City Council  
December 3, 2018

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Jo Blain-Bellamy, Mayor Pro Tem Larry A. White, and Council members Thomas J. Anderson II, William M. Goldfinch IV, Shane Hubbard, Ashley Smith, and Jean M. Timbes

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Mary Catherine Hyman, Planning Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Addison Jarrell, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director; Reggie Jenrette; Solid Waste Director; Dale Long, Police Chief; Timmy Williams, Grounds and Maintenance Director; Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Jeremy Carter, Assistant Fire Chief; and Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: Ben Burroughs, Patty Jackson, 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 introduced Reverend Wallace Evans, of a Father’s Place, who gave the invocation. Proceeding the invocation, a moment of silence was observed in memory of President George Herbert Walker Bush, recently deceased and Camari Chestnut, a nine-year old Conway girl who perished in a car accident last week. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Acceptance of low bid for purchase of a compact track loader for Public Utilities Department (budgeted item)

B. Minutes of City Council meeting – November 19, 2018

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

PUBLIC INPUT: Ben Burroughs shared a complaint with Council regarding trash on Long Avenue Extension at Greer Swamp and requested help from the City to clean up the area on an ongoing basis. He noted that debris that washed up during the recent flooding continues to litter the area and is very unsightly. Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to close public input. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.
SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Recognition of Annie Cecil, artist of the 2018 City of Conway Christmas Card. Annie Cecil was recognized as the artist of the 2018 Christmas card for the City of Conway. Annie is the 10-year old daughter of Joe Hunter and Mary Catherine Hyman and is in the 5th grade at Conway Elementary School. On behalf of Council, Mayor Blain-Bellamy presented Annie with a gift certificate and a framed edition of her Christmas card.

B. Recognition of the 2017 C.P. Quattlebaum Design Awards recipients. Congratulations and commendations were extended by Council to recipients of the awards for 2017 as listed below. Winners were introduced by the Planning Director and presented their awards by the City Administrator.

   Outstanding Restoration of a Residential Building – 601 Burroughs Street – Austin Michael and Brittany Ann Bischoff

   Outstanding New Construction of a Residential Building – 505 Beaty Street – Brian and Sheila O’Neil

   Outstanding Restoration of a Non-Residential Building – 1701 Church Street – 3C Coffee Bar – The Rock Church

   Outstanding Contribution to Quality Development, Restoration, Landscape or Design by an Organization or Individual – 500 Main Street – Anderson Brothers Bank

C. Update on Main Street Bridge repair/maintenance project – Stacey Johnson, SCDOT Project Manager. Johnson informed Council that the Main Street Bridge detour for the project would begin on January 7, 2019 and the bridge is expected to reopen by March 31, 2019. Once the work on top of the bridge is completed, the bridge will reopen while repairs underneath the bridge are made. The project will be completed by the end of summer. Detour signs will be placed on roads leading to the bridge, postcards will be sent to Conway residents about the detour, and detour maps will be available. Emrick advised Council that the electrical conduit had to be removed from the bridge before work could begin; therefore, the Christmas lights could not be installed on the bridge this year. Johnson further advised that the bridge would stay closed to vehicle traffic until work on top of the bridge is complete, but boat traffic will not be impeded at any time. Johnson indicated that SCDOT will make accommodations for business owners and others who would be impacted by the closure of 2nd Avenue while work is being done underneath the bridge.

D. Grants update. John Rogers, Grants Coordinator, gave an update on grants the City received in 2018. A total of $642,755.69 in grants have been awarded to the City during 2018 and pending grants total $147,000. The Mayor and Council commended Rogers for his work on securing these grants.

E. Employee Longevity Award was presented to Jeff Jordan, Police Department – 10 years. Emrick and Council Member Smith made the presentation. Maurice Butler, Grounds & Maintenance Department – 15 years, was also recognized but was not in attendance at the meeting.
PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #ZA2018-12-17
(B) An Ordinance to annex approximately 5.27 acres of property located at 1500 Highway 501 Business (TMS 151-00-01-056 | PIN 383-01-01-0007) and to rezone the property from Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) to Planned Development District (PD) upon annexation. Hyman informed Council that this was the former Christ Community Church property that had recently changed ownership and was now Seacoast Church. Annexation is required to continue water service to the property. Glen Wood, the administrator of the church, was present in support of the annexation request. Public Hearing: There was no comment from the public. Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to close the public hearing. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Hubbard, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2018-12-17 (A). Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. Selection of firm to perform Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing engineering services for the Whittemore project. Hyman apprised Council that the City advertised for proposals for mechanical, electrical and plumbing services for the Whittemore project. Proposals received were ranked by a staff committee and representatives of the top three firms were interviewed. Staff recommended that Council authorize negotiations with Owens and Associates for a contract to be presented for Council’s consideration. Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve staff’s recommendation. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Proposed 2019 schedule for City Council meetings. Emrick informed Council that the calendar being proposed for 2019 was the same as that for 2018. Motion: Hubbard made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the 2019 Council meeting dates as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

FEMA Buy-out Program Update:
• The deadline to apply for FEMA assistance is December 5, 2018.
• There are five demolition bids complete and moving toward closing.
• Ten additional bid packages are going out for demolition.
• 45 properties have been appraised.
• Owners of 27 eligible alternate properties that were not on the original application are now interested in the buyout program.
• The meeting with the Small Business Administration and COG will be December 4th at 8:30 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce.
♦ The preconstruction meeting with SCDOT on the Main Street Bridge project is December 4th.
♦ A proposed lease renewal with AT&T for space on a City water tower is expected to be on the next meeting’s agenda.
♦ Hometown Legislative Action Day is February 5, 2019.
♦ The City’s Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Friday, December 7th at 3:30 p.m. in Collins Park. A live oak will be planted in honor of Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy at this event.
♦ A meeting is scheduled on December 10th at 6 p.m. at the Recreation Center with City staff and members of the Tennis Center.
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♦ Representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers will be in Conway next week to assess possible solutions for Crabtree Canal flooding.  
♦ Reviewed dates of December events.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Larry White inquired about status of the City’s access channel on Frontier cable service.

Jean Timbes:  
• Thanked Mayor Blain-Bellamy, Debbie Smith, and everyone involved for a wonderful tree lighting ceremony.  
• Reported that Conway High School’s report card is the best it has been for several years with an increase of 7 points.

Tom Anderson thanked everyone for their prayers and concern and thanked C3 Coffee for assistance it gave to Conway citizens after Hurricane Florence.

William Goldfinch spoke on the potential of the Reindeer Run to become a much larger event, and suggested that the City explore ways it might be able to help.

Ashley Smith  
• Suggested the City send a crew to assist with the clean-up of Long Avenue Extension.  
• Commented that a tree would be planted in memory of Camari Chestnut, the 9-year old Conway Elementary School student who was killed in a car accident in November.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy  
• Thanked Seacoast Church for their services of “car sitting” during the massive traffic jams that occurred due to Hurricane Florence.  
• Suggested that the HGTC golf course management department be contacted about partnering with the City to replant trees and plants lost to hurricane flood waters.

WORKSHOP:

A. Presentation on human trafficking – Patty Jackson, Chairman, SC Coastal Region Task Force on Human Trafficking. Jackson gave an informative presentation on human trafficking for those present. She noted the prime target is children 12-14 years of age; at high risk runaways, homeless and foster kids; young boys and girls who have been exposed to abuse and neglect; children with disabilities; youth in the juvenile justice system, foreigners or anyone regardless of race, sex or socio-economic status who are just in the wrong place at the wrong time. She explained the various methods predators use to trap their victims and commented that this criminal element was already known to be in Myrtle Beach and Charleston. She advised Council that there is training available at no cost through the state for law enforcement personnel, which includes resource officers in schools.

Jackson requested that Council Members use their personal and professional influence to encourage state legislators to support all bills that would deter and diminish human trafficking.
OUTCOME: Jackson will get information to Council about any legislation coming up for this session. A letter of support will be considered.

B. Presentation on computer coding. Devin Parks, Conway Chamber of Commerce and Eileen Patoney, Regional Workforce Advisor with the South Carolina Department of Commerce, gave the presentation. The South Carolina Department of Commerce has announced a partnership called SC Codes, a platform aimed to connect South Carolinians to the education and resources they need to achieve a career in technology. The platform includes free online curriculum, mentors, and opportunities to connect with local communities. Parks noted that mentors and select learning sites are being sought locally. He and Patoney are working to establish partnerships with HGTC, Conway High School, Horry County library, and the Conway Innovation Center to solidify Conway as a host for the SC Codes pilot program. He requested Council’s support and endorsement of the SC Codes Initiative in the form of advertising on the City’s access channel. Patoney commented that South Carolina was the first state to offer the program free of charge and that this program is available to anyone with a computer.
OUTCOME: There was no opposition to Anderson’s suggestion that the City’s Public Information Officer assist with advertising the SC Codes program on the City’s access channel.

C. Discussion on the first draft of the Cultural Resources element of the City of Conway Comprehensive Plan and discussion on appointments to the Land Use Element Committee. Hyman informed Council that, under state law, the Comprehensive Plan must be updated every ten years, and it is now time to make the updates. Two elements have already been updated and the draft of the Cultural Resources element was presented at this meeting for review. The draft will also be reviewed by the Planning Commission before being presented to Council for consideration. Draft copies were also sent to cultural groups in the City for feedback and that feedback has been incorporated into the draft. Hyman indicated that work is underway to update the Land Use element, and a Land Use Committee would be appointed by the Planning Commission to assist with this effort. She asked that Council recommendations for people to serve on the committee be forwarded to her. Emrick advised that Council Members are not eligible to serve on the committee. OUTCOME: Shared as information for Council review and input.

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

APPROVAL OF MINTUES: Minutes approved by City Council this 17th day of December, 2018.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk