

June 20, 2023

CITY OF CONWAY  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
BUILDING & PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
196 LAUREL STREET, CONWAY  
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 - 4:00 P.M.

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

**STAFF:** Adam Emrick, City Administrator; John Rogers, Deputy City Administrator; June Wood, Public Information Officer; Dale Long, Chief of Police; Jeff Leveille, Technology Services Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Timmy Williams, Hospitality & Beautification Director; Kayla Fleming, Associate Judge; Brandon Harrelson, Public Works Director; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Rock Rabon, Fleet Maintenance Director; Jasmine Waites Parker, City Attorney; Rosanne Dates, Grants Supervisor; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Jessica Hucks, Planning and Development Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; and Alicia Shelley, City Clerk.

**OTHERS:** Approximately 200 others. Sign in sheet is attached.

**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:** White made a motion, seconded by Jordan, to approve the June 20, 2023 meeting agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-06-05 (C), amending Article 11 – Signage, of the City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), regarding Electronic Message Centers (EMC's) and Light-Emitting Diodes (LED's) with digital and/or animated display.**
- B. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-06-20 (A) to annex approximately 0.21 acres of property located at 602 Lesia Lane (PIN 382-05-04-0119), and request to rezone from the Horry County Residential, including mobile homes (MSF6) district to the City of Conway Low/Medium-Density Residential (R-1) district.**
- C. Final Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-06-20 (B) to annex approximately 0.48 acres of property located at 108 Erskine Drive (PIN 382-13-04-0017), and request to rezone from the Horry County Residential, no mobile homes allowed (SF10) district to the City of Conway Low/Medium-Density Residential (R-1) district.**
- D. Special Event – Under the Lights 5K – December 6, 2023**

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**E. Resolution Accepting Dedication of Roadways & Drainage System in the Woodside Crossing, Phase 1 Subdivision (Woodside Drive, Lightwood Drive, Stump Drive, Royal Oak Drive, Yellowbirch Drive)**

**F. Approval of the Purchase of Fire Engines and Equipment (Budgeted)**

**G. Approval of Marketing and Sponsorship Agreement with Van Wagner Sports & Entertainment, LLC (Budgeted)**

**H. Approval of June 5, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion:** Butler made a motion, seconded by Jordan to approve the June 20, 2023 consent agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

The following spoke against the Pride Month Proclamation:

Randall Jones  
Rev. Dr. Billy Carroll  
Brandon Singleton  
David Stephens

The following spoke in support of the Pride Month Proclamation:

Mike Roberts  
Daved Kinard  
Terry Livingston  
Raymond Dobell

**Motion:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White, to close public input regarding the Pride Month Proclamation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

William Hutson spoke and asked Council to pass a resolution regarding traditional family values.

Mary Owens spoke to Council regarding respect and love for all.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

**A. Presentation of Employee of the Month for June 2023** – Hendrick presented the Public Safety Employee of the Month to Patrick O’Leary.

**B. Presentation of Hero Awards** – Mayor Blain-Bellamy presented Hero Awards to Detective Manemeit, Detective Watford, and Shelley for their efforts in helping to save an individual’s life.

- C. Presentation of National HVAC Tech Day Proclamation** – Mayor Blain-Bellamy presented a Proclamation hereby proclaiming June 22, 2023 as National HVAC Tech Day.
- D. Discussion of a request to annex approximately 7.27 acres located at on Highway 501 near the Horry County Schools Transportation office (addresses of some parcels include 2201 Church Street, 2197 Church Street, and 2199 Church Street - PIN's 338-09-02-0007, -0008, -0009, -0010, -0011, and -0014), and rezone from the Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) district to the City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC) district.** Hucks informed Council that this property is currently in Horry County's jurisdiction, zoned Highway Commercial, and that the applicant is seeking to annex the properties into the City limits to facilitate development of commercial/retail establishments. Staff has reviewed one conceptual plan of the proposed layout and sent comments back to the applicant last month. The properties are surrounded by property in the City limits, already zoned Highway Commercial. The high school, located on the other side of the Horry County Schools Transportation office, is zoned Institutional. Property behind these parcels is zoned Conservation Preservation; likely due to the proximity of the Crabtree Swamp in relation to these parcels. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on July 13, 2023.
- E. Discussion of proposal to rezone approximately 15.61 acres of property located at 300 Bellamy Ave (PIN 383-00-00-0381) from City of Conway Institutional (IN) to High Density Residential (R-3).** Hucks informed Council that the applicants submitted a rezoning application for the property located on Bellamy Lane, that is currently zoned Institutional. The property was annexed into the City limits in 2017 as Institutional in order to facilitate the development of student housing. Per Article 4 of the UDO student housing is identified as an accessory use to a college or university. Some of the student housing developments along Highway 544 are zoned Institutional as well for this reason. Staff has come to interpret this use as only being permitted in conjunction with a principal use on the same property in which the student housing is proposed to be constructed. Construction of the Bellamy Student Housing development began in 2018, and the units were issued a certificate of occupancy in the same year. The applicants have not specified a reason for the rezoning, other than that the proposed buyer is concerned with the residential use of the property under the current zoning, as they intend to rent entire units to families, rather than to lease individual bedrooms to college students. However, the zoning of the property does not dictate "who" the units can be leased to. Evidence suggests that since the buildings were completed, the units have been leased to anyone who qualifies, not just college students. The future land use map of the Comprehensive Plan also identifies the property as being High Density Residential (R3). Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on July 13, 2023.

**FIRST READING:**

- A. (Previously deferred) First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-05-01 (C) to annex approximately 2.45 acres of property located at 3594 Hwy 701 South (PIN 381-01-04-0022), and request to rezone from Horry County Indoor Amusement Commercial (AM1) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC).** Hucks stated that there are existing restrictive covenants on record for this property, and annexation is now required. This property became contiguous once the adjacent parcel, 3550 Highway 701 South,

Bucks Township Storage, was annexed. The subject property has a retail gun store and indoor shooting range on the property. The applicant has expressed concerns with annexing into the city limits, as the city's UDO does not currently address shooting ranges, regardless of indoor or outdoor. The main concern would be the inability of the applicant to expand once annexed, as the UDO does not permit nonconforming uses or structures to expand. A text amendment which addresses indoor shooting ranges has been drafted and recommended for adoption by Planning Commission.

Hucks said that first reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-05-01 (C) was originally proposed at the April 17, 2023 Council meeting. The applicant's agent, Shep Guyton, spoke in regards to the request, stating that the property owner was concerned with being annexed into the City as a legal nonconforming use, and doing so may prohibit any future expansion of their business. Mr. Guyton stated that they were in the process of submitting a plat to Horry County for review that would still provide a direct connection between property already within the City limits and property currently seeking annexation without having to annex the subject property at 3594 Hwy 701 S. Council deferred First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-05-01 (C) at their April 17, 2023 meeting to allow the property owner to have their plats reviewed, approved, and recorded at Horry County.

Hucks further stated that on June 9<sup>th</sup>, the applicant's agent, Shep Guyton, forwarded a combination plat that was approved by Horry County, which shows a portion of the rear of The Gun Store property being combined with PIN 380-00-00-0003 (White Oak Forest LLC). While county land records have not yet been updated, the recording of the plat with the associated deed work will finalize the property line realignment between the Gun Store and the adjoining property owned by White Oak Forest LLC, and contiguity between the White Oak Forest LLC parcel and property within the city limits (Bucks Township Storage) is achieved by way of this platting action.

Hucks said that because the property is contiguous to property that has been annexed into the City, and receives City water, staff continues to recommend approval of this ordinance.

There was some discussion regarding the future expansion of the business and the proposed text amendment regarding shooting ranges and armories, and how it would affect this annexation.

**Motion:** Helms made a motion, seconded by Jordan, to deny first reading of this ordinance.

**Vote:** Helms, White, Jordan and Butler voted yes, with Blain-Bellamy voting no. Motion carried 4-1 to deny first reading of this request.

- B. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-07-17 (A) amending Articles 4 – Use Tables and Article 5 – Specific Use Regulations, of the City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), regarding the keeping of chickens in residential zoning districts.** Marquez Carter, Planning Intern presented this request to Council regarding the keeping of chickens in the residential zoning district. Section 5.2.5 of the UDO sets forth the regulations governing the non-commercial keeping of livestock or fowl. This section makes keeping chickens illegal throughout most of the City, allowing it only in RA, FA, and IN zoning districts. The keeping of chickens was added as an

allowed use in IN in 2017. At this time, Conway High School had asked that chickens be allowed for the furtherance of their agricultural programming. The original 2017 amendment also proposed allowing chickens in low-density residential zoning districts in addition to IN, but at that time, Council chose to move forward with the IN amendment only. Since then, there has been a movement in the area to allow the keeping of urban chickens, and Conway is no different. Through the years, the City has required families to get rid of their chickens, and each time it was a difficult thing for families who treated them like pets. Additionally, with the recent rising cost of eggs, more citizens are considering raising chickens. The proposed amendment to the UDO would allow chickens to be kept in RR, R, R-1, and now, R-2 zoning districts (with PC's recommendation), without allowing the other types of fowl and livestock. This would accommodate most of the areas that are known to keep chickens and hopefully address community concerns. No more than 5 6 chickens could be kept on RR, R, R-1 or R-2 zoned property, and all chickens must be cooped and penned to keep them from freely roaming. No roosters are permitted and all areas must be kept in a clean and healthy condition.

Carter said that at the May 4 Planning Commission meeting, members discussed several options with staff regarding the number of chickens that were proposed to be allowed with this amendment, and there was public input in favor of allowing city residents to have chickens with little to no restriction. PC asked staff to provide information from surrounding areas and how they regulated urban chickens. The proposed amendment was deferred to the June Planning Commission meeting.

Carter further stated that at the June 1 Planning Commission meeting, Planning Commission was provided a comparison table of how the proposed ordinance compares to other cities / towns. PC also recommended including the R-2 district as one of the districts that could have chickens, on the condition that the lot in which the chickens are kept contains a single-family residential structure as the principal use and not townhomes or multifamily. They were not in favor of requiring a minimum lot size. PC recommended approval of the amendment; however, PC member David Sligh, after the vote was held, stated that he misunderstood the motion and thought the motion included a minimum lot size of 20,000 sq. ft. be required across the board for all residential districts considered in the amendment, and wanted that noted for the record.

Carter said that staff is not in favor of the proposed text amendment, with the possible exception of permitting the keeping of chickens in the RR (Rural Residential) district, which requires a minimum lot size of 20,000 sq. ft. Staff is concerned the ordinance will become a major enforcement issue, from the requirement to seek permits for the chicken coops, to complaints being made about chickens roaming in neighbors' yards, the smells associated with chickens, noise issues, the number of chickens a neighbor has, *etc.*, and short of requiring a minimum lot size for any residential lot that is proposed to have chickens, staff does not recommend approval. If this amendment were to be adopted, it could make Conway one of the least restrictive towns/cities regarding the keeping of chickens with the exception of the cities/towns that do not allow it at all.

There was some discussion amongst Council regarding this amendment.

**Motion:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Butler, to deny first reading of this ordinance. **Vote:** Blain-Bellamy, Butler, and Helms voted yes, with Jordan and White voting no. Motion carried 3-2 to deny first reading of this request.

- C. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023-07-17 (B) amending Article 2 – Definitions, Article 4 – Use Tables, and Article 5 – Specific Use Regulations, of the City of Conway Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), regarding shooting ranges and armories.** Hucks stated that currently, there is no provision for the lawful permitting of shooting ranges within any zoning district in the City of Conway. Staff gave a special presentation of the proposed amendment to the UDO at the April 17, 2023 City Council meeting. This amendment was deferred at the May 4 Planning Commission meeting due to questions from the Planning Commission regarding design standards for indoor shooting ranges, and whether there were any that could be included in the amendment. Planning Commission considered the proposed amendment at their June 1 meeting. Staff included additional language to address design standards of shooting range facilities by including language that had also been included in several other cities and towns ordinances, specifically, Design Standards – Structures containing such use shall be designed so that projectiles (bullets, shorts, arrows, etc.) cannot penetrate walls, floor, or ceiling, and ricochets or back splatter cannot harm range users. Additional language stating that facilities shall be designed, constructed, and operated in strict compliance with the National Rifle Association (NRA) standards had also been included in the revised ordinance; however, PC recommended removal of the addition due to the concerns that it would not be possible for staff to enforce such regulations when and if such facilities are constructed. Hucks said that Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed ordinance at their June 1 meeting. Staff also recommends approval.

There was a brief discussion amongst Council members.

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

- D. First Reading of Ordinance #ZA2023- 07-17 (C) to annex approximately 1.44 acres located at 2643 Long Ave Ext (PIN 324-16-03-0023) and rezone from Horry County Residential, no mobile homes allowed (SF20) to City of Conway Low/Medium Residential (R-1).** Hucks stated that this annexation request was submitted as a requirement to connect to city utility services. The property contains a single-family home and restrictive covenants have been recorded on the property. This property became contiguous to the Conway city limits in 2022, with the annexation of neighboring property at 2637 Long Avenue Ext. Other properties on the same side of Long Avenue Ext. have been previously annexed and zoned R1. If the property is annexed into the City, the R1 Zoning District requirements must be met on any future permitting process. This property, along with adjacent parcels, are either completely within or mostly within the AE Flood Zone. The Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as Conservation Preservation. Staff recommends approval of first reading of this annexation.

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

**E. First Reading of Ordinance #2023-07-17 (D) to amend Title 7, Chapter 4, Article F, Section 7-4-82.7 Towing and Storage Charges, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Conway.** Long informed Council that the City routinely calls for tow services listed on the City of Conway rotation log to accomplish law enforcement purposes, further investigations, or remove wrecked, disabled, or uninsured vehicles from the roadway. The Police Department follows Section 7-4-82.7 Towing and Storage Charges. There have been no adjustments or updates to the City code since April 1, 2019. Long stated that staff recommends approval of first reading of this ordinance to increase the City's fees to mirror those in use by Horry County and the State of South Carolina.

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

**F. First Reading of Ordinance 2023-07-17 (E) to amend Title 8, Chapter 2, Section 8-2-3, Two-Hour Parking, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Conway.** Rogers stated that City Council recently considered proposals for parking meters in the downtown area but that decision was tabled indefinitely. Council directed staff to explore other methods for parking controls downtown with a focus on enforcement. Upon review of the current ordinances, staff discovered that two-hour parking regulations are applied irregularly and the current ordinance is outdated. Staff proposed applying two-hour parking to the entire downtown area where street parking is common and adjacent to businesses that depend on turning over those parking spaces. Applying the two-hour parking zones downtown will increase both vehicle and foot traffic to our downtown and allow police to more easily enforce parking rules.

There was some discussion regarding the chalking of tires, parking lot parking vs. on street designated two-hour parking, hours of enforcement, violations and complaints.

**Motion:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion to approve first reading of this ordinance. Butler amended Blain-Bellamy's motion to change the hours of enforcement daily from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. which was then seconded by Helms. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

## **CONSIDERATION:**

Emrick stated that for the record he had a potential conflict with the next issue.

**Consideration of Awards of 2023-24 Economic Development Grants** – Rogers presented the eight 2023-24 Economic Development Grant applications from six organizations, stating that the available funding totals \$150,000. The applications and staff recommendations were as follows:

Conway Chamber of Commerce

The Conway Chamber of Commerce is requesting funding for enhancement of Riverfest 2024. Funds will go toward entertainment enhancement, fireworks, and fencing. The majority of funds will go toward booking a band with name-recognition.

Amount requested:	\$42,662
Staff recommendation:	\$42,662

### Conway Chamber of Commerce

The Conway Chamber of Commerce is requesting funding for enhancement of the 2023 Conway Christmas Parade which will transition to an evening event. Funds will go toward floats and prizes.

Amount requested:	\$16,175
Staff recommendation:	\$16,175

### Conway Downtown Alive

Conway Downtown Alive is requesting funding for the After Dark Park, an evening illuminated attraction to take place on the Town Green for three days in January 2024. Funds will go toward Perfect Parties USA, marketing, staffing, and security.

Amount requested:	\$39,815
Staff recommendation:	\$39,815

### Horry County First Steps

Horry County First Steps is requesting partial funding for Early Childhood Community Day in downtown Conway to be held April 2024. This event was funded by last year's grant and proved to be a very successful and well-attended event. Funds will go toward equipment rentals, advertising, and entertainment fees.

Amount requested:	\$7,000
Staff recommendation:	\$7,000

### Horry County First Steps

Horry County First Steps is requesting partial funding for their Community Health Fair to be held January 2024. Funds will go toward advertising, printing, and presenter fees,

Amount requested:	\$3,000
Staff recommendation:	\$3,000

### Theatre of the Republic

Theatre of the Republic is requesting funding for their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Performing Arts Festival to be held in September 2023. Funds will go toward equipment rentals, staffing, advertising, royalties, and music.

Amount requested:	\$52,950
Staff recommendation:	\$41,348

### Love Our Cooking

Love Our Cooking is requesting funding for their food truck to travel throughout Horry County and dispense food to people in need. This activity is not an eligible economic development activity.

Amount requested:	\$150,000
Staff recommendation:	\$0

### Conway Architectural Salvage and Heritage Project

Conway Architectural Salvage and Heritage Project is requesting funding for staff, lease and operational expenses to create a deconstruction service dedicated to preservation of Conway's historic structures. Staff has concerns regarding project eligibility and its sustainability. This application was not recommended for funding, but staff will reach out to applicant and discuss changes necessary for application in FY2024.



Amount requested:	\$150,000
Staff recommendation:	\$0

There was some discussion regarding the applications that were not eligible.

**Motion:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Helms, to approve staff's funding recommendations for the 2023-24 Economic Development Grants. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Emrick informed Council of the following:

- The City of Conway Police Department is about to start another round of their Citizen's Police Academy. If any of you have not done it and would like to, Chief Long has assured Emrick that a space will be made available for you. This next session will be from August 3 through September 14 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. each Thursday during that span.
- This Saturday is Riverfest! This year the stage and bands have moved to the Old Tennis Center lot and will have the honor of being the first to use our new city stage! The headliner is the band Cowboy Mouth out of New Orleans. Emrick attested that the band is pretty awesome.
- On June 29, the City's Recreation Department will hold the first free movie night of the season at the Terrace, showing Mulan Live.
- The Inaugural Conway Disc Golf Championships were held this last Saturday at Smith Jones Park and Sherwood Park. More than 60-disc golfers participated in this first-time event that is sure to happen again! The City's Recreation Department did a fantastic job on this event and Emrick especially wanted to thank Bone Beaupre and his folks for all of the volunteer work he has contributed to expand disc golf to our City.
- Mark your calendars for July 26-29 for the MASC Annual Meeting. There will be more details forthcoming shortly.
- As you all know, staff had Open House here at City Hall this afternoon. Emrick thanked the City crews who have worked so hard to restore this beautiful historic building and said that is someone is left out, he is sorry to whoever it is. Robert Cooper and his building team of Darrell, Tim, Dennis, Gavin, Jordy and so many of his other staff members. Timmy Williams and his team who muscled everything in and out of the building over and over again including some last-minute items about an hour ago. Wanda Lilly continues to shine. The landscaping around City Hall was one of those things that looked good until you really looked at it. Wanda with the help of our Hospitality and Beautification Department have created a botanical garden outside of this building. Jeff, Charlie and Marcus, you did what Emrick didn't think could be done, and made a 200-year-old building capable of modern technology. Emrick thanked his Admin team for their patience and faith and said that he made staff move all over the City and all Emrick promised was that staff would get rid of the smell. Emrick said that he set the bar too low, as City Hall is gorgeous and he is so happy to have his office here.

- There is no workshop this afternoon, but there is an Executive Session that will be held in the new conference room next door.

### **COUNCIL INPUT:**

**Butler** commended Marquiez Carter, Planning Intern on being a Clemson student and doing a great job today. Butler stated that she wanted to address some of the text messages and emails that she has received regarding the Pride Proclamation. Butler said that this was not an action item or input from the Council, but ultimately as the Mayor and Council, it is our responsibility and even if we don't believe like we believe, it is still Butler's obligation to represent all of the citizens in the City of Conway. Butler hopes that all of the residents feel safe and see Conway as a place to live, work and grow a family. Diversity is not a weakness and it makes us unique. The Proclamation was utilized to be inclusive to all of our citizens. Butler said that she wanted to speak as a licensed seminary trained member of clergy with a masters in divinity degree, and is having trouble conceptualizing this righteous indignation that has been before her. Butler said that her strong suit is that we love and her strong suit when she was running was diversity and inclusion, and that we represent and love all of Conway. Butler hopes that this is not an opportunity for a division and not be an opportunity for hatred but hopes it becomes an opportunity to engage in conversation with love and unity because we are one Conway and we are Conway strong.

**Jordan** followed Butler's sentiments with the Clemson student but stated that the shade of garnet looked good on him. Jordan asked for prayers for Goldfinch with his health. Jordan congratulated Autry Benton and Kendall Brown in the runoff next Tuesday and encouraged all citizens to get out and vote. Jordan stated that he is not even going to try to cover some of Butler's words but there has been a division in the community and it is a sad situation. Jordan said that we are one people and there should not be an us versus them or them versus us, as it is a divisive controversial issue. Jordan said that we are all adults and should be able to sit down and have conversations whether we agree or disagree. Council sits up here just as you seen tonight, just on chickens, we didn't agree, but have those conversations amongst ourselves and we work it out. After these meetings we go home to our families. Jordan said that some of the calls, emails and texts, even some of his family's conversations have been uncalled for. Jordan asked that our citizens, our community, county, state and country all act responsible. Jordan told Emrick and all of staff what a great job on City Hall.

**White** stated that this has been a long 2-3 weeks and he is glad it is trying to come to senses, whichever way you feel about this situation. White said that the Mayor has a job of trying to please everyone, as well as Council members and this can't be done for the most part. White does not believe that the Mayor just came out of the clear blue sky to do this Proclamation and there have been other Proclamations and will be more Proclamations from the Mayors seat, regardless of who the Mayor is, but to attack her personally, White does not think that was reasonable or even fair. White said that he hopes we come to our senses and know that we are all God's children, as he made us all, and we have to deal with life as it is. White said we can't judge people by what they do or not do, so he hopes everyone that is against the Proclamation or any Proclamation could have a sensible way of sharing feelings about this rather than attacking someone as that is not fair. White hopes that we all try to do better next time. White has asked about having a diversity group created here in Conway, but didn't ask for that reason. White said that everyone that comes to Conway has a reason for coming here and we should be willing to accept regardless of what the

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reason may be. White is going to keep pushing to have a diversity group formed so that we can have these meetings and talk about these issues that are happening in Conway. White said that he prays for Conway.

**Helms** said that there isn't a whole lot to say after all that but that she echoes everyone, and that all of us on Council believe and love God, and we love other people. Helms said that the diversity that we have had over the last month has been huge and she thinks that we need to remember when we pray at night to love one another. Helms said that she carries the Conway Strong cup because she believes in Conway and ran for this Council seat and wants Conway to do right by its people.

**Blain-Bellamy** stated that City Hall has never been looked so good and been so efficient in having to be able to house so many people and the technology has grown with us in ways that we didn't think could. Blain-Bellamy thinks people are at their best when they are in surroundings when they are pleasant and don't smell like bats or whatever that was. Blain-Bellamy said that staff has talent and skills as all was done in house and saved tons of money as no one could have done a better job than our staff. Blain-Bellamy said she was so happy to attend the awards ceremony at The Fathers Place as that is something that is near and dear to her. Blain-Bellamy recognized Jordan as having received an award and congratulated him. Blain-Bellamy encouraged all City of Conway registered voters to go vote in next week's election.

Emrick said that he just received a text from Goldfinch and that he thanked everyone for asking about him as he has been admitted to Conway Medical Center and is awaiting test results.

**WORKSHOP:** There were no Workshop items.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** Jordan made a motion, seconded by White 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 regarding Contractual Negotiations Incident to Potential Development Agreement [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70 (A) (2)]; C. Discussion regarding Contractual Negotiations Incident to Potential Transportation Related Agreement [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70 (A) (2)]; and D. Discussion regarding Potential Acquisition of Property Along Crabtree Canal [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70 (A) (2)]. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

**POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White instructing the Administrator to proceed on the Mill Pond properties. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Butler made a motion, seconded by Helms to approve the appointment of the following to the Water Quality and Drainage Commission for a 3-year term: Dr. Angela M. Even, Tim Kirby, Sudie D. Thomas, and Tyler Thomas. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**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 17 day of July, 2023.

Alicia Shelley  
Alicia Shelley, City Clerk