

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017 – 5:30 PM

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Mayor Pro Tem Randle L. Alford, Council Members Thomas J. Anderson II, William M. Goldfinch IV, Jean M. Timbes, and Larry A. White **ABSENT:** Council Member Smith was unable to attend due to a critical family matter.

**STAFF:** Bill Graham, City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Adam Emrick, Planning Director; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Le Hendrik, Fire Chief; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director; Reggie Jenrette, Solid Waste Director; Billy Joe Sawyer, Building Official; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Timmy Williams, Grounds and Maintenance Director; and Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Clayton Mauldin, Lois Edwards, Kathy Ropp and others

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Council Member Goldfinch who gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the agenda as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** **City Council Minutes – April 17, 2017, and April 21, 2017:** **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Clayton Mauldin spoke in opposition to a three-story apartment building that is planned for a property on Pine Street that adjoins the rear of his property on Pinewood Circle. He expressed concern that the development would lower his property values and that there was a lack of notice to impacted residents.

**Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to close public input. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. Presentation of Tree City USA designation.** Lois Edwards of the South Carolina Forestry Commission presented Conway's 2016 Tree City USA award, the City's 32<sup>nd</sup> year of earning this designation. Edwards reviewed the requirements of this program and she commended City Council

and staff for their commitment to maintaining the Tree City designation. Edwards presented City Council with a Tree City USA flag, plaque, and new Tree City USA signs. Alford requested Edwards' assistance with markers for live oak trees in the City that are 400-500 years old.

- B. Request for financial assistance.** Brian Piascik, Coast RTA General Manager/CEO, presented in more detail the request for financial assistance for Coast RTA that was initially presented by Michele Cantey at the last Council meeting. Piascik requested financial support in the amount of \$50,000 from the City.
- C. Special event request: Indie Market on Laurel, August 6, 2017.** Erin Hall of CREATE Conway submitted this special event request. The event is planned for Sunday, August 6, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Laurel Street, in front of 104 Laurel Street. Maps depicting the location of the event, requested street closures, and the alcohol consumption zone accompanied the special event application. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the special event application for the Indie Market as presented by staff. **Discussion:** Timbes expressed her concerns that alcohol would be served at this event during the time of church services if the request was approved as presented. **Vote:** Anderson and Goldfinch voted in the affirmative; all others voted in the negative. The motion failed. Goldfinch and Anderson noted that they were unaware the date for the event was a Sunday. In response to a request from Goldfinch, Mayor Blain-Bellamy agreed that Hall could present a revised special event application for the Indie Market for Council's consideration at a future meeting if she desired.
- D. Presentation of "Excellence in Financial Reporting" Award.** Graham announced that the City of Conway has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance officers Association for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The City of Conway has received this award for 27 of the last 30 years, with this being the twelfth consecutive year. Graham and Council congratulated Williams and the Finance Department staff on receiving the award.
- E. Employee Longevity Bonus Award** was presented to Dexter King, Solid Waste Department, 10 years. The presentation was made by the City Administrator.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #2017-05-15 (A) An Ordinance to Raise Revenues and Adopt Budgets for the General Fund, Enterprise/Public Utility Fund, Street/Drainage Fund, Storm Water Fund, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Fund, Accommodations Tax Fund, Community Development Fund, and Hospitality Fee Fund, City of Conway, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017 and Ending June 30, 2018.** Williams reviewed the proposed budget which totals \$36,451,283, an increase of 3.79% over the current year's budget. No tax millage increase is proposed. A 5% salary increase is proposed along with two new full-time positions, one new part-time position, and two new temporary seasonal workers. Also noted was an increase in employees' Christmas bonus to \$250 for full-time employees and \$125 for part-time employees and a new wellness incentive consisting of free membership to the Conway Recreation Center for City employees and City retirees. Tennis Center membership fee will increase and Solid Waste collection fees will increase by 4.66% over the next two years and water and sewer rates will increase by 2%. Williams reported that the new fees proposed in this budget is fee of \$100 per inch of meter size for commercial water backflow device testing and a fee of \$2 per session for the Conway Youth Play at the Recreation Center. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to close the public hearing.

**Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Goldfinch made motion, seconded by Alford, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-05-15 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #2017-05-15 (B) Amending the Code of Ordinances by Replacing Title 5, Chapter 2, Flood Damage Prevention Standards, in Its Entirety.** In November 2016, Council gave first reading approval and established a pending ordinance that provided for immediate implementation of needed adjustments to the City's current flood elevation standards. This action was the result of flood damage to a number of homes and businesses caused by Hurricane Matthew. At that time, staff had already been working to revise the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to better align with the state model which follows FEMA guidelines. The ordinance presented at this meeting included these revisions, which are mainly in format, as well as the revisions to the flood elevations contained in the November 2016 ordinance. Because of the numerous changes, the ordinance was presented again for first reading and to establish a pending ordinance which will allow continued implementation of the new requirements for flood elevations until final reading approval. Staff recommended first reading approval of Ordinance #2017-05-15 (B). **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-05-15 (B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

#### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- A. Proposed pavement markings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue at Main Street Bridge.** Chestnut reported on concerns regarding sight issues for drivers turning beside the Main Street Bridge toward 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. SCDOT recommended pavement markings that would create an acceleration lane and improve the sight distance. The present stop bar would be eliminated and a new one painted beyond the new hash marks. A dotted line will mark the lane boundary. Staff recommended implementation of SCDOT's recommendation. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the installation of the pavement markings as proposed. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Timbes asked staff to check on the possibility of landscaping the area of the new pavement markings.
- B. Proposed signage and sign location for Fifth and Main.** Emrick reported that currently there is no signage at the newly renovated Fifth & Main facility to identify the building or its functions. Council was provided four renderings which portrayed three options of signage for the facility. Emrick noted that Option 3 is a sandblasted wooden sign with raised aluminum letters and the sign would be located on the building to the right of the front doors and illuminated from the bottom and/or top. He also noted that any sign would require the approval of the Community Appearance Board. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve option #3 as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Graham reminded Council of Billy Joe Sawyer's retirement reception on Thursday, May 4, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Building Department.

#### **COUNCIL INPUT:**

The Mayor and City Council congratulated Billy Joe Sawyer on his retirement and thanked him for his years of service to the City. Council also congratulated Robert Cooper on his promotion as the City's Building Official.

**Goldfinch** further elaborated on the special event request for the Indie Market and noted that, while the City of Conway embraces different ideas, he noted for the record that he believes Conway's small town traditions and values should be honored.

**Anderson:**

- Agreed with Goldfinch's remarks in reference to the Indie Market special event request.
- Reported that the Robotics Team from the Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology placed in the top 200, out of 15,000 teams, during the competition in Houston, Texas last week. He thanked Council for its support of this team.
- Thanked Brian Piascik for the improvements in Coast RTA operations. He suggested the possibility of City advertisements on Coast RTA buses be explored.
- Commented on Downtown Houston's tree planting efforts and suggested that staff consider using significantly larger trees for landscaping projects throughout the City.

**Timbes** inquired about City ordinances regarding the use of drones. Graham reported that the City does not have an ordinance but follows FCC regulations.

**Alford:**

- Requested a list of the ten largest taxpayers within the City limits.
- Requested that the issue of closing "donut holes" be revisited.

**Blain-Bellamy:**

- Reported that on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., persons involved in the retail strategies for the Conway Chamber of Commerce will be sharing the results of their assessment of the City at the Chamber office.
- Shared information on the Mayors Conference of strategies that will transform a city's downtown.
- Encouraged the Police Department to take advantage of the Municipal Association's "Use of Force" simulator. She also inquired about the Police Department's adoption of a Use of Force Policy. Gosnell reported that the Conway Police Department has adopted the model Use of Force Policy provided by the Municipal Association.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Alford, to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, to review applications for the City Administrator's position, and to consider appointments to boards, commissions and committees. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to come out of executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Consideration of appointments to boards, commissions and committees [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(1)]: Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the following appointments as discussed in executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Conway Housing Authority: Reappointed Sandra Faison Gowans to a five-year term ending April 24, 2022.

Rose Hill Memorial Gardens Committee: Reappointed Terrence L. Johnson to a three-year term ending December 31, 2019.

Fireman's Insurance and Inspection Fund Oversight Committee: Reappointed Council Member Tom Anderson for 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.

  
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Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk