

January 17, 2023

CITY OF CONWAY
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
BUILDING & PLANNING DEPARTMENT
196 LAUREL STREET, CONWAY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 - 4:00 P.M.

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

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; John Rogers, Deputy City Administrator; Mary Catherine Hyman, Deputy City Administrator; June Wood, Public Information Officer; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Jessica Hucks, Planning & Development Director; Rock Rabon, Fleet Maintenance Director; Dale Long, Chief of Police; Wayne Calhoun, Community Service Officer; Heath Watford, Police Sergeant; Steven Pearce, Police Sergeant; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Charlie Crosby IT Technician II; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Timmy Williams, Hospitality & Beautification Director; Kayla Fleming, Associate Judge; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Brandon Harrelson, Public Works Director; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Brent Gerald, Planner; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Nevada Mileur, Litter Control Coordinator; Katie Dennis, Planning Concierge; and Alicia Shelley, Clerk.

OTHERS: Priscilla Fuller, Hillary Howard, Stephen Grooms, Nathan Skipper, Jo McQueen, Rein Mungo, Michael Maloon, Oliver Shamberger, Colby Hudson, Susan Shrive, Donna Cannoles, Sherrie Cannon, Kevin & Terri Monahan, Michael & Tina Maccalous; Nancy Lowman and approximately 10 others in attendance.

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Helms, to approve the January 17, 2023 meeting agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Final Reading of Ordinance #2023-01-17 (A) to approve a quit claim transfer of City-owned property identified as approximately 3.38 acres of property located off Lochwood Lane (PIN 338-07-01-0033) to Gerald Builders of Conway Inc.**
- B. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-01-17 (B) to annex approximately 1.42 acres of property located on Hwy 501 (between Sioux Swamp Dr and Hwy 548) (PIN 326-15-04-0002) and request to rezone from Horry County Commercial Forest Agriculture (CFA) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC) and Conservation Preservation (CP).**
- C. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-01-17 (D) to annex approximately .70 of an acre of property located at 575 Four Mile Road (PIN 326-06-04-0005) and request to**

January 17, 2023

rezone from Horry County Forest Agriculture (FA) to City of Conway Low/Medium Density Residential (R-1).

D. Approval of the 2023 Risk Management Resolution

E. Approval of a Resolution Accepting Property on Mill Pond Road

F. Approval of a Resolution to Accept a Letter of Credit for Woodside Crossing Ph 1

G. Approval of January 3, 2023 Minutes

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Butler to approve the January 17, 2023 consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

David Hardee spoke to Council regarding municipality laws concerning dogs, cats and pets.

Christi Thompson of The Trophy Place spoke in favor of closing Scarborough Ally.

Sherrie Cannon informed Council that the construction crew on Laurel Street continue to park in front of the business.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

A. Employee of the Month for January 2023 – Public Service – Rogers presented Tasha Sherman with the Public Service Employee of the Month for January 2023.

B. Update on the Genford Development Partnerships with the City – Steve Fitzpatrick, Genford Development, updated Council on the projects that he is working on that will consist of a Riverwalk building containing a brewhouse, distillery and a rooftop patio; and the Kingston building which will house 50 condo units, 4 commercial units and a restaurant to be located between Kingston Church and the Highway 905 Bridge. He said that he has created a larger interest reserve by selling his partnership and a subdivision to show his commitment to these projects in Conway and hopes to be in full swing within the next 30-60 days.

Goldfinch asked that Fitzpatrick update staff after his meeting tomorrow with the adjacent property owner.

Blain-Bellamy said that Council is delighted that Fitzpatrick is still with us.

C. Presentation of the 2022 City of Conway Audit Report - Nathan Skipper, Smith Sapp CPAs said that it is always a pleasure to work with the City on the annual Audited Financial Statement and the Comprehensive Financial Report. He said that the City

received a clean unqualified opinion on the Financial Statement and no material weaknesses in control or noncompliance issues were noted. There is not a better report that you can receive from an audit. The City's annual report is far beyond the minimum requirement and has been 30 years where the City has received the GFOA's reward for Excellence in Financial Reporting. He then gave a brief update.

- D. Discussion of a proposal to annex approximately 4.03 acres located at 3550 Hwy 701 S (PIN 381-01-04-0023) and rezone from Horry County High Bulk Retail (RE4) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC).** Hucks informed Council that the property owners in 2020 had signed a restrictive covenant in order to receive city water and/or sewer services. The property is now contiguous to property in the City limits and staff notified the current property owner that annexation is now required. In January of this year, the property owner submitted the required annexation and rezoning applications. The property is currently being used for mini-storage with retail space in the front. The future land use map of the Comprehensive Plan identifies the property as being Highway Commercial. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on February 2, 2023.

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING:

Second Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (K), a proposed development agreement by DDC Engineers / Bolton & Menk, Inc. (applicants) for development of property located on Collins Jollie Road, known as the Collins Jollie Conservation Subdivision, containing +/-828 acres, (PINs 295-00-00-0010, 295-00-00-0035, 295-00-00-0036, and 295-00-00-0037). Emrick stated that this development agreement is related to the Collins Jollie Development consisting of about 800 acres located at the north eastern part of the city limits. The property is zoned R1 but the developers came to the city a few years ago and wanted to do a Planned District which would allow them to do a combination of commercial, residential, and multi-family and did not get a favorable response from Council. Staff has worked with them for the last couple of years and discussed the Conservation Subdivision, which would be the first one done in the City. The Conservation Subdivision is designed to protect the environmentally sensitive areas within a subdivision. In this particular case there are a large number of wetlands on the property that the developer would be protecting. There will also be a 100' street front buffer along Collins Jollie Road. They are here tonight regarding a Development Agreement between the developer and the City that would allow them to preserve the conservation areas on its own parcel at some point in the future and up to 10 years. Under the City's ordinance they are required to separate out those conservation areas today before they can get a final plat approval on any of the phases. They would then deed those areas to a third party for conservation, like Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy or the City of Conway. Unfortunately, since there are multi phases in this development it is impossible for them to predict where those lines are going to need to be based on the engineered plans of each individual phase. Emrick then showed the Collins Jollie Master Plan on the screen. Staff has no concerns as they are giving us the highest and best product that the City can have as a development in the City.

Emrick added that this is not about whether they can develop this property because they can as it is already zoned R1, which would allow 7,500 sq. ft lots and they would not have to preserve the areas that are being proposed to be preserved. With the existing zoning they can build in the flood zone but under this proposed plan they are not.

January 17, 2023

Goldfinch asked when the property was zoned R1. Emrick said about 20 years ago.

White asked if the neighbors in the area had concerns. Emrick said yes with development but not the development agreement. Concerns are with traffic, storm water, and other things that are typically associated with areas that have sensitive areas.

Kevin Monahan told Council that he had concerns with the road conditions, public safety and excess trash.

Stephen Grooms told Council that he had concerns with the traffic and density.

Jimmy Hammond voiced his concerns to Council regarding the lack of public safety.

Mike Wooten of DDC Engineers further explained the Development Agreement and thanked staff for the past 3 years of working together to develop the first Conservation Subdivision to be located in the City. Wooten stated that they plan to turn the large quantity wetlands over to a major entity such as conservation trusts, Ducks Unlimited, or the City of Conway. The smaller areas will be platted with the subdivision and turned over to the HOA so that they will be maintained in perpetuity.

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

Emrick added that under the existing zoning, 1,743 units could be built and they are proposing to build 1,333, which is less than the max density would allow under the existing R1 zoning. Because they are doing the Conservation Subdivision they are able to reduce the size of the lots and increase the size of the perimeter around. This allows less road infrastructure, less utility infrastructure and impact in smaller lots to make up for that. Theoretically they could put 2,789 units under our ordinance, but they are only proposing 1,333.

Goldfinch asked how long these units will be built out. Wooten said 15 years. Goldfinch then said that over 15 years, that is where the infrastructure catches up.

Blain-Bellamy stated that not only will the infrastructure grow to meet the needs, but public safety will also catch up. Emrick said that the City has been discussing Fire Station 2 for as long as this has been going on, 3-4 years.

Goldfinch said that this area is special to him as he grew up in this area and shot his first duck on Collins Jollie Road and then later in high school would hang out on the weekends at the cul de sac. At some point, 20 plus years ago this property was annexed into the City, had it not been annexed by a past Council it would be in the County and they would be able to do anything that they want. It would then be a less superior product, without a conservation subdivision, and with a Dollar General. This is the lesser of two evils and we hope this is going to be better than it could be.

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Blain-Bellamy, to approve first reading of this ordinance. **Vote:** Voting to approve first reading were Helms, Blain-Bellamy, Goldfinch, Jordan and Butler. Voting against was White. Motion carried 5-1.

FIRST READING:

- A. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (A) to annex .62 of an acre of property located at 615 Hwy 544 (PIN 382-05-02-0009) and rezone from Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) to City of Conway Institutional (IN).** Hucks stated that the Coastal Educational Foundation acquired this property in September of 2022. Prior to that, it was owned by the same property owner since 2000 and operated as an independent university bookstore. The adjacent parcel is the university, also zoned Institutional. The future land use map of the Comprehensive Plan identifies the property as Highway Commercial. Planning Commission held a public hearing at their January 5, 2023 meeting and there was no public input. Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval and staff also recommended approval.

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

- B. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (B) to annex approximately 1.47 acres of property located at 3546 Hwy 701 South, and rezone from Horry County Retail with Accessory Outdoor Storage District / High Bulk Retail (RE4) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC) (PIN 381-01-04-0019).** Hucks stated that this property has had signed covenants since 2007 from a previous owner in order to receive city water and/or sewer services. The property is currently being used for retail services, with an existing Dollar General onsite. The future land use map of the Comprehensive Plan identifies the property as Highway Commercial. The property is surrounded by consistent uses. Planning Commission held a public hearing at their January 5, 2023 meeting and there was no public input. Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval.

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

- C. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (C) to rezone approximately 1.6 acres of property located on Westridge Blvd from City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC) and Conservation Preservation (CP) to Medium Density Residential (R-2) (PIN 337-13-03-0056).** Hucks stated that this property is currently vacant and the applicant proposes to construct duplexes or townhomes on the property. The future land use map of the Comprehensive Plan identifies the property as split between Highway Commercial on the front half and Conservation Preservation on the back half. The property has multifamily zoning across the street. Planning Commission held a public hearing at their January 5, 2023 meeting and there was no public input. Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval.

White stated that the residents in West Ridge were not given notice and that he had requested a while back that the distance to notify adjoining parcels be expanded.

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

Emrick stated that the notification process would be discussed at the budget retreat.

- D. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (D) to amend Article 6 – Design Standards, of the City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), regarding the split-zoning of parcels in the City limits.** Hucks stated that the City’s UDO does not currently address nor define split zoning of parcels; however, it has been staff policy that, in general, split zoning of parcels is not permitted. This is due to several factors: plats do not show how much of the parcel is zoned one district vs. another, and certain uses require that parcels be a minimum acreage to accommodate the proposed use. Staff researched several different options and agreed that the best option to move forward with would be to prohibit the split zoning of parcels in general, but with certain exceptions, which are outlined in the text amendment document. However, it does not require that such properties (or portions of) be automatically annexed as Conservation Preservation (CP) or rezoned as such if the property contains environmentally sensitive areas or is identified as CP on the Future Land Use Map; only that Planning Commission may recommend such zoning on the portions of the parcel(s) that are applicable, which gives staff and Planning Commission flexibility to make the determination based on a variety of factors that may or may not apply to the property. The ultimate goal of the amendment is to codify what has long been staff policy to not permit parcels to be split zoned. The added bonus of this amendment is to provide staff and Planning Commission with a tool that can assist in the protection of areas that are prone to flooding when new territory is added to the city limits or when new development is proposed on undeveloped property. Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendment at their January 5, 2023 meeting. There was no public input. Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the amendment.

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

- E. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (E) to annex property located at 1073 Waccamaw Drive (PIN 368-13-03-004) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential, including mobile homes (MSF10) to City of Conway Low/Medium-Density Residential (R-1).** Hucks stated that this request was submitted as part of the requirements for connection to water and/or sewer utilities. Most of the lots along Waccamaw Drive are considered contiguous to city property; however, none of the residential properties along Waccamaw Drive have been annexed. Council also denied an annexation request for property located at 1080 Waccamaw Drive at the last meeting. Like the previous property which sought annexation along Waccamaw Drive, staff recommends against annexation of this property for the same reason, due to the location of the property and the potential for flooding in the area.

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

- F. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (F) to annex approximately .23 of an acre of property located at 2500 Cultra Rd (PIN 325-15-02-0013) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential, no mobile homes (SF20) to City of Conway**

Low/Medium-Density Residential (R-1). Hucks informed Council that this annexation request was submitted by the owner of the property in response to city requirements for connection to water and/or sewer utilities. The future land use map of the Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as R1. The property owner does not wish to be annexed in to the City. Staff views this property as being a donut hole in the city limits, and supports annexation, as it is contiguous to property in the city, has direct access to a public roadway, and is currently receiving city utility services.

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

- G. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (G) to annex approximately .35 of an acre of property located at 5000 Converse Drive (PIN 383-08-01-0008) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential, no mobile homes (SF10) to City of Conway Low/Medium-Density Residential (R-1).** Hucks stated that this parcel is located within the College Park Subdivision. In 2021, Council considered four petitions for annexation on Converse Drive, two were approved for annexation and two were denied. Staff has reviewed previous staff reports, and some of the more recent annexation requests for Converse Drive were denied annexation due to the College Park enclave being almost completely in the County. As more properties continue to change hands within this development, staff anticipates more restrictive covenants to be filed, along with annexation petitions, for connection to city utilities. Because the subject parcel is contiguous to city property, and more parcels have received approval for annexation than those that have not, staff recommends approval of the annexation request in order to be consistent with the majority of annexation petitions that have been received for this subdivision to date.

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

- H. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (H) to annex approximately .37 of an acre of property located at 415 Sellers Rd (PIN 339-06-03-0020) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential, no mobile homes (SF40) to City of Conway Low/Medium-Density Residential (R-1).** Hucks stated that this request is being made as part of the requirements for connection to water and/or sewer utilities. Due to the number of annexations that have now occurred within this development, more than half of the existing lots within Langston Heights are now within the City limits. Staff recommended approval of this annexation request.

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

- I. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (I) to annex approximately .50 of an acre of property located at 407 Sellers Rd (PIN 339-06-03-0019) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential, no mobile homes (SF40) to City of Conway Low/Medium-Density Residential (R-1).** Hucks stated that due to a change in ownership this request is being made as part of the requirements for connection to water and/or sewer utilities. Staff recommended approval of this annexation request.

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

- J. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-02-06 (J) to annex approximately .74 of an acre of property located at 2665 Bill Mack Blvd (PIN 324-16-02-0019) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential, no mobile homes (SF20) to City of Conway Low/Medium-Density Residential (R-1).** Hucks informed Council that this annexation request is in response to a change in ownership and utility service, per the city requirements for connection to water and/or sewer utilities. Bill Mack Blvd is a private road and is not paved. The neighboring property, 2669 Bill Mack Blvd, has had water services since 1990, but no other properties on Bill Mack Blvd have city water or sewer services. The property owner is against being annexed. Due to the condition of Bill Mack Blvd and connecting roadways are also private, staff recommends against annexation.

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

CONSIDERATION:

Consideration of Approval of Name for a New Subdivision located on Highway 813/Highway 65 – “Rose Estates” – Hucks said that the proposed development is currently being reviewed by the Technical Review Committee. The preliminary plans call for this development to have a total of 80 single-family lots, consisting of approximately 34 acres of property, with frontage on Highway 65, 813 and Lite Road. The applicant requests to name the subdivision “Rose Estates” upon final recording of the plat for subdivision of the property.

Blain-Bellamy asked about other subdivisions in the area with Rose in the name. Hucks said there was Rosehaven and Wild Rose. Emrick added that E-911 would go to the street address and not the subdivision name, and all street names would also have to be approved.

Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the naming of the subdivision, Rose Estates. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Emrick informed Council of the following:

- As I reported in the last Council meeting, at some point during the next four weeks or so, contractors for 3rd and Laurel and Crooked Oak will dig up Laurel Street again to correct the earlier installation issues. Once corrected, the road can be resurfaced and the mess will hopefully be resolved. We are currently working with both property owners to remind them that they agreed to install the lines as drawn on the engineered plans only a few weeks ago as a condition of their TCO’s and we will not deviate from those plans.
- The Scarborough Alley test closure last week was very successful. I know some of you may have heard from folks who were upset by the inconvenience of the closure.

However, staff monitored the effects each day and observed no disruptions whatsoever. At most, there was a 2-3-minute delay in traffic clearing downtown from a normal week. What was also observed was a much safer situation for the businesses who back onto the alley, pedestrians walking to and from parking to local businesses, and for those parking in the parking lots, not using it as a cut through. It was reopened this morning and we await Council's direction for future considerations. One thing we do need you to weigh in here is the future location of an ERF and public restrooms. Where they go will depend heavily on the future of Scarborough Alley.

- As you know, the Budget Retreat is now only a mere 6 weeks away. Staff is hard at work preparing a two-year budget that is as close to balanced as possible and addresses the needs of the City.
- The new Smith Jones Park Disc Golf Course is nearly completed and golfers have already been enjoying the park. We are still installing the tee boxes, landscaping and some other beautification to finish the course, and after completed, we will have a ribbon cutting.
- The Father Daughter Dance is February 4.
- Big shout out to our Conway Tigers basketball team, if my understanding is correct, we are ranked #2 in the state right now.
- This segues into my next topic which is that our youth basketball program at the Sports and Fitness Center has its highest participation yet. We have 510 kids participating! Last year, for comparison we had 397. Our five-year average is 369, so we are way above where we normally are.
- The Hometown Legislative Action Day is February 7 and the Elected Officials training is the 8. Please let Alicia know if you are going and need accommodations.
- Curbing was poured last week at Jenkins Field Road, meaning the asphalt is nearing installation.
- Staff is working on a meeting with the residents and the churches on Park View Road to discuss potential safety changes to this road.
- Darrell and his guys punched through the archway wall into the old part of City Hall this morning, reopening this beautiful piece of architecture. The upstairs renovations are nearly completed. Downstairs, we are ready for paint and flooring. Then we can begin the floors and painting in the old part of City Hall.
- John, MC and I are attending the Winter meeting of the South Carolina City County Managers Association later this week. We will be available by phone, text and email.
- Whittemore Elementary School has little to update at this time. We have talked with the engineers, who have reported that it can be saved, if we want to spend \$30 million to do so. We are waiting to hear further from the Whittemore Racepath Society folks to see what their next course of action is.
- Tonight, we have department head reports from Hospitality & Beautification Department, Building Department and our Fleet Maintenance Department.

Emrick introduced new employees Brent Gerald, Planner and Patrick O'Leary in the Fire Department.

Hospitality and Beautification – Williams reported that the projects being worked on in the Hospitality and Beautification Department are as follows: Drainage project at Lakeside Cemetery, landscaping projects at Fire Stations 1 and 2, decorative brick fence project at Sherwood Park, pressure washing of sidewalks downtown on Laurel Street and Main Street.

Williams thanked everyone and said that it took all of the employees working together on the Halloween and Christmas decorations. Blain-Bellamy also gave a kudos to everyone on a job well done.

Mileur reported that Keep Conway Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, worked diligently in 2022 to achieve its mission of reducing litter, increasing recycling, and continuing beautification projects throughout the city. For 2022, there were 66 cleanup events, 338 volunteers at 718 hours (which is a value of \$19,385.) 6,647 pounds of litter were cleaned up with 1,288 pounds being illegal dumping sites. For 2022, we recycled 404 pounds of plastic and to date over 700 pounds. KCB will be presenting at the KAB National Conference and our monthly cleanups will resume in February.

Building Department – Cooper told Council that the number of commercial permits were up in 2022 with 29 compared to 23 in 2021. Single-Family dwellings were slightly lower in 2022 with 237 permits than 358 permits in 2021. He felt the decrease was due to the residential developments were mostly built out. Cooper said that Facilities Maintenance continue to be busy and are working on city hall and the recreation buildings.

Vehicle Maintenance – Rabon reported to Council that Vehicle Maintenance is averaging 200 work orders per month for the year of 2022. These work orders include regular servicing, major and minor repairs. The cost for outside labor has dropped approximately 40% last year compared to the previous year. Sparkplug, Anthony Campagna will be retiring on Friday, January 20 after 16 years of employment with the City.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Helms asked who owned Collins Jollie Road. Emrick said that is a City owned road as of January 1 and there are some deficiencies in the bridge and the City is looking at ways to upgrade. Helms then stated that she supports hiring more police and fire personnel.

White asked for dates of the budget retreat. Emrick said March 1-4. White said that he was watching the news and they were talking about having AED's and he asked if we have them in all of our public buildings. Emrick said yes. White asked about the status of the Smith Jones pool. Rogers said last conversation with the engineer was that everything is going smoothly and that they are working on the change order as easily as possible. Opening date is hoping to be around Memorial Day.

Goldfinch said that in closing down Scarborough Alley last week and seeing how it would impact things, stated that if he had a business on Third Avenue, worked at City Hall that he would enjoy that being closed down but that has been a road that people use. If the road is dangerous where

we need to improve it, then let's improve it. If it needs to be one way, then let's make it one way. Half the people shrug it off as it is no impact on them as they don't use it, while others shake their head. We essentially shut down a businesses parking lot for a week. The traffic count done before the closing showed 1,000 cars a day and that is a lot of people using it. Goldfinch asked if we had any accidents on that street? Emrick said that one employee had been hit. It isn't a matter of speed but a matter of recklessness and congestion. We observed people trying to jump in front of the line on Third Avenue, they would drive 25 mph through the parking lot and exit at the Chamber to beat the people that were in the ally.

Jordan echoed Goldfinch with calls and concerns about Scarborough and said that Council needs to weigh this thing out and look into it. He then asked if Hop N Wich working at the back had been some of the cause of this congestion by narrowing the ally some. Emrick said absolutely and if we need to build a garbage disposal, which will alleviate some of that waste, that is something that we need to figure out where it will go. Jordan then asked about the public notification of the Workshop topics, and said that he had a call asking what was on Workshop this week and texted to ask what was going on, as the one concern that they thought was going on was not. They said that they called City Hall and said they couldn't be advised as to what was on Workshop. If we are going to have a Workshop why would we not notify the public as to the topic at hand. Emrick said that is something that we were directed by Council to do. Jordan said that is something that needs to be addressed, as we can't expect every resident to show up to every Council meeting in anticipation of something being on Workshop that they may have a concern about. If they call to get a heads up on that and we are not addressing what that topic is, Jordan thinks that is not fair to the residents.

Butler said that she wanted to reiterate what Adam said and that if you have not gone to see the Conway High School boy's basketball team, she encourages everyone to at least check out one game. They are undefeated and hasn't done this is a while. This is a big thing for Conway as they are ranked in the state. Coach Hopkins and his crew have done an amazing job. Butler then mentioned another young man who represents Conway and has been declared for the NFL draft and that is Raiqwon O'Neal who graduated from Conway High and went to play college at Rutgers, then transferred to UCLA and one of his favorite sayings is, "I am just a little boy from Conway." She said that she loves the fact that whenever he is interviewed that is one of the things that he says. Butler said that the City of Conway was fortunate to have a MLK celebration yesterday at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church held by the Conway Horry County MLK Planning Committee. She said that our very own, John came and gave some input and she thanked him and hopes that more people from the City will be able to come next year.

Blain-Bellamy said that she wanted to speak to an opposing view relative to Scarborough Ally as it has been a road since before her, but that doesn't mean it meets todays needs. She said that she typically parks in the ally if she can find a space and every time she does park there she sees instances of very close calls. There is no designated space for pedestrians, no designated lane for cars, openings everywhere on the backs of businesses on one side, with three parking areas on the other. She thinks that safety has to be the City's first consideration. There may not have been an accident but it is just a matter of time before there is one. We do need to give it careful consideration because there is another side to that and she thinks that the City is responsible for making it make some sense. She doesn't think widening of the road would be the answer because then it would be giving up a long-standing plan to expand some things that are present from Third Avenue to direct them closer to the Riverfront but surely, we are not going to abandon all of those

ideas in order to keep Scarborough open as a two-lane road. She thinks it may be able to be maintained as a single lane and said there are always two sides to every story and she felt the need to mention the other.

Goldfinch asked Emrick to check out Section 57-9-10, the statute regarding the closing of roads.

WORKSHOP: There were no workshop items discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Helms made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:48 p.m. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 6 day of
February, 2023.


Alicia Shelley, City Clerk