

June 6, 2022

CITY OF CONWAY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONWAY CITY HALL
229 MAIN STREET, CONWAY
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 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; 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, Grounds & Maintenance Director; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Brandon Harrelson, Public Works Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; David Crotts, Assistant Finance Director; Kayla Fleming, Associate Judge; Nickey Richardson, Victim's Advocate; Alex Cook, Building Plan Reviewer; James Rhodes, Intern; and Alicia Shelley, City Clerk

OTHERS: Hillary Howard, Conway Downtown Alive; Devin Parks, Conway Chamber of Commerce; Aubrey Cooke, A Cup Full Café; Sherrie Cannon, Closet Envy; Barbara Goodman, Garden Club; Terry Bedell, Trestle; Bruce Young, The Freeze; and approximately 10 others in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order. Rev. Wallace Evans, Jr, A Father's Place 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 Goldfinch, to approve the June 6, 2022 meeting agenda with the removal of item VI.C. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Final Reading of Ordinance #2022-06-06 (A) Article J, Chapter 5 – Hotel Incentive, of the City of Conway Municipal Code to create the Hotel Incentive Program, which provides economic incentives to develop hotels and commercial short-term rentals in the City of Conway**
- B. Final Reading of Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget - Ordinance #2022-06-06 (B) An Ordinance to Levy Taxes and Establish a Municipal Budget for the City of Conway, South Carolina**
- C. Final Reading of Ordinance #2022-06-06 (C) Amending Title 1, Chapter 1, Section 1-4-4 Creation of Specific Departments, of the City of Conway Code of Ordinances**

- D. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-06-06 (D) to annex 0.80 acres of property located at 2597 Long Ave Ext. (PIN 324-16-03-0025) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential (SF40) to City of Conway Low/Medium Density Residential (R1)**
- E. Approval of an Extension of the Alley Closure and Shared Space for the Trestle Café located at 308 Main Street and Norman Alley (PIN 367-01-01-0035)**
- F. Acceptance of Bid for Patrol Electric Motorcycles for Police Department**
- G. Approval of Contract with Clemson University Cooperative Extension**
- H. Approval of May 16, 2022 City Council Minutes**

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White to approve the June 6, 2022 consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- A. Introduction of City of Conway Police Department's Comfort Dog, Finn - Chief Long introduced Finn, Conway's Comfort Dog**
- B. Presentation of Longevity Awards – May 2022 – 15 years: Chris Comer, Public Utilities - Emrick and Goldfinch presented Chris Comer of Public Utilities a longevity award.**
- ~~C. Resolution Acknowledging and Honoring the Service given by Brox Baxley with Blackwater Dredging and Recovery to Improve the Waccamaw River – Councilman Hyman~~**
- D. Presentation of National Garden Week Proclamation – Mayor Blain-Bellamy presented the National Garden Week Proclamation to approximately 10 members of the Garden Club.**
- E. Discussion of request to annex approximately 20.7 acres of Property located on Highway 501 near Old Dunn Lane (PIN 326-00-00-0024) - Hardin informed Council that Pinnacle Storage has applied through Horry County for permits to construct two of five proposed self-storage units on the property. Horry County staff reviewed the application, noting that the property was not adjacent to the City of Conway at the time of application, and proceeded toward permitting. The owners have held meetings with County staff and adjusted their site plan based on County regulations. The proposed storage complex is adjacent to property owned by the Hardee Family that is currently under annexation into Conway city limits. At the point of annexation of the Hardee property this month, Pinnacle Storage will be subject to Conway's annexation requirements to receive utilities. The owners' representatives have reached out to City of**

Conway staff to ask for consideration that would allow them to continue in the approved plan and not lose the many weeks of work that has been done to date. Considering discussions held with Council in the past where staff has expressed interest in accommodating business opportunities, staff discussed the issue with the Horry County Planning Director and the applicant's engineering firm to come up with a proposed order of events that would include the least amount of lost time while still resulting in annexation into the City of Conway. Conway staff will process the annexation agreement through the first reading, and recommend that the City Council hold the second reading until the Certificates of Occupancy have been issued for the buildings currently under permit. City of Conway staff will work the Horry County Planning on the site reviews starting as soon as this accommodation is approved by Council, to ensure it will meet our codes as well as the County's. Building Code inspections will be under Horry County. Once Conway staff has been notified that the Certificates of Occupancy have been granted, Conway staff will bring the second reading of the ordinance to the City Council for final approval.

Emrick stated that this process of development was started before the adjacent annexation had begun. To avoid undoing all this work, the City can go ahead and bring in the application for annexation, approve first reading and then hold for second reading approval until the CO's have been granted.

Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White to approve the plan to proceed as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- F. Discussion regarding a Non-Exclusive Franchise Agreement for A Cup Full Café LLC** – Hardin informed Council that Aubrey Cooke has secured a retail license to sell coffee via a mobile food vending service. Ms. Cooke would like to expand her reach into the City of Conway, and has requested to use the Town Green and other public areas in the Central Business district (CBD). 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. A franchise is the extension of a privilege to use the streets, parking and other City owned amenities for which the franchisee does not have a legal right to do without permission of the governing body. The franchise agreement allows the franchisee to use City property in the requested manner which exceeds or differs from the customary uses. The franchise agreement is a contract between the City and the franchisee which governs the use of the City property. A franchise agreement does not give exclusive use to the franchisee. 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 must have placed 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. Before the applicant moves forward with those notices, it would be helpful to know if Council believes this type of franchise agreement would be in the best interest of the community.

Aubrey Cooke, A Cup Full Café stated that she would like to operate on the Town Green, Monday through Wednesday from 7 a.m. until Noon-1 p.m.

Blain-Bellamy stated that she would give approval so long as it would not conflict with certain times of the year that the City uses the space. Emrick said that no events are typically held Monday-Wednesday.

Butler asked what the timeframe would be. Hardin said year to year and that Council has the right to revoke the contract if needed.

White inquired about the brick and mortar businesses nearby. Cooke said that she has made relationships with most of them and had not talked about this until she had a chance to talk to council first. Blain-Bellamy said that brick and mortar are in favor of this.

Blain-Bellamy and all of Council supports coffee on the Town Green for the days/timeframe presented.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING

- A. Public Hearing and First 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.** Hardin informed Council that this property is part of a larger industrial complex off Century Drive, with access to Highway 501 at Singleton Ridge Road behind Lowes. Bohemia Court is one of several streets located in the Atlantic Center Industrial Park. The Comprehensive Plan future land use map projects the use for these parcels as Industrial. Water services are provided by the City in this area, and are available to this property. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval.

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

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

- B. Public Hearing and First 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).** Hardin stated this this request was meant to be part of the original annexation, that was approved by Council in April, 2022, of the adjacent properties also owned by the Hardee Family. The future land use map for Conway shows these parcels as Highway Commercial. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

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

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

C. Public Hearing and First 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). Hardin informed Council that Bruce F. Young owns two properties that abut Sessions Street. One is addressed as 1912 Main Street and holds The Freeze restaurant; the other is located behind The Freeze, located at 1805 Sessions Street, and is currently vacant. Mr. Young wants to use the property at 1805 Sessions Street to expand parking for his business. The property at 1805 Sessions Street is currently zoned Low/Medium Density Residential (R-1). Parking lots are not an allowed use in the R1 districts. To accommodate the expansion plan, Mr. Young is requesting that the property at 1805 Sessions Street be rezoned to Highway Commercial, matching the zoning for the property at 1912 Main Street. Letters were sent to the property owners within 200' of the proposed rezoning, legal ad was run, sign was posted and there has been no input received from the public. Citing other properties in the area that had been zoned to support businesses on Main Street, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning. Staff cites the future land use map, which calls for the subject property to remain low density residential.

Bruce Young, owner spoke in favor of the request stating that the Freeze has been there for 70 years and he has owned for the last 31. He wants to add more room for customers and extra parking.

Goldfinch asked if the parcel could be combined with the parcel abutting on Main Street. Hardin said yes.

Blain-Bellamy said that she was in favor of the rezoning until she saw the house next door go up.

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

Hyman liked the idea of the properties becoming one so it couldn't be sold and would be part of the existing business.

There was some discussion regarding buffers between HC and R1 zones and also a developer as being the owner of the adjacent home that is being built.

Goldfinch stated that as a business that has been there for 70 years, he supports a bigger footprint and hopes to see a renovation in the near future.

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

D. Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2022-06-20 (D) to rezone approximately 9 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). Hardin informed Council that Jenkins Properties owns approximately 39.45 acres of property located along Mill Pond Rd, approximately 1,000 feet south/west of the intersection of Church St and Mill Pond Rd, and also located across Mill Pond Rd from

the Conway Sports and Fitness Center (located at 1515 Mill Pond Rd). Jenkins Properties has entered into an arrangement to sell a portion of that property, approximately 9 acres, to Thomas Gymnastics for the construction of a gymnasium. The Jenkins acreage is currently zoned Low/Medium Density Residential (R-1) and a gymnasium is not allowed in that zoning district, therefore, Thomas Gymnastics has applied to rezone the portion of property they intend to purchase from R-1 to CP. The Future Land Use map in the Comprehensive Plan calls for the entire acreage to convert to Conservation Preservation (CP), in part due to the large portion of the property that is a part of, and contributes to, the Conway stormwater system. The north/eastern boundary of the property is created by the Crabtree Canal. Planning Commission recommended approval of rezoning the 9 acres, with the second reading being held until the 9-acre tract can be subdivided from the parent tract. Staff cites the Future Land Use map, which calls for the subject property to convert to Conservation Preservation.

Hardin then stated that the most sensitive areas of the 39+ acres are shown as being retained by Jenkins Properties and they have said that they would consider developing all of it to CP.

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

Hyman stated that since the current owners would consider rezoning all of the 39 acres to CP, he feels council should follow through and do it all now. Emrick said that it is legally prudent that the motion should include all of the acreage.

Motion: Hyman made a motion, seconded by Blain-Bellamy to approve first reading of this rezoning request to include all 39.45 acres to be rezoned to Conservation Preservation (CP). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- E. Public Hearing and First 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.** Hardin informed Council that staff has become aware of a discrepancy with the Definition in Article 2 of the UDO vs the requirements in Article 6 for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). This ordinance would maintain the definition in Article 2 keeping consistency throughout the UDO. Currently, the definition in Article 2 limits the size of an ADU to 1,000 square feet or less; yet the requirements in Article 6 limit the size of an ADU to 50 percent of the gross floor area of the principal dwelling or 1,000 square feet, whichever is greater. As written, the current ordinance would allow a 3,000 square foot home to build a 1,500 square foot accessory dwelling unit (space allowing). Staff does not feel that this was the intent of the ordinance. Furthermore, “other conditions” listed in the ordinance prevent ADU’s from being leased by the property owner. This is not a condition that staff has any way of enforcing. Additionally, the condition would prevent the ADU from being used for the benefit of the property owner should a family member no longer need the housing unit. Staff recommends consideration and approval of the amendment to cleanup and revise the requirements for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) so that the UDO is more consistent throughout.

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

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

- F. Public Hearing and First 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.** Hardin informed Council that staff is always looking to improve processes and by allowing the public hearings at the Planning Commission could achieve this. There would be better input at the beginning of the process, public needs could be addressed prior to the City Council meeting, could cut two weeks from review time, and the publication could be moved to meet state code without adding two more weeks to the existing process to add Planning Commission meetings to public notice letters. If this Ordinance is approved, this would start at the July Planning Commission meeting.

Blain-Bellamy said that she could imagine lots of benefits from the earlier response from the public.

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

Goldfinch asked if there would still be a public hearing before council. Hardin said no, not under the plan presented. Hardin then said that Council could have a second hearing but the one that is required by state law would be achieved by the Planning Commission's opportunities. If Council felt the need to have an additional public hearing, it could always be added.

Goldfinch stated he would like to do this but he thinks that Council has a duty and answers to constituents and that the Planning Commission is appointed. Hardin stated that the Planning Commissioners are not only appointees but are also constituents that represent Council on a monthly basis in front of the public. By having the public hearings go before the Planning Commission, they get to be the worker that says if the applicant comes in and the public doesn't like it, then the applicant, the public and the Planning Commission can help come together with an answer to bring to Council and if Council doesn't like the answer, they can always send it back to Planning Commission. The public's concerns are coming in earlier in the process. Nothing can keep the public from coming to the City Council meeting and nothing from keeping Council from attending and listening to Planning Commission meetings. In order for the Planning Commissioners to do the best that they can to give Council the best advice, they need more information from the public up front. If staff extends the 15-day notification for a public hearing to Planning Commission and City Council, then staff is further extending the time for development.

Hyman said that he reached out to the Planning Commission Chairman and Planning Commission would really like to hear the public concerns. He then said that he served on the Planning Commission before and it is definitely needed.

Emrick stated that when we come to this venue and have a mix of public hearings and a mix of not public hearings and someone stands up not for a public hearing, they sometimes get embarrassed. He thinks this would allow everyone equal footing for public input before the agenda items, as they would be coming up for anything on the agenda and would make the meetings more efficient.

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

White asked if the Planning Commissioners had been notified. Hardin said yes, it has been discussed with the Commissioners and some developers.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

FIRST READING

- A. First Reading of Ordinance #2022-06-20 (G) to dissolve the Special Tax Allocation Fund and terminate the designation of the Redevelopment Project Area** – Crofts stated that the Tax Increment Financing or TIF was used to construct the Conway Recreation Center and this Ordinance is to close out the TIF.

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

- B. First Reading of Ordinance #2022-06-20 (H) Updating the Procurement Ordinance** – Crofts stated that the current Procurement Ordinance was approved by City Council in 2006. Proposed changes were presented to Council at their planning retreat in March 2022. Council directed staff to bring an updated ordinance for their consideration at a future meeting. This proposed ordinance would repeal the existing ordinance and replace it with a more modern document. The major update therein changes the values which trigger certain requirements in the procurement process. Going forward, staff would need to bring to council for approval any purchases exceeding \$25,000. The current value is \$10,000.

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

- C. First Reading of Ordinance #2022-06-20 (I) Updating the Utility Billing Ordinance** – Crofts informed Council that over the past few years, staff have identified weaknesses in the City's public utilities ordinance. Some of the City's practices were not codified, and other parts of the code were outdated. Staff presented these issues to Council at the planning retreat and were directed to bring for consideration an updated ordinance. The proposed changes will allow the City's utility department to operate with a more detailed, formal set of guiding rules.

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

White said that this a lot of information and asked if a condensed version could be available. Crotts said, yes.

Goldfinch agreed that this is a lot of information. Crotts said that there are lots of gray areas and this ordinance would put the rules in black and white.

Emrick described an incident that previously occurred regarding a deceased resident that needed to be removed from the account and this would clarify this situation.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- D. First 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).** Hardin stated that this annexation request is being made as part of the requirements for connection to water and/or sewer utilities as they are adjacent to Conway city limits.

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

CONSIDERATION

- A. Consideration of a Redevelopment Enhancement Incentive Application for Hop N Wich** – Hardin explained that this incentive applies to any person, firm, or corporation establishing a new business or expanding an existing business in the Central Business District (CBD). Hop in Wich will be located in the CBD at 1029 Third Avenue. The program allows the City to reimburse the applicant 100 percent of capital recovery fees. Capital recovery fees are one-time fees charged at the time of connection to the city’s utility system, and at the time of permit. Hop N Wich has paid \$57,000 tap fees, \$725.88 building permit fees, and \$150 for a demo permit.

Blain-Bellamy stated that this should be set forth for staff to approve if the application meets the requirements. Emrick said that when this program was extended that Council asked to have the last say. Blain-Bellamy asked that the application process be brought back to Council.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Bellamy to approve the redevelopment enhancement incentive for Hop N Wich. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

- B. Consideration of Approval of Crabtree Force Main/Park Hill Pump Station Funds** – Friday stated that the Crabtree Force Main / Park Hill Pump Station project will include the construction of approximately 3 miles of 24-inch sewer force main. The force main will start at the Crabtree Pump Station located near the intersection of Mill Pond Road and Oak Street, terminating at the Wastewater Treatment Plant located on New Road. A new Sewer Pump Station is also included in the project. The Park Hill Pump Station will be located behind the Park Hill neighborhood on land owned by city. The City received a Federal

EDA grant in the amount \$6,094,971 and a State RIA grant in the amount of \$1,094,183 to help fund the project. The EDA Grant requires the City to encumber the required match of \$1,525,000 and the overage of the estimated project amount, which is \$800,000 after the RIA grant is applied. Friday said he is asking for Council to give approval of using \$1,525,000 from line items 30-811-750-620 and 30-811-750-621 and also encumber \$800,000 in the Utility's Protected Fund to cover the contract estimate overage.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Jordan to combine items IX.B and IX.C and approve the encumbrance of monies for Crabtree Force Main/Park Hill Lift Station and award the construction contract. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Consideration of Acceptance of Bid for Crabtree Force Main/Park Hill Pump Station

D. Reclassification of Position in the Police Department – Long stated that the Conway Police Department has increasing demands with various victims and witnesses related to incidents occurring in the city. Coordination for court appearances, contacting witnesses for hearings, and the increased demands from victims have stretched our part-time Victim Advocate very thin. In order to provide the best services possible, the police department is asking to reclassify the position to full-time status.

Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White to approve the full-time Victim Advocate position. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Emrick introduced James Rhodes, CCU student and intern in the Planning and Development Department.

Emrick informed Council of the following:

- Construction bids are out for the work on Smith Jones Pool and will be opened in less than two weeks.
- Landscaping began today at the new gateway sign at Conway High School.
- Keep Conway Beautiful has a new digital billboard campaign funded by grant proceeds.
- KCB is promoting the adopt a street program and cleanup efforts in the City.
- 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 16th Avenue. A time has not yet been determined.
- Coastal Baseball had a tremendous weekend.
- Emrick said he was keeping it short tonight, so he could close with this: Tonight, we passed a \$64 million budget for the City. We increased millage from 77.3 mills to 82.7 mills, a reflection of the Cost of Living increases that are massively affecting everything we do both at the City and at our homes and businesses. But what I want to share with you is a different look at our budget.

We did a huge cleanup of the warehouse on 378 and found a lot of historic documents that had been collected over the years and sent out there for storage. While going

through some of those documents, we found a report from the Municipal Association from 1964, within which, details of each City's budget was noted.

In 1964, our millage rate was 75 mills. Keep in mind, we just raised the millage rate from 77.3 to 82.7. And nearly 60 years ago, our rate was 75. At that time our total budget was \$352,972 and we carried almost three times that of \$1,019,000. Our 2022-2023 budget of \$64 million also reflects the debt of the City, which stands at \$1.4 million total, all of which will be paid off in 2025.

In fifty years, we've grown the City, from a population of 8,000 people to one of nearly 30,000 and our budget from \$350k to \$64 million without increasing our debt load and really without increasing our millage.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Public Works – Harrelson informed Council of the following:

1. The Public Works Department currently has one Trades Worker vacancy and plan on interviews within the next week.
2. Responded to and corrected 179 service requests in the past 90 days.
3. Performed 48 plan reviews and 42 inspections.
4. 411 Linear Feet of sidewalk has been replaced in various locations.
5. Installed 3,600' of tile within the last 90 days.
6. Chicora drainage project is complete.
7. Summer crews have begun edging, cutting, and cleaning sidewalks. ROW cutting is currently taking place.
8. Wetlands have been delineated and approved by USACE for the wetland park. A survey, topo, and tree survey are underway and the City is in the process of applying for a no permit required to restore the wetlands.
9. Recreation Center road is underway as the temporary Construction Easement has been recorded, existing asphalt has been milled, and new stormwater is being installed.
10. The Stormwater Masterplan is ongoing. The Marina, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Avenue sectors have been completed.
11. CTC did award \$757,464 to the City to resurface approximately 7.3 miles, which includes 5.2 miles of City roads and 2.1 miles of State roads. Wild Wing Blvd, Racepath Ave, Chicora Subdivision, Pearl St., Tinkertown Ave. are just a few of the roads on the list.

Hyman asked about the Ninth Avenue project. Emrick said that staff is currently looking at grants that may apply.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Butler congratulated the Conway High School 2022 graduates and said that it was the highest graduation percentage in history for the school.

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Jordan welcomed Finn. He also congratulated all the graduates. He said that due to the unfortunate events in Texas, it was comforting to have the Conway Police Department's presence at the schools and he thanked them.

Goldfinch welcomed Finn and said that he also has a Bernadoodle. He said that due to inflation right now, he would request that staff look into Treasury notes. Goldfinch jumped on with what Jordan said and said that as a parent nothing was more terrifying than a school shooting. He then stated that he was able to say to a lady in the grocery store that the Conway Police Department has one the best police forces than anywhere as the state requires an additional training of 40 hours every 3 years and the City requires 150 hours per year. He said that all of these situations are different and you can never be prepared but there is comfort and peace knowing that probably the first officers to get to a Conway school would likely be a City of Conway Police officer. He then thanked Chief Long and the Police Department.

White asked about Dewitt Street extending to Mill Pond Road. Emrick said that there are not plans at this point.

White asked about a welcome sign being placed adjacent to Smith Jones. Emrick said the welcome sign would be the next sign on the list. White then inquired about one side thanking them for visiting. Emrick said it would depend on the view from that side.

White then said that the trees are so high on Highway 501 Bypass at 378 and asked if anything could be done. Emrick said it is dangerous, but staff would look into it.

White asked if staff had heard anything about the Dollar General. Emrick said nothing official.

White asked about paving 378 and 701 as they are dangerous to drive on. Emrick said that the City can ask and encourage it to be paved.

Hyman congratulated the CCU Baseball team and said that Coastal is growing. He said that year after year they are in the top in the Country and it is amazing that CCU can put out a product that is that good. It says a lot that CCU is able to recruit here and they are coached well. He also congratulated the Conway High graduates on the graduation rate, as that is exciting.

Hyman then said that regarding the budget and that the City really hasn't raised the millage, and he hears things like the city wasted money on that and did this, as it is mostly on social media but what is often the case is that those are things that are actually not tax payers' money but grants that the City receives that make our city more enjoyable. He stated that we talk about the quality of life and things that one person may think is silly, may enhance the quality of life for someone else. I think it is great to hear what Emrick said about the millage but I do want people listening to understand is that a lot of this stuff they see is using grants and not taxpayer's money.

Helms also thanked the Police Department and said it is encouraging to know our officers care and they are on it. She said that the flags are awesome while riding through town and she appreciates how much the city means to her. She thanked staff for getting back to her so quick regarding a variance question. Helms said that she rode down behind the county building last night and looked at the ash pond and saw lighting bugs for the first time since she was probably 15,

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which was an awesome experience. She said that she loves Conway and appreciates staff, the Police and the Fire Departments.

Blain-Bellamy said that she couldn't talk about the Texas massacre but thanked the Chief and all of the City's officers. She said that there is a program called Palmetto Hero's that offers first time home buyers, among our first responders, financing, competitive interest rates and \$10,000 forgivable down payment assistance and she asked staff to pursue the information for that program as it may be beneficial for some of the City's employees.

Blain-Bellamy stated that there has been a lot said about our political signs and that litter is litter and rules are rules, and that there is an ordinance that speaks to the City of Conway. The ordinance says that there is a period of time for placing political signs, how many signs can be in a place and where they can be located. She said that when that ordinance is violated it is the City who takes the brunt of that as they will become litter forever if the City doesn't send someone out to collect, which takes time, effort and taxpayers' money. She thinks the city is right to have rules, such as political signs and enforce those rules. She believes that the city is doing the right thing and if it is her sign then she would need to pay the fine and if the sign is in the wrong place then she would need to move it. She said if the city charges a family with litter when they toss their McDonalds bag out the window, she sees that not being any different than someone placing a political sign somewhere where it shouldn't be.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 20 day of June, 2022.



Alicia Shelley, City Clerk