CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Jo Blain-Bellamy, William Goldfinch, Mayor Pre Tem, and Council Members Tom Anderson, Shane Hubbard, Jean Timbes, and Larry White

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; Dale Long, Police Chief; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Ashley Smith, Recreation Director; Timmy Williams, Director of Parks and Ground Maintenance; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Lynn Smith, Human Resources Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Alex Cook, Plan Reviewer; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Kent Bitting, Public Utilities Superintendent; Mary Catherine Hyman, Deputy Administrator/Planning & Development Director; John Rogers, Deputy Administrator/Grants & Special Project Director; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Wanda Lilly, Plans Designs Landscape/Arborist; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; and Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: Barb Eisenhardt, Alex Hyman, Rein Mungo, Kathy Ropp

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order. Rev. Kyle Randle gave the invocation and City Council and those in attendance recited 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: Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the September 16, 2019 agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Special Event Request – Community Chalkboard – Conway Downtown Alive

B. Final reading of Ordinance #2019-09-16 (A) Amending the City’s salary pay grades and positions schedule and adopting an amended budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20

C. Approval to purchase trees and supplies for Conway Strong Day

D. Approval of road dedication for Oak Glen Phase 3

E. Resolution honoring the 70th anniversary of the Salvation Army in the City of Conway
F. Minutes of City Council meeting – September 3, 2019

Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the Consent Agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: Barb Eisenhardt commented that she had enjoyed the PD Run for Special Olympics and that is was for a good cause. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hubbard to close public input. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. **Accommodations Advisory Tax Committee funding recommendations.** Rein Mungo, Chairman of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee informed Council that the committee had received four applications for funding for FY2019. On September 10, 2019 the committee met to review the requests and make a recommendation on how the $23,466.28 available funds should be disbursed. The recommendations are: Conway Chamber of Commerce - $7,500, Conway Downtown Alive - $4,960, Theater of the Republic - $10,000, and Conway Farmers Market Association $1,000. This would leave a balance of State Accommodations Tax revenue in the amount of $6.28 for the next year. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Accommodations Advisory Tax Committee funding recommendations for FY 2019. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. **Employees of the month – Brian Cummings and Mark Miller – Fire Department.** Hendrick presented the awards to Cummings and Miller for assisting an elderly resident remove limbs and branches from her yard after Hurricane Dorian.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: Emrick informed Council that Hendrick was going to use this time to update them on staff’s actions before, during, and after Hurricane Dorian. Hendrick’s Hurricane Dorian Timeline is attached to these minutes.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Hubbard thanked staff for their efforts relating to Hurricane Dorian.

White asked if all the missing children had been found and was told all but one at this time. Suggested that perhaps the City could partner with others to build apartments or low-cost homes on City-owned residential property.

Timbes asked if grants could be gotten to plant trees on FEMA lots and suggested that there be incentives for the downtown business owners who have been asked to upgrade their property.
Anderson asked if the Festival of Lights would be back to its former route before Hurricane Florence and he was told it would be, and asked if the Tennis Center was close to being started. Emrick said it was still in the design stages. Anderson also thanked staff for their efforts relating to Hurricane Dorian. Would like to have a meeting with SCDOT concerning Lake Busbee.

Goldfinch shared Anderson’s concerns about Lake Busbee, thanked staff for their efforts relating to Hurricane Dorian, and commented that the PD 5K Special Olympics Run was awesome.

Blain-Bellamy commented that she had received a letter from a 94-year old citizen thanking the Sanitation Department for all it did for her. Not only do they provide back-door service, but they took away an old appliance from her garage for her, noted that the ribbon cutting ceremony for Kingston Park would be on Wednesday evening at 7 pm, and asked Emrick to have an update on what the City was doing relative to tennis and pickleball at the next Council meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 7th day of October, 2019.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk
Hurricane Dorian Timeline

Had an exercise on August 15th. Lessons learned and changes to the EOP
- Fire Chief becomes the Acting Fire Chief
- Suspension of business license and building permits
- Sending the Deputy Administrator to the HCEOC

Saturday, August 31, 2019
- Received an email from Randy Webster about a local coordination conference call at 10:00
- A lot of uncertainty but the storm was projected to impact our area
- At this point Tropical Storm force winds Wednesday late
- Category 2 at landfall along SC coast
- Discussions of mandatory evacuations for Zone A with no lane reversals
- SCEMD was to brief the Governor at 1:00 and there was a state call at 5:00
- 6-8” of rain
- Slow moving
- State of Emergency for SC was signed by Governor McMaster

Sunday, September 1, 2019 (Day 1)
- City moved to OPCON 2
- Local coordination call at 8:00
- Category 5; 160MPH winds w/gusts to 184MPH
- Track had center of circulation off of the SC coast with a wide wind field
- First winds would arrive late Wednesday so evacuations would need to be over by this time
- Horry County recommended a Tuesday morning Zone A evacuation with no lane reversals
- Horry County moved to OPCON 2 and planned to open their EOC Monday morning; OPCON 1 on Tuesday
- National Weather Service call at 8:30
  - 4-6” of rain
  - Possible flooding
  - No major storm surge
- State Coordination Conference Call at 9:00
  - 6-8” of rain with 10-15” possible locally
  - Currently stationary over Bahamas but once it turned North, it would accelerate forward and eventually turn North/Northeast
- State Coordination Conference Call at 16:00
  - 185MPH winds w/225MPH gusts
  - Center of circulation still tracking off the coast 40-50 miles
- Adam, Mary Catherine, John, Taylor, myself met at the EOC at 6:00PM
  - Discussed the needs of the City
  - Gave the list of conference calls and meetings for Monday (Public Safety at 8:30 and Department Heads at 10:00)
  - Tuesday – OPCON 1 at 8:00; Department Head meeting at 10:00

Monday, September 2, 2019 (Day 2) [Labor Day]
- Local coordination call at 8:00
  - Opening Category 1 shelters
  - Storm was on same track; still at Category 5 storm
• Arrival as a Category 2 or 3 on Thursday as it passes the coast
• Compared to Matthew for winds and storm surge
• Governor McMaster ordered evacuations to begin at noon on Monday with no lane reversals (Zone A)
• Public Safety Meeting at 8:30
  • Fire overlapping shifts
  • Police up-staffing
• Department Head Conference Call at 10:00
  • Discussed documentation
  • Going door-to-door in our low lying areas to make sure they were aware of the potential for flash flooding
  • Staged barricades and cones in areas prone to flooding
  • Removed banners, trash receptacle inserts, and other items that may be damaged by wind
  • Lift station mitigation; sandbagging and installing generators and bypass pumps
  • Discussed our plan to close the City at noon on Wednesday and through Friday
  • Individual department preparedness; each department head discussed their needs and goals

Tuesday, September 3, 2019 (Day 3)
• City of Conway moved to OPCON 1 at 08:00
• Emergency Operations Center was opened with a skeleton crew
• Local coordination conference call at 8:00
  • Same track
  • Storm had weakened to 120MPH
  • Still 6-8” of rain with 10-15” locally possible
  • Matthew type storm with less rain
  • 5 shelters were already open with 40 total occupants; Conway High School was included
  • Horry County Public Schools were closed the remainder of the week
  • CCU students were told to not return from Labor Day break; remaining students were evacuated to East Tennessee State University
• Staff Meeting in person at 10:00 with Department Heads and critical staff
  • Repeated most of what we discussed on Monday
• Localized State of Emergency Declared at the City Council meeting

Wednesday, September 4, 2019 (Day 4)
• Local Coordination Conference Call at 8:00
  • Shifted west and was moving closer to the coast
  • 105MPH winds
  • Eye wall was 100 miles wide with a much wider wind field from the center
  • Tropical storm force winds expected early Thursday morning
  • 5-7” storm surge
  • 8-10” of rain; 10-15” locally
• City Help lined was opened and staffed by newly hired fire personnel
• City closed at noon for non-emergency staff
• EOC closed at 6:00PM; critical staff to return by 6:00AM on Thursday, but available during the night if needed
• Police and Fire began up-staffing at 7:00PM

Thursday, September 5, 2019 (Day 5)
• 4:00AM Dorian arrives early
- Multiple tornado warnings
- EOC staff begins arriving at 4:15 AM
- High winds and heavy rains for a few hours in the first bands
- Local coordination conference call 08:00
  - NMB had a lot of damage from the tornados
  - No other significant damage reported
  - The bulk of the storm was to come around 3-5PM
- National Weather Service Conference Call 08:30
  - 6” already dumped with 11 more expected
  - 115MPH winds moving NNE at 8MPH which is away from the coast
- Local Coordination Conference Call 4:00PM
  - Highest winds between 5-7PM
  - 15.5’ on the Waccamaw with a crest on Friday/Saturday; another crest from water upstream around 14’
  - Eye wall passed 10-15 miles from the coast near Charleston, gusts reported of 92 mph
- Conditions never got much worse
- Improved overnight
- Small crew of staff stayed at the EOC
- Very few calls for service by Fire Department that were storm related

Friday, September 6, 2019 (Day 6 – Final Day)
- Assessment teams met at the EOC early and began the initial windshield surveys
- No damage was reported
- A few blocked roadways from the flash flooding
- A crest was expected on Friday at 12.4’ once all of the rainfall was imported into the models
- EOC was downsized and all staff went home at noon. City moved to OPCON 2
- At 5:45 pm, City moved to OPCON 3

City of Conway Internal Damages
- Roof at Fire Station 3
- Erosion at the Riverfront Park where the rip-rap washed away during the Florence flooding

External Damages
- 250 tons of vegetative debris
- 1 large tree

Lessons learned
- Still working on the right model for food distribution during the event (we have the answer)
- Working on the after-action report

Changes from Florence that worked
- Even better communication; both internally and externally to the public
  - Pushing the clear and concise message as one voice
- John Rogers went to the HCEOC as the executive member. He was able to communicate with them in the room and provide real time information back to us prior to conference calls
- Help Line early in the event
- Only having 3 OPCON levels