

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Mayor Pro Tem Randle L. Alford, Council Members Thomas J. Anderson II, William M. Goldfinch IV, Ashley Smith, Jean M. Timbes, and Larry A. White

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 Hendrick, 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: Robin H. Jones, Lesa Polson, Lori A. Lewis, Patsy Baker, 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. She requested a moment of silence to honor the one year anniversary of fallen firefighter Christopher Gene Ray.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Rev. Rocky Taylor of First Baptist Church in Conway who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-01-17 (B) accepting the request by Jimmy Jordan of JP Jordan and Associates LLC to annex approximately 2 acres of property located at 2980 Highway 378 (TMS# 136-00-01-011/PIN 33716040012) and to rezone the property from Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC) zoning upon annexation

B. City Council Minutes – February 16, 17, and 20 and March 7, 2017

Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Patsy Baker and Lori Lewis, representatives of PALOS of Horry County, spoke to Council on the group's plans, including a walk to raise autism awareness, banners, merchant use of blue lights to heighten awareness, tracking bands for autistic persons, possible training for police on how to recognize and deal with autistic persons, and a Mayor's Ball. Mayor Blain-Bellamy suggested Baker and Lewis contact the Planning Department for assistance with a special event application and Chief Gosnell regarding training for police officers. Council was presented a packet which included autism information. Mayor Blain-Bellamy suggested that Conway Downtown Alive and the Conway Chamber of Commerce be contacted regarding merchant use of blue lights.

Robin Jones, Principal of the Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology, asked Council to consider financial support for the school's robotics team travel expenses to participate in the FIRST World Championship in Houston, Texas, on April 18-23, 2017.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Update from the CCU Bicycle Advisory Committee.** Beth Javener, Coastal Carolina University, gave an update on CCU's progress as a bicycle friendly institution and its bicycle share program. She also briefly reviewed results of a recent survey on bicycling in Horry County.
- B. Request for financial support – Robotics Team from Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology.** Ms. Robin Jones presented this request earlier in the meeting. **Motion:** Smith made a motion, seconded by Alford, to donate \$500 to assist with travel expenses of the Academy for the Arts, Science and Technology's Robotics Team to compete in the World Championship in Houston, Texas. The donation will come from Council's discretionary funds in the General Fund budget. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Employee Longevity Bonus Awards** were presented to Willie Woodbury, Public Utilities Department, 10 years, and Lieutenant Tim Chapman, Police Department, 25 years. The presentations were made by the City Administrator accompanied by Council Member Timbes.
- D. Special event request: Summerfest.** Hughes reported that the event is planned for Saturday, May 27, 2017, and will be held on Elm Street, Laurel Street, and 3rd Avenue. Maps depicting the location of the event and street closures were provided. Streets will close at 11 pm on Friday, May 26th, and will re-open by 9 pm on the day of the event. No public alcohol consumption was requested for this festival. Staff recommended approval. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the special event application for the 2017 Summerfest as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- E. Employees of the Month Awards for March** were presented to Corporal Justin Strickland, Patrol Officer Reagan Moore, Patrol Officer Shane Carter, and Sergeant Chris Williamson, Police Department. The presentations were made by the City Administrator accompanied by Chief Gosnell.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

- A. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (A) Accepting the petition by Castles Engineering, on behalf of Coastal Carolina University, to annex approximately 4.37 acres of property located at 120 Winyah Road (TMS# 151-00-03-004/PIN 38311030002) and to rezone the property from Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) to City of Conway Institutional (IN) upon annexation.** Emrick reported that this request and the next two annexation and rezoning requests for CCU were made to provide areas for the development of medical, educational, and higher educational facilities in a campus-like setting. The Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as Industrial in the Future Land Use Map. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (B) Accepting the petition by Castles Engineering, on behalf of Coastal Carolina University, to annex approximately 0.42 of an acre of property located in the 1000 Block of Highway 544 (TMS# 150-00-07-015/PIN 38212040010) and to rezone the property from Horry County Neighborhood Commercial (HC) to City of Conway Institutional (IN) upon annexation.** The Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as Institutional in the Future Land Use Map. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (C) Accepting the petition by Castles Engineering, on behalf of Coastal Carolina University, to annex approximately 0.49 of an acre of property located in the 1000 Block of Highway 544 (TMS# 151-20-01-001/PIN 38212040009) and to rezone the property from Horry County SF 10 to City of Conway Institutional (IN) upon annexation.** The Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as Low Density Residential in the Future Land Use Map. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (C). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (D) Accepting the petition of Ekklesia Christian Church to rezone approximately 8.31 acres of property located at 2469 Highway 501 East (TMS# 151-00-03-020/PIN 38311030005) from Highway Commercial (HC) to Planned Development (PD) to allow for the development of a church and related amenities.** Emrick reported that the applicant has requested to annex and rezone this property to construct a church, a gymnasium and a youth center. The Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as Professional on the Future Land Use Map. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to close the public hearing. **Vote:**

Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (D). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

- A. Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (E) Accepting the petition of Phyllis R. Martin to annex approximately .2 of an acre of property located at 627 Lesia Lane (TMS# 150-17-03-014/PIN 38211020001) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation.** This request was made to allow the existing residential structure on the property to tie onto the City's water system. The City of Conway Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Existing Residential. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (E). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- B. Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (F) Accepting the petition of Charles A. Byrd to annex approximately 1.23 acres of property located at 2823 Graham Road (TMS #123-00-02-157/PIN 32416010001 and TMS #123-00-02-144/PIN 32416020002) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation.** This request was made to allow the existing residential structure on the property to tie onto the City's water and sewer system. The City of Conway Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Existing Residential. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (F). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (G) Accepting the petition of Shelley Holdings LLC to annex approximately 4.34 acres of property located at 3215 – 3243 New Road (TMS# 136-00-06-004, 136-00-06-024, 136-00-06-025, 136-00-06-026, 136-00-06-027, 136-00-06-028, 136-00-06-029, 136-00-06-030, 136-00-06-031) and to rezone the properties to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation.** This request was made to allow the existing residential structure on the property to tie onto the City's water and sewer system. The City of Conway Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Existing Residential. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (G). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (H) Amending the Southern Enchantment Carriages Franchise Agreement (Ordinance #2016-06-20 [E]) for horse drawn carriage services throughout the Central Business District of Conway.** Emrick reported that the franchise agreement with Southern Enchantment Carriages recently approved by Council did not speak to approvable signage to be utilized during carriage ride operations. The Franchisee has requested an addendum to the franchise agreement which would allow for signage as well as additional routes utilizing residential areas of the Conwayborough and Racepath area neighborhoods. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-03 (H). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- A. Request for certification of eligibility for special tax assessment under the Preservation Tax Incentive Program – 701 Laurel Street – Jessica Lukowski, applicant.** Emrick informed Council that the home at 701 Laurel Street meets the requirement for consideration of eligibility in that it is more than 50 years old and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Staff recommended that Council certify that the property at 701 Laurel Street as historic and eligible for the program based

on its meeting criteria (1), (2), (4), and (9) in Section 1-5-52 (c) of the City's Preservation Tax Incentive Program ordinance. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve staff's recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Proposed FEMA grant pre-application for a buy-out program for properties within flood-prone areas. Graham reported that, based on citizen requests for assistance following flooding from Hurricane Matthew, the City employed a flood mitigation consultant to explore options for a voluntary buy-out program. Two public meetings were held to present information about a possible FEMA grant application. Following the meetings, 60 property owners submitted voluntary interest forms for a total of 70 properties. Of these, all properties found to be eligible (60) are included in the proposed pre-application. Based on the varying damage to structures of those who submitted an interest form, FEMA guidelines and guidance from the consultant and the SCEMD, qualifying properties were ranked across three tiers to prioritize those with the most damage. Any FEMA funds received would be distributed according to this prioritization. Council received a summary of the three tiers in the proposed FEMA pre-application which included the potential grant amount of 75% for each tier and the 25% that would be paid by property owners who decide to participate in a buy-out. Graham noted that, if the pre-application is approved by Council, property owners who submitted an interest form will be contacted to ascertain their continuing interest; therefore, there may be some adjustments in the pre-application. Graham advised that staff recommended that Council authorize the submission of the pre-application for a FEMA buy-out program based on the following particulars: The pre-application, as reviewed, would provide for a pass-through of 100% of FEMA grant monies received with the remaining 25% non-federal share to be owner covered. The City will apply for \$150,000 per each tier for administrative cost. The outside consultant's fee will be capped at \$50,000 across all funding grants/tiers, not to exceed \$12,500 out-of-pocket for the City (25%). The remaining administrative cost will be available for the City to get reimbursed for incurred administrative expenses. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to authorize the submission of the pre-application for a FEMA buy-out program as presented by Graham. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Bid for storage area network equipment for citywide data, backup storage and redundancy. The following quotes for an expandable storage area network (SAN) with an initial 48 TB of usable storage space. Hewlett Packard - \$46,326.00; EMC - \$47,145.00; and Dell - \$52,601.39. One unit will be located in the Police Department and an identical unit will be placed in the Finance Office to mirror the main storage. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid. Leveille noted that the cost of this equipment will come from money allocated in the FY 2016-17 budget for Police and Administration IT purposes. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to accept the bid in the amount of \$46,326.00, submitted by High Performance Technologies, Inc., for the Hewlett Packard SAN equipment. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

D. Bid for sewer line replacement on 9th Avenue between Pine and Elm Streets. Friday reported that, in advance of SCDOT's resurfacing of 9th Avenue, the sewer line on 9th Avenue between Pine Street and Elm Street was checked for needed repairs. Based on the numerous places of needed repairs, it was determined that this section of sewer line should be replaced. Staff recommended the pipe bursting process for replacing for this particular line as it would be a better and more economical method than by open trench, estimated at \$29,260. The only company found that would perform such a small scale line replacement was Lawrimore Construction at a cost of \$22,510. Staff recommended acceptance of the bid submitted by Lawrimore Construction for sewer line replacement as presented. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to accept the bid submitted by Lawrimore

Construction in the amount of \$22,510 to “pipe burst” the section of sewer line on 9th Avenue between Pine and Elm Streets. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

E. Request for support for the Conway High School Educational Foundation Annual Banquet. Graham reported that the City had purchased tickets to this event in the past to show support for the School. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to authorize Council members to attend the Conway High School Educational Foundation Annual Banquet and to approve the purchase of the tickets by the City. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

F. Authorization to apply for Home Grant. Staff requested permission to apply for a HOME Consortium grant for \$150,000 to continue the housing rehab program. Emrick noted the grant has a 25% matching requirement which can come from a variety of sources including in-kind services, waiver of building permit fees, and other community building efforts in the area of the program expenditures. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to authorize staff to submit a HOME Consortium grant application in the amount of \$150,000. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEM FOR INFORMATION: Update on Police Department Outreach Programs. Gosnell reported that the Police Department is working with Dr. Debra Perkins of CCU to develop a survey to assess the state of community and police relationships. Gosnell also reported on the implementation of a new youth outreach program, the Cops and Kids Buddy Card Program, which is aimed primarily for middle school students. The Conway Chamber of Commerce and the Horry County Schools have agreed to partner with the Police Department with this program. And finally, Gosnell reported that 145 participants have signed up for the Saturday morning basketball program.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: None

COUNCIL INPUT:

Alford

- Thanked the Recreation Department for the work done at Collins Park.
- Requested that staff write a letter to local legislative delegates to request full funding of Local Government Fund allocations to municipalities.
- Requested that staff write a letter to the local legislative delegation in opposition to House Bill 3650 and 3651, the Business License Standardization Act.
- Requested that a deadline be set for receiving a list of streets in need of improved lighting from the Police Department.
- Requested that staff look at a 10-year plan for solving the issue of dark streets – possibly by using solar lighting.
- Suggested that street lights be placed behind the library on Laurel Street.

White

- Congratulated former City Councilman Ivory Wilson for having the new Coast RTA transfer station named in his honor.
- Suggested that staff look into CCU Professor James Luken’s offer to assist in the planning the development of Lake Busbee.

Timbes commented that the appearance of flowering plants around the City is not as vibrant as usual at this time of year due to damage from the recent cold weather.

Goldfinch commented on the positive feedback received at the Neighborhood Town Hall meeting on March 14, 2017.

Blain-Bellamy

- Read aloud a thank you card from Carol Hoyt for designating funds in the 2017-18 budget for shade at the Dog Park.
- Requested that the date for the grand opening of Fifth and Main be changed due to a conflict in her schedule.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 3rd day of April, 2017.


Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk