Hwy 65 (PIN 324-00-00-0036) and rezone from Horry County SF-10 (Single Family Residential) to City of Conway Low/Medium Density Residential (R1). Hardin stated that Mungo Homes owns approximately 17.71 acres of property located at the intersection of Highway 813 and Highway 65, and abutting Lite Road. The property is currently vacant, and the applicant plans to install a new single-family residential subdivision. Annexation is sought to comply with the City of Conway policies regarding connection to utility services. The current zoning is Horry County Single Family Residential (SF10) and they would like to rezone to City of Conway Low/Medium Density Residential (R1). The Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as R1 on the Future Land Use Map, which is compatible with the applicant's request. Seventeen letters have been sent to property owners within 200 ft, legal ad was run in the Horry Independent, signs were posted on the property, and to date no emails or letters have been received in response to the notifications. Planning Commission will hold the public hearing on September 1, 2022 and then staff will forward that recommendation for inclusion on City Council's next available meeting for potential first reading.

White asked if St. Paul's Missionary Baptist were notified. Emrick said that they are across the street so they should have received a letter.

Blain-Bellamy asked for clarification of the location. Hardin reiterated that it was at the intersection of Highway 813 and Highway 65.

Butler was concerned about the burial site at this intersection. Hardin said that it would not be disturbed as it is not part of this request.

E. Discussion of a proposal to amend the Rivertown Landing Planned District (PD) to expand the list of permitted uses on Commercial Lot A off Community Dr (PIN #337-05-01-0006). Hardin informed Council that this is a request to amend the Rivertown Landing Planned Development that was created in 2007 and located off Highway 501 at

Riverport Drive. The stated purpose was to create a walkable, mixed use community featuring multi-family residential, civic, commercial, and office space in the City of Conway. It has been directly amended three times and indirectly amended, a portion zoned out of the PD, to date. The current request is to allow the remaining commercial lot B to permit all uses as allowed in the Highway Commercial zoning district and that parking shall be provided as required by the UDO for the proposed use. Seven letters have been sent to property owners within 200 ft, legal ad was run in the Horry Independent, signs were posted on the property, and to date no emails or letters have been received in response to the notifications. Planning Commission will hold the public hearing on September 1, 2022 and then staff will forward that recommendation for inclusion on City Council's next available meeting for potential first reading.

F. Discussion of a proposal to amend the Ekklesia Church Planned District (PD) to expand the permitted uses for the Miller Motte building at 2451 E Hwy 501 (PIN #383-11-03-0004) and the Canal Industries Facility/"The Hub" at 2431 E Hwy 501 (PIN #383-11-04-0025). Hardin informed Council that the Ekklesia Church Planned Development was created in 2017 to provide a church campus including active and passive recreational use on the church's 8.31-acre property. The plan included a church facility with a Worship Center, welcome center, café, and a bookstore; a Christian Education Center including a licensed daycare/afterschool care programs; an administrative area and a youth area. Future plans included an educational addition to the church facility, a worship center, a foyer/gathering area, a Multi-Purpose Performing Arts/Recreational Facility including a Fitness Center, a pavilion and a walking trail around the rear pond. A major amendment in 2021 increased the church's area to 21.24 acres with the addition of 2 properties. One was the Miller Motte College building and the other was the Canal Industries facility. Permitted uses in both the original PD review and the 2021 amendment were limited to religious institutional activities including worship space, performing arts, recreation, education, child care, and administrative/accessory support spaces. Recently, staff has received applications from businesses seeking to operate their business in these buildings and staff has denied these requests as the PD document does not allow for non-ecclesiastical uses. The proposed changes in this amendment would allow for all uses in the Highway Commercial zoning district to be located in either the Miller Motte building or the Canal Industries facility.

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING

Public Hearing and Second 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) along Highway 501 from Lake Busbee to Carolina Forest Blvd. Hardin stated 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 deterrent for possible future hotels along Highway 501 within the Gateway Corridor Overlay. In order to facilitate development of property within the Gateway Corridor Overlay, staff proposes to amend the UDO to increase the maximum height limitation to 65-feet on Highway 501 between Lake Busbee and Carolina Forest Boulevard for parcels zoned HC only.

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Blain-Bellamy asked if other parcels throughout the city might benefit from this amendment. Emrick stated that the height limitations haven't been an issue, but that staff may come back later for other zoning districts.

Hyman added that prior Councils have had these discussions about raising the height limits. Emrick said that we haven't had height issue but that staff can look at the approach and bring back suggestions.

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

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

FIRST READING

- A. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-09-06 (A) from Your Neighborhood Child Development Center to rezone approx. 3.5 acres of property located on Creel Street (PIN 369-05-02-0006) from Professional (P) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC).** Hardin informed Council that this parcel is a vacant 3.5-acre tract located at 1003 Creel Street and adjacent to the property owned by Mason Temple Church and leased out to multiple offices, including Horry County Medicaid, South Carolina Legal Services, and associated programs of the SH Department of Health and Human Services. It is also adjacent to a day care center and residential duplexes. To the south and west, it is adjacent to the Oak Glen subdivision. The property was annexed in 2021 in order to install a child day care center expansion on the site. Since the annexation and rezoning in 2021, the plans have changed and the applicant would like to construct a laundromat on the property, however that is not an allowed use in the Professional zoning district, so the applicant has requested to rezone this parcel to NC to allow for the proposed laundromat. The Future Land Use Map calls for the property to remain Professional and there are no other NC zones in this area. Twenty-one letters were sent to property owners with 200-feet of the proposed change, a sign was posted on site, and the legal ad ran in the newspaper. Fourteen letters in opposition were received and five people spoke in opposition at the Public Hearing Planning Commission meeting on August 4, 2022. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the request with a vote of 4-1.

Blain-Bellamy said that she has concerns about once it is no longer a laundromat that other things could come.

Hyman asked if bars and nightclubs are allowed in the NC zoning district. Hardin said yes, and then discussed the other uses that are allowed in the NC district.

White asked if any other zoning districts would fit that would allow the laundromat. Hardin said yes, others would allow but they would not fit.

White said that he spoke to some of the residents and they were in opposition. Hardin then said that there were several residents in Oak Glenn and Rosehaven that were opposed to this request.

Blain-Bellamy asked what is particular about a laundromat that makes it disallowed. Hardin said it is out of sync in the Professional zone as it is usually open 7 days a week for 12 hours a day.

Goldfinch said that he doesn't have an issue with a laundromat, but he does when it becomes a nightclub. He then said that he would entertain an idea of possibly creating another zone that would allow this application as Professional does not fit and Neighborhood Commercial allows other uses.

Emrick stated that Neighborhood Commercial is between Professional and Highway Commercial. Emrick said that maybe removing some of the uses from Neighborhood Commercial would work.

Hardin suggested maybe limiting the hours of operation for the laundromat.

Blain-Bellamy said that NC and HC do not fit but she doesn't disagree that another designation could be fitting for childcare and laundromats.

Motion: White made a motion to approve first reading of this rezoning request.

Hardin stated that Council could defer until staff could come up with a different solution, but if the request is denied, the applicant could not bring back for 12 months.

There was no second, therefore the motion was not considered.

- B. First Reading of Ordinances #ZA2022-09-06 (B) and #ZA2022-09-06 (C) to annex approximately 1.63 acres of property located on Hwy 378 (PINs 337-15-01-0010 and 337-15-01-0017) and rezone from Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC).** Hardin stated that both properties are located on Highway 378 and are currently vacant, within our service area and currently zoned Horry County Highway Commercial. The annexation is sought to comply with the City policies regarding connection to utility services. The Future Land Use map shows the property as Highway Commercial, which matched the zoning request for this proposal. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 4 and 3 people spoke to express their concerns. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the proposed annexations and zoning designation.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hyman to approve first reading of this rezoning request. **Vote:** Helms, Hyman, Blain-Bellamy, Goldfinch, Jordan and Butler voted yes, with White voting no. Motion carried 6-1.

- C. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-09-06 (D) 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 stated that this parcel is located at 1312 Forest View Road, which is 130 feet from Church Street that abuts three zoned Professional. A structure is located on the site that was once used as a residence. A fire in 2018 damaged the house to the point it was not

able to be inhabited, and there have not been sufficient repairs since then to bring the structure up to code. There have been several attempts to work with the property owner to bring the house up to code or, alternatively, demolish it. The current zoning is Low Medium Density Residential and the Future Land Use map calls for the property to remain Low Density Residential use. Thirteen letters were sent to the property owners within 200 feet of the proposed change, sign was posted on site, the legal ad ran in the newspaper, nine letters were received in opposition and 3 spoke in opposition at the Planning Commission public hearing on August 4, 2022. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the request with a vote of 4-1.

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

CONSIDERATION

- A. 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 this request was previously deferred in anticipation of the updated text amendment to the Hotel and Short-Term Rental Incentive Ordinance. The program allows the City to reimburse any person, firm, or corporation for the hospitality fees and property taxes collected by the City of Conway for a period of up to seven (7) years. As well as grant approval for an expedited review process of 15 days instead of 30 days. This project is currently under construction and would not need the expedited review process unless authorized to apply to any revisions needed during construction.

Blain-Bellamy asked for clarification with the new provision in place. Emrick said that they could apply within the next year and the reimbursement clock begins on the date of Certificate of Occupancy.

Motion: Hyman made a motion, seconded by Jordan to approve this Hotel and Short-Term Rental Incentive Program Application. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- B. Consideration of Waccamaw Economic Opportunity, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start Bus Driver Training using City Property** – M. Hyman stated that the Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Head Start/Early Head Start has asked to utilize the Whittemore Elementary site for bus driver training. The training is projected to begin in October 2022 and end March 2023. Training would occur Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with 1 ½ hours per student. There is a large paved area on the site which was previously used by Horry County Schools for bus driver training. Currently, there is a RFP for development advertised for this property. Submittals are due no later than December 10, 2024. However, the City could enter into an agreement with a qualified proposal any time before that date. Staff recommends approval of the property for bus driver training if Waccamaw EOC provides a certificate of liability insurance, and with the stipulation that the training must cease if City Council enters into an agreement for development of the property.

Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White to approve staff's recommendation of this request. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Consideration of Transfer of Tangible Property from Grand Strand Water and Sewer – Rogers stated that a group of state officials and concerned citizens has approached the City of Conway regarding the salvage of a locomotive that has been abandoned along the Waccamaw River to the South of the City for about 100 years. This group would like to see the locomotive restored and moved to a location where it can be displayed for the public. The locomotive currently sits along the edge of property owned by Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority, thus that organization has claim to it as tangible property. Another entity will be required to take ownership of it to allow restoration work to commence. Various community partners have agreed to donate their efforts to move and restore the locomotive. The City is in a position to assume ownership of the locomotive, which will require little upfront cost other than insurance coverage, however, there are no guarantees that the donation of all restoration costs will materialize.

Hyman stated that he has met with this group of officials and if the City assumes ownership, the City can control where it is located. Blackwater Crane will move it at no cost. The City could keep it at the shop for repairs that are needed.

Blain-Bellamy asked if there is any sharing of the cost of restoration. Hyman said there is no cost to move it and he isn't sure about the restoration cost, but said that Danny Jones of Jones Metal Works has volunteered to help on some of the metal fabrication.

Motion: Hyman made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch to accept the transfer of the Engine from Grand Strand Water and Sewer to the City of Conway. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Goldfinch stated that with the cost standpoint, if someone is willing to give it to us and it turns out to be something that we cannot do, the City has not lost anything.

D. Discussion on Redesign of Park View Road – Rogers stated that Park View Road has long been identified as a City street that causes significant safety concerns. It is directly adjacent to a neighborhood and Collins Park, but is primarily used as a cut-through for Southbound traffic on 701 to avoid the light at 16th. Large trucks often use the road to avoid the sharper turn at 16th. The current use of the road discourages foot traffic and cuts off Collins Park from the neighborhoods behind it. Staff met to review options to improve safety and functionality. Rogers presented four options as follows:

1. Create a cul-de-sac

Option 1 would involve ending Park View Road just before 16th avenue with a cul-de-sac style turn-around at the end. Parking would remain along the edge, but may be limited by two-way traffic on the road.

2. Transform in the road into parking only.

Option 2 would involve turning the road into a parking area. Traffic would enter from the 17th avenue side with angled parking on the Park side. Traffic would exit to 16th Avenue.

3. Install speed tables

Option 3 involves the least change to the area. Three speed tables would be added to the road and it would otherwise be left alone. This would serve to allow the road to maintain its current use, but slow traffic, hopefully increasing safety and discouraging cut-through traffic.

4. End Park View Road at 17th Avenue

Option 4 involves creating an arched park entrance at the 17th Avenue intersection. The road would be narrowed and the entrance shifted to the left side of the current road, making it nearly impossible for large trucks to navigate. The road would have new parking installed, possibly on both sides. Landscaping would be added to create a Conway-style street with trees encroaching into the road area, narrowing it at portions to a single lane. This option would also significantly increase the apparent size of Collins Park. Vehicle traffic inside the park would exit onto 16th Avenue.

Blain-Bellamy said that the major concern with Park View is the speeding. She asked if staff had considered planting trees along the length of the road to slow traffic. She said she doesn't personally think that an angled cut through is a bad thing as it helps to control the flow of traffic, if traffic behaves. Now, it appears that is not happening and if we can slow the traffic that still allows people to come in from North 701 and turn right onto 16th Avenue might be the direction that we want to go on.

Goldfinch stated that he thinks this road alleviates a lot of pressure off of Main Street and whatever we need to do to make it safer, let's do, if it is speed humps or narrowing the road, but he doesn't think he is ready to close the road.

Emrick stated that he had a conflict of interest. He then said that he has not reviewed any of the plans prior to the meeting nor has he had any input.

Rogers said that Option 1 would make it impossible to cut through to 16th Avenue. Option 2 may be what you are thinking about. If we came out with just trees we would lose 22 parking spaces. This would retain the parking, bring out the trees and narrow the road to one lane but would still be a cut through.

Blain-Bellamy said that she did not want it to be just parking and that the value of using that as a way to avoid the sharp turn at Main and 16th Avenue. She said that our goals for safety is to slow that traffic and you talked about ways to do that with angled parking, trees, and narrowing of the road. She said that she would also be opposed to closing the road.

Goldfinch said that what if every fifth angled parking space was a raised bed with a tree. Hyman said that it looks as though Option 2 has trees.

Blain-Bellamy asked if buses could use the angled parking. Rogers said we could make it so that buses are accommodated, making some spaces parallel.

Rogers stated that Options 2, 3 and 4 do have exits to 16th Avenue. Option 2 narrows it, Option 3 installs speed humps and Option 4 makes it a feeling of being inside the park.

Hyman said Options 2 and 3 together with slanted parking and speed humps. Blain-Bellamy said that she prefers the slanted parking and the trees. Goldfinch added maybe doing speed humps at each tree.

Blain-Bellamy asked how much does a speed hump cost. Harrelson said that the big ones are pricey. Blain-Bellamy said she thought we don't use speed humps because private motorists doing their own damage to their vehicles.

White added to put signs out so that no trucks enter.

Rogers said Option 4 could be used with no gate at the end.

Harrelson said that traffic studies have proven that Option 4 is going to slow people down more making people weave through. People slow down over a speed hump and then gun it until they get to the next one. The trees on Beaty Street slow people down. The new Chick Fil A Road was designed to have curves.

Blain-Bellamy said that the only fault that she has with Option 4 is the piece that says it ends Park View Road at 17th Avenue. Harrelson said that could be taken out and left open with this design.

Blain-Bellamy said that we are at a point where staff has heard generally what sounds favorable to Council and that the options could be refined and brought back with just a couple. Rogers said that he thinks what he is hearing is Option 4 with an open street and trees.

M Hyman said that staff will work with the neighbors to coordinate driveways.

Blain-Bellamy asked a neighbor, Mike Saville his thoughts. Saville stated that he is not in favor of closing the road as that would back up Main and Elm Streets. He likes the parking spots and spots for the buses. He also likes speed bumps and trees.

Rogers said that staff would bring back a final design for consideration at a future meeting.

- E. Consideration of Santee Cooper's Evolve Grant Application** – Rogers stated that Santee Cooper has discussed future upgrades to infrastructure in the City for electric vehicles. Recently, Santee Cooper released its 2022 Evolve Grant Program, offering grants up to \$25,000 with a 50% match. If Council is interested, the City of Conway could apply for a grant to provide 2 charging stations at an expense of approximately \$20,000. \$10,000 of which would be paid by this grant, the remaining would be covered by Hospitality Fees.

Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Hyman to authorize staff to apply for Santee Cooper's 2022 Evolve Grant Program. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- F. Consideration of a Donation of Funds to A Fathers Place** – White stated that A Fathers Place is trying to get a \$100,000 grant and that \$6,000 is needed to get into the running for that grant. He said that the Fathers Place board is asking all cities for a donation and he

would like the City of Conway to donate, if possible. He is asking for a donation of up to \$1,000.

Goldfinch asked what other cities are giving. White said that Atlantic Beach was donating \$500, Loris was donating \$1,300 and he wasn't sure of the amount from the City of Myrtle Beach.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Jordan to donate \$1,000 to a Fathers Place. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Emrick informed Council of the following:

- Update on the progress at The Terrace. The brick is almost completed. The grading should be finished this week and turf is scheduled in roughly two weeks. We've ordered the arched entrances and are working on light poles and hanging baskets. The goal is still September for completion.
- At the last meeting, I told you about the partial collapse of the sea wall at the Marina. It is now repaired and looks great!
- The new road behind Walgreens and Chick-Fil-A is ahead of schedule. All stormwater infrastructure is installed. The subgrade compaction test has passed and we're currently putting down base material from 16th Avenue to the new pond. We hope to be ready for curb and gutter within 60 days and asphalt within 90.
- Another Dive in Movie will be held on August 26 at 7:30 p.m. The movie is Encanto. This is free for members of the Sports and Fitness Center and only \$2 for non-members.
- Welcome back to school for students and teachers today. Please exercise patience on the roads for the next couple of weeks as we all relearn the traffic patterns of the schools. And don't forget, Fridays are Tiger Fridays, wear green and gold.
- Coastal is back in session on August 24, and move in day is this Friday 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.
- At the last meeting, I told you about the Laurel Street fountain being painted white by mistake. Last week, we filled the fountain with water, and the fountain has been transformed. It's very pretty with the water reflecting off of the newly painted fountain.
- We have a number of roads scheduled for resurfacing this year. This will begin in mid-September, weather cooperating. The first two roads on the schedule are Wild Wing Blvd and Chicora.
- On Wednesday, all of our department heads will take part in a unique emergency drill. Chief Hendrick will lead us in a daylong scenario during which we will prepare for a hurricane approaching our coast. This will provide valuable experience to all of our staff and help us recognize our strengths and our areas for improvement in emergency planning.
- Tonight, we have department head updates from Jeff Leveille and Rosanne Dates.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

IT - Leveille updated Council with the following:

Over the last six months IT has completed the new datacenter upgrade, adding 4 new servers and migrating all existing data and applications to the new systems. As part of the upgrade we added redundant switches and a second firewall for Internet redundancy. We are currently in the process of upgrading all server operating systems for the virtual machines to 2019 from 2012 due to end of life of that operating system.

On the city camera systems, we have added over 30 new cameras to include coverage at Grounds and Maintenance, The Public Works Admin building, City Court, complete coverage of Riverfront Park, The City Hall garden, the Garden walk, and Teal alley. We have also upgraded several cameras at Smith Jones Park, Collins Park, and the Sports and Fitness center.

We have added new outdoor Wi-Fi coverage for the entire Town Green, and the new Terrence behind 2nd and Laurel with coverage all the way to the water tower.

We just completed our 3rd quarterly email Phishing security test and the results continue to trend lower. The current test had a 3.9% failure rate compared to 4.5% in February, and 7.3% for the one prior to that. This shows that the security awareness training is paying off.

Lastly, we would like to welcome Marcus Cohen, who started today as an IT support Technician. He will be primarily focused on Public Safety.

Grants – Dates updated Council with the following:

Grants last report was in October 2021. Since then, we have received 8 awards totaling over \$1.1 million. 13 proposals were submitted totaling more than \$3.6 million. We are still waiting to learn the status of \$2.4 million of grants submitted.

The City did receive a large grant award in November. Rural Infrastructure Authority is awarding us \$1.1 million for the Crabtree Force Main/Park Hill Pump Station project. Combined with our previous EDA award, there's roughly \$7.1 million in grant funding going toward the Crabtree/Park Hill project.

The City received notification from SCEMD a few weeks ago that FEMA had selected Chestnut Bay for further review for BRIC. Last week, SCEMD told us that in the next few months, FEMA will request more information from us as they complete the review. It doesn't mean an award is definite, but it looks favorable so far. There are still hoops to jump through as we learn what documentation FEMA asks us to provide.

Summer is usually a calm time as far as applying for grants, but this year that has not been the case. This is an extremely busy time right now with federal and state grant opportunities opening up. State agencies got a late start using their ARPA funds and now there is a rush on making the

grant applications available and making awards so that funds can be obligated and spent according to US Treasury guidelines. We're working on two large grants from Rural Infrastructure Authority and SC Office of Resilience for stormwater projects that are due next month. New grant opportunities, mostly federal through ARPA, are still being announced and I expect there to be a lot of activity through the fall.

COUNCIL INPUT

Helms said that she has had a lot of calls about the flags on Main Street and that they look great. She said that Conway won their Jamboree Friday night. She then said that she attended the Conway Police Night Out at Smith Jones and had a real good time watching the kids play, dance and sing. She also thanked everyone for all that they do.

Hyman congratulated Melissa Jefferson. He said this is a small room and that council tries to do all that we can. He said it is amazing what she did and that we have had athletes that have excelled before, she has been awesome. He then stated to be mindful of the kids going back to school and the traffic backing up. Hyman urged everyone to be careful.

White asked for an update on the Smith Jones Pool. Emrick said that an RFP is out, we still do not have a pool contractor, but staff does hope to get one this time.

Jordan said that he would piggyback off of Hyman and he congratulated Melissa Jefferson as he watched her run and said that it was amazing. He then said with the schools to remember the kids and the teachers. He said that the traffic at Conway High School this morning was a nightmare as he was not prepared for his first drop off at high school. He then said that Prosser made the drop off a little easier.

Butler thanked all the organizations that did the back to school events. She stated that there are some traffic issues with the back to schools. Conway High School is having some construction done and that causes some back up on Highway 501. She then followed up with Melissa Jefferson and the Coastal Carolina University track and field program. Melissa did a fantastic job as she is not the only athlete who went to the world championships as that whole program has done a phenomenal job. She said she is proud of Coastal and those young ladies who competed at the world championship.

Blain-Bellamy thanked all the city employees and said that Conway has the best staff. She then said that she understood that Prosser had a close call with an automobile while doing his job on Church Street last school term. She told Prosser to be careful that Council wanted him here. She said that the traffic will get better as people adjust.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: Hyman made a motion, seconded by Butler 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. Discussion of Investment Opportunities Incident to Contractual Negotiations [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70 (A) (2)]. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

August 15, 2022

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

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

Rose Hill Cemetery – Yolanda Robinson-Myers was reappointed for a 3-year term expiring on 12/31/2024.

Rose Hill Cemetery – Levern Hill was reappointed for a 3-year term expiring on 12/31/2024.

Rose Hill Cemetery – Colonel John C. Newcomer was appointed for a 3-year term expiring on 12/31/2024.

Lakeside Cemetery – Spivey Hood was appointed for a 3-year term expiring on 12/31/2024.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 6 day of September, 2022.


Alicia Shelley, City Clerk