CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Shane Hubbard, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Members: William Goldfinch, Shane Hubbard, Alex Hyman, Justin Jordan, Jean Timbes, and Larry White

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Ashley Smith, Recreation Director; Braxton Fleming, Public Works Superintendent; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Dale Long, Police Chief; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Mary Catherine Hyman, Deputy Administrator/Planning & Development Director; John Rogers, Deputy Administrator/Grants & Special Projects Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Jessica Hucks, Planner; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Katie Dennis, Property Maintenance Inspector; Kent Bitting, Public Utilities Superintendent Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; and Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: C.N. Brown, Kathy Ropp and other media representatives.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order and Rev. Jim Burton of Kingston Presbyterian Church, 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: Hyman made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the February 17, 2020 meeting agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. City’s Risk Management Policy Resolution and update on City’s safety program

B. Riverfest Special Event – Saturday, June 27, 2020

C. Road Dedication – Rosehaven PH III

D. Replacement of antivirus software (budgeted)

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

PUBLIC INPUT: There was no public input. Motion: Hubbard made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch to close Public Input. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Proclamation Presentation for School Counselor’s Week - Mayor Blain-Bellamy presented Deanna Shuler, a guidance counselor at Conway Elementary School with a proclamation to honor her for what she does for students in our community.

B. Update on utility conversion progress and update on future plans – Eli Jones – DDC Engineers. Jones thanked Council for the patience during this conversion. By the end of March, the contractors hope to complete construction of the mainline conduit bank, streetlight conduits, and concrete restoration. Once that is completed, the utility company will begin to pull wire and remove the existing poles. The last phase will be the final concrete repairs and the roads will be resurfaced. Contractors will make spot repairs to the asphalt to improve the riding conditions. The full layer of asphalt will not be completed until after the poles are removed and construction is complete. Jones informed Council that the project will take several months to complete.

C. Presentation on needs of the homeless in the City of Conway – Joey Smoak, Executive Director of ECHO. Smoak informed Council that the demand for housing outweighed the resources. Horry County makes up 85-90% of total number of homeless people in the 13 county network. In calendar year 2019, they housed 1,204 persons in permanent housing, not shelters. The goal is to house people first and then find support services and jobs. People can help by donating money or volunteering.


FIRST READING:

First reading of Ordinance #ZA2020-03-16 (A) An Ordinance to annex approximately 0.56 acres of property located at 641 University Forest Circle (TMS 138-26-01-029 | PIN 366-15-04-0002) and request to rezone from Horry County Single Family (SF10) to City of Conway Low/Medium Density Residential District (R-1). M. Hyman informed Council that this request was being made to allow a single family residence to tie into City services. The residence, although it is contiguous to the City, would be the only one on the street within the City limits, and staff does not recommend annexation. Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by A. Hyman, to deny the request for annexation. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.
ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. Consideration of a reimbursement request from Trinity UMC of rezoning fees associated with the rebuilding of the church after damage from Hurricane Florence. Hyman advised Council that the church has been vacant since suffering flood damage after Hurricane Florence. In addition to renovations due to the flooding, the church is also planning additions to the building. With the expansion of the building footprint, the church is required to rezone from its current Residential (R1) zoning to Planning Development (PD) to bring it into compliance with the UDO. The UDO requires any religious use of a property greater than 3 acres be zoned as a Planned Development. A request to rezone any property within the City requires a fee to be paid for administrative costs. The fee to rezone to a PD is $2,500.

Trinity has presented a letter to the City requesting reimbursement of the $2,500 fee to help them with their flood losses.

Staff has no issues with this request and asks that Council consider the reimbursement.

Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by Hyman, to reimburse to Trinity United Methodist Church the $2,500 rezoning fee. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Authorization of application for the 2019 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Hendrick informed Council that staff was requesting permission to submit an application to FEMA for an Assistance to Firefighters grant in the amount of $183,776.52 to replace 31 portable radios and seven truck mounted radios. Although the current radios still function, they met their end of life with Motorola in the fall of 2019, and there will no longer be replacement parts available as early as summer 2020. The new radios will be a new style that are P25 digital compliant, and will have a life expectancy of 15 years from date of purchase.

The grant requires the City to provide a 10% match ($18,377.66) if the grant is awarded. This match is subject to change depending on the cost of the equipment at the time of purchase.

The grant may be not awarded until next year, and a one-year time frame will be allowed to complete the project, meaning the purchase may not be made until FY2020-21 budget year. There is no cost to apply for the grant and there is no fee if the grant is not awarded.

Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to have staff proceed with the submission of an application for the 2019 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant: Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.
CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- The City closed on the purchase of Rivertown Pharmacy's building on Main Street using the FEMA buyout funds. Two additional properties should close this week and a few more are in the works. Once we close on the property, whichever demo contractor received the contract for demolition has 90 days to remove the structure, asphalt and any other impervious surface and reseed the site.
- In addition to the update from Eli Jones, Public Utility crews are trying to replace aging, and in some places, failing sewer lines between Main Street and Laurel Street. Some of this work will be done this evening, and on Sunday, crews will work on Fourth Avenue between the bridge and Main Street to replace water lines. This is being done now in order to hopefully prevent having to dig up the roads once the resurfacing has been done.
- Budget Retreat will be Thursday, March 5th through Saturday, March 7th.
- The Gullah Geechee Community Day is March 7th. This event caps the International Gullah Geechee Conference that is being hosted by CCU. The locations in Conway will be the Horry County Museum, First Methodist Church's Bible Hut, 5th and Main, and Conway City Hall.
- On Thursday, February 20th, the Fire Department will have a badging ceremony at 10:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Building.
- Wayfinding signage installation has begun. Contractors began digging and setting the footers for the breakaways. Once completed and set, the sign installation will begin.
- The new software conversion is live in most department. This software will modernize payroll, utility billing, finance, business license and budgeting processes, and will also incorporate planning and building needs. Builders will be able to upload their plans directly to our plan reviewers and check the status of their permits from any computer.
- The stormwater infrastructure consultants will be at the March 16th Council workshop to unveil and discuss plans for the area next to Trinity.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Jordan attended the Father/Daughter dance at the Recreation Center and thanked staff for a nice evening.

Timbes thanked the Fire Department for their program of changing out batteries in smoke detectors and mentioned they had done that for her recently.

White asked about the removal of septic tanks on properties in which the structure had been demolished. Emrick responded that the City would remove it if it were in the FEMA buyout program. Reported a sign that had been left at the corner of Racepath and Hwy. 378.

Hyman also attended the Father/Daughter dance and said it was the best one yet.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy attended the Night to Shine event at the Rock Church and commented it was wonderful to see so much giving and caring. She also attended the Father/Daughter dance and noted the Recreation staff made the gym look like a ballroom.
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**Motion:** Hyman made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to enter executive session to discuss Consideration of appointments to boards, commissions and committees [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(A)(1) and discussion of employment in relation to the City Administrator [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(A)(1)]  **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

POSSIBLE 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:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Hyman, to approve the following appointments as discussed in executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Community Appearance Board: Appointed Jacqueline Kurlowski to fill an unexpired term expiring on December 31, 2020, and appointed Gerry Wallace to a four-year term expiring December 31, 2023.

Board of Zoning Appeals: Appointed Jay Sellers to fill an unexpired term expiring on December 31, 2020, and appointed Paul Lawson to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Lakeside Cemetery Committee: Appointed John Creel to a three-year terms expiring on December 31, 2022.

After executive session, Council asked for staff to provide meals for each meeting, and to advise the media that executive session, going forward, may be held in conjunction with the Council workshop and should time not permit, it will be appended to the Council meeting directly following the workshop.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this 6th day of April, 2020.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk