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

STAFF: Adam Emrick, Interim City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation & Tourism Director; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Timmy Williams, Grounds and Maintenance Director; and Ken Senn, Procurement Specialist

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Danny Clonts, Lex Gardner, 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 called for a moment of silence in remembrance of the two bank employees who were slain during the robbery of CresCom Bank in Conway earlier in the day. She then recognized Rev. Randy Riddle of Westminster Presbyterian Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-08-21 (A) Accepting the petition of Michael T. and Ashley H. Rouhselang to annex approximately 2.08 acres of property located at 178 Long Road (TMS# 123-00-02-013 / PIN 32400000015) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation

B. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-08-21 (B) Accepting the petition of Dereck Taillefer to annex approximately 0.58 acres of property located at 283 Wedding Lane (TMS #137-16-01-011/PIN #36713010022) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation

C. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-08-21 (D) Accepting the petition of Shawn Babwah to rezone approximately .08 acres of a property located at 613 Wright Boulevard (TMS
D. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-08-21 (F) Accepting the petition of Beverly Homes LLC to annex approximately 1.26 acres of property, consisting of two parcels (PIN #36912010002 and PIN #36912010004), located on Hemingway Chapel Road, and to rezone the property from Horry County CFA to City of Conway Medium Density Residential (R-2) upon annexation

E. Purchase of vehicles, including emergency lighting and equipment, for Police Department

F. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a letter of credit for Rosehaven Subdivision Phase II

G. Renewal of contract with Agape Physicians Care to provide medical services

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

PUBLIC INPUT:

Lex Gardner commented on plans of the Rivertown Tennis Center group to encourage diversity among its membership and that playing together can be a bridge between races.

Danny Clonts shared his concern that a 50% increase in the tennis center non-resident membership fee will result in decreased membership.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Employees of the Month for August: Mayor Blain-Bellamy announced that Employees of the Month for August would be recognized at the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

A. Ordinance #2017-09-18 (A) Amending the City’s fireworks ordinance (Title 7, Chapter 4, Article B) and the City’s noise ordinance (Title 9, Chapter 1, Article B (h) (8) and (16). On the recent July 4th holiday, a large number of complaints were received by the Police Department regarding the discharge of fireworks in the City. As a result, staff presented a proposed amendment to the City’s current fireworks regulations and Noise Ordinance during the workshop portion of the July 17th and August 7th Council meetings. Based on Council input from those discussions, staff drafted this proposed ordinance to amend the City Code of Ordinances with regard to fireworks. Emrick noted that the proposed revisions clarify the times that fireworks are allowed on July 4th, from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. and from 10 a.m. on
December 31st until 12:30 a.m. on January 1st for New Years. Fireworks being displayed at any other time will require City Council approval. The proposed ordinance also clarifies the definition of approved fireworks. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-09-18 (A) as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. **Ordinance #2017-09-18 (B) Amending the City of Conway Business and Professional License Ordinance by changing the rate structure for rate class 2 with NAICS code 310000-330000 (manufacturing) by establishing a declining scale.** On July 17, 2017, the Mayor, Interim City Administrator and City Attorney met with representatives of Horry County and the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation to discuss a new industrial use at the Atlantic Center Industrial Park. Horry County is in negotiations with a new company to locate in the Atlantic Center and has asked the City to consider reducing its business license fees for manufacturing uses to make the City’s rate more in line with the County’s rate. City Council discussed this request during the workshop at its August 7th meeting and again at its special called meeting on August 15th. During that meeting, Council agreed to consider an adjustment in the City’s current business license rates in an effort to assist Horry County in its economic development efforts. Williams reported that this proposed ordinance included a declining scale to set a cap on gross income of $3,000 for manufacturing businesses. Gross income over the cap will be $0.12 per $1,000. The proposed new scale will not affect any existing businesses that pay a City of Conway business license fee. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-09-18 (B) as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. **Ordinance #2017-09-18 (C) Amending the 2017-18 fee schedule for Parks, Recreation and Tourism adopted under Ordinance #2017-05-15 (A) by revising the membership rates for the Riverfront Tennis Center.** On June 19th, Council approved a delay of the implementation of the increased membership fees for the Riverfront Tennis Center, as was approved in the FY 2017-18 budget. Based upon input received during several meetings with the Riverfront Tennis Center members, staff and Council to discuss ideas for reducing the deficit at the Riverfront Tennis Center, Hughes presented an ordinance which reflected the following proposed membership rate revisions: Individual - $250 City-Resident, $412 Non-Resident; Family - $400 City-Resident, $637.50 Non-Resident; Student - $150 City-Resident, $200 Non-Resident. Hughes noted there was no increase in the guest fee and individual league participation fee in the FY 2017-18 budget; therefore, there are no changes proposed for these rates. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve first reading of Ordinance 2017-09-18 (C) as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

A. **Purchase of 2018 Pierce 6010 Enforcer fire engine and related equipment.** Hendrick recommended that the City utilize the services of the Fire Rescue Government Purchase Option Consortium (GPO) for the purchase of a new 2018 Pierce Enforcer 6010 Custom Pumper. Fire Rescue GPO provides Fire Departments access to publicly solicited contracts created through a nationwide public RFP process. Pierce Manufacturing was awarded the bid through this process. Spartan Fire and Emergency Apparatus, Inc. is the local vendor that is authorized to
sell Pierce Fire Apparatus in North and South Carolina. The cost of the 2018 Pierce Enforcer 6010 Custom Pumper, built in accordance with NFPA 1901 2016 Edition and department specifications, is priced at $495,123, which includes the $2,000 fee for the GPO purchase. In addition, an additional $21,230 will be needed for loose equipment, which will be bid through the same process, plus sales tax of $500.00. The total purchase amount will be $516,853. The City would save $12,058.00 by making a 50% pre-payment, reducing the purchase price to $504,795. Hendrick recommended using the $400,000 which was included in the FY 2017-18 budget for the purchase of a new aerial apparatus and offsetting the additional funds needed to complete the purchase from the sale of two City fire engines through government auction. The first apparatus to be sold is a 2008 Ferrara pumper which was purchased from Myrtle Beach in 2012 and the second vehicle to be sold is a 2001 Salisbury pumper which was purchased in 2001. Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the purchase of the 2018 Pierce Enforcer 6010 Custom Pumper as presented and to authorize the 50% down payment for a total purchase price of $504,795. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

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B. Appointment of Council representatives to Christmas Lights Committee. By consensus, Council Members Timbes, Goldfinch and Smith were appointed as representatives on the Christmas Lights Committee.

C. Agreement between the City of Conway and Van Watts and the Pace Group for the purpose of developing public and private infrastructure in the City of Conway. Emrick reported that the proposed agreement is between the City of Conway and Van Watts/The Pace Group for the purpose of developing public and private infrastructure on the site of the proposed 39-unit apartment building in the parking lot between Kingston Street and 4th Avenue. The agreement clarifies what portion of the infrastructure the City is responsible for and the portion Van Watts and the Pace Group are responsible for. Emrick noted that, since previously reviewed, some language in the agreement has changed referencing future uses of parking areas provided there are adequate parking facilities in the future. Emrick also noted a provision in the agreement that would require the City to provide a partial Riverwalk extension of 180 feet between the Ocean Fish Market and the Highway 905 bridge. Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the agreement between the City of Conway and Van Watts/The Pace Group as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

- Trees on Highway 378 Corridor - The City will partner with a nonprofit agency (Chamber of Commerce) to acquire easements and plant trees on private property at locations along the Highway 378 corridor; the trees will be provided by the City as a grant to the nonprofit agency and the City arborist will select planting locations. The tree of choice will be a variety of a holly tree which will grow in excess of 25 feet.
- Highway 378 crosswalk approval –SCDOT has declined to approve the City’s proposal for a painted piano key design and has suggested a 2-foot piano key design with a 3-foot space. Discussions with SCDOT are on-going.
- Wayfinding signage – Emrick commented on wayfinding signage observed while on vacation. It is estimated that the cost of similar signage would be less expensive if made a sign company rather than in-house. More information on the signage project will be presented at a later date.
• Construction of the Safe Routes to School sidewalk project near Conway Elementary School will begin in November.
• Christmas Party Committee – Emrick reported that the annual Employee Christmas party has enjoyed continued success using the same format for several years. Input from Council members to the committee is welcome; however, Council members indicated they did not see a need to have Council representatives on this committee.
• Lake Busbee – Suggested a public hearing for input from the community on whether or not the City should assume ownership of the lake. Council agreed with Emrick’s suggestion to hold the public hearing at 4 p.m. on September 18, 2017 (prior to the regular City Council meeting).

COUNCIL INPUT:

Timbes suggested the possibility of using one of the old fire trucks planned to be sold at auction, as a trolley to be used around the City, depending on the amount offered at the auction.

Blain-Bellamy
• Reported on positive comments received about the Waccamaw Park and congratulated Foster Hughes on the great job he and his staff did in the completion of the park.
• Reminded Council of the event hosted by the MBREDC, All Things Business to be held on Tuesday, August 22.
• Requested that the families of the slain CresCom Bank employees be remembered in prayer.

WORKSHOP:

A. Discussion on purchase of a portable 8 inch sewer bypass pump for the Public Utilities Department. Friday informed Council that funds were allocated in the Public Utilities FY 2017-18 budget to purchase a 6 inch portable sewer bypass pump; however, based on recent experience with work on the Crabtree lift station, he stated that the smaller pump is insufficient to handle larger force mains and an 8 inch pump is needed. He also reported that the costs of this 8 inch pump using the contract of a national purchasing group, is $65,911.32. Friday commented that he hoped the budget shortfall (approximately $16,000) would be covered by larger projects coming in under budget and, if not, only one new vehicle would be purchased for the Public Utilities Department instead of two as planned. OUTCOME: The item will be included on the agenda for consideration at the next Council meeting.

B. Discussion on requirements of City’s purchasing rules and regulations. Senn gave a brief overview of the City’s current bid and purchase requirements, including the local vendor preference that was added to the City’s purchasing policy several years ago. At present, all purchases over $10,000 require written bids to be obtained from a minimum of three qualified supply sources and must be approved by City Council. He explained the procedure for using contracts awarded by national purchasing organizations and noted that such organizations award bids based upon their own specifications, not the City’s. Senn also advised Council that national purchasing organization contracts are not a guarantee of lowest bid as local companies can sometimes offer lower prices and to use only those contracts would leave out local vendors. Giving the example of police cars, Senn commented that, even though these vehicles are on state contract, local automobile dealers are still given an opportunity to bid and are given a local vendor preference according to policy. Timbes and Smith voiced opposition to any
changes that may have negative impact on local businesses. Friday commented that a local vendor has the national contract for the pump he proposed to purchase and the City would not be required to pay a membership fee to purchase under the national contracts. During discussion Mayor Blain-Bellamy inquired as to whether the national contract could serve as one or all three of the required written bids. Emrick inquired if Council was interested in increasing the $10,000 limit for purchases requiring Council approval. There was no support voiced for this suggestion; however, the Mayor suggested that Council may give thought to revising the purchasing policy. **OUTCOME:** Based on input, staff will draft proposed amendments to the City’s purchasing guidelines for further discussion.

C. **Discussion on annexation and rezoning of certain properties on Highway 544 and Todd Boulevard to accommodate student housing.** First reading on the rezoning request for these properties was tabled at the last regular Council meeting to allow time for more discussion by City Council. Pete Hughes and Steve Powell of Venture Engineering were present in support of the annexation and rezoning request and Powell presented more detailed information on the proposed use of these properties including the proposed student housing project. Powell informed Council that the project is expected to create less than a 10% increase in traffic at that location. Carter Lane would be gated and used only for emergency ingress and egress. During discussion, questions arose regarding the construction of a wall at the rear of the property, how the flow of traffic would be directed toward Founder’s Drive, and additional police coverage, perhaps with assistance from CCU, to deter undesirable activities. Powell commented that they had no problem with installing a 6 foot fence, the project would meet or exceed the City’s buffer requirements and they will work with the County in regard to traffic on Todd Boulevard. Miltonette Clardy and J.W. Simmons, adjacent property owners, were present and voiced their concerns regarding traffic and the negative impact they believe additional student housing would have on the immediate neighborhood. Powell spoke of efforts undertaken by another student housing complex to encourage police presence and informed Council that he would encourage similar incentives for this project. Emrick stated that, if the properties were annexed, they would fall under City police jurisdiction and that Founder’s Drive, being signalized, would be the safest traffic route. **OUTCOME:** First reading of the ordinance to annex and rezone these properties will be considered at a future Council meeting.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approve by City Council this 18th day of September, 2017.

Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk