CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: William Goldfinch, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Members Tom Anderson, Jean Timbes, and Larry White ABSENT: Shane Hubbard (illness); Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy (family emergency)

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; Braxton Fleming, Public Works Superintendent; Lynn Smith, Human Resources Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Mary Catherine Hyman, Deputy Administrator/Planning & Development Director; John Rogers, Deputy Administrator/Grants & Special Projects Director; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Jessica Hucks, Planner; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Alex Cook, Plans Reviewer; Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; and Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: Alex Hyman, Justin Jordan, Matthew Richardson, Kathy Ropp

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Goldfinch called the meeting to order. Anderson 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 December 16, 2019 meeting agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Special Event – Laurel Street Yard – April 4, 2020 – 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon – Conway Downtown Alive

B. Special Event – Rivertown Music & Beer Festival – May 2, 2020 – 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Conway Downtown Alive
C. Special Event – Indie Market on Laurel Street – April 18, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

D. Renewal of Municipal Public Defender Agreement

E. Request from Brantley Green to certify property at 329/331 Laurel Street (TMS# 137-02-03-002 / PIN 36804020097) eligible for special tax assessment under the Preservation Tax Incentive Program

F. Purchase of water meters by Public Utilities (budgeted)

G. Pavement replacement on Mill Pond Road (budgeted)

H. Qualification of engineer for the Riverfront Tennis Center

I. Minutes of Special City Council Meeting – November 26, 2019 and Council Meeting – December 2, 2019.

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

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Reindeer Run presentation by Joe Huffman of the Conway Rotary Club. Mr. Huffman was unable to attend. The presentation will be made at a later date.

B. Employees of the Month - Richard Edwards and Jeff Jordan – Police Department. Long presented Edwards and Jordan with their awards.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING:

Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2020-01-06 An Ordinance to amend the Conway Comprehensive Plan by replacing the Land Use Element in its entirety. Hyman informed Council that under South Carolina law, a planning commission must establish and maintain a planning process which will result in the systematic preparation and continual evaluation and updating of the elements of the comprehensive plan.

The draft of the Land Use Element was reviewed at the August 19 and November 18, 2019 Planning & Development Committee Meetings and November 7, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting. A Public Hearing was held at the December 3, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting. A 30-day notice was placed in the newspaper for the City Council public hearing.
A Land Use Committee comprised of relevant stakeholders was formed to draft the plan. This Committee met on April 4, May 9, July 25, and November 14, 2019. Two community workshops for the public were held on August 7 and 15, and an online survey was distributed. These workshops and survey were advertised on social media, city website, city access channel, and included in utility bills. The drafts of the plan and Future Land Use Map were also advertised on City website and social media. The City of Conway Planning Commission gave unanimous approval to the Land Use Element at its December 3, 2019, meeting.

Staff recommends approval of the first reading of Ordinance #ZA2020-01-06 (A).

Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to close Public Hearing. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2020-01-06 (A). Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

FIRST READING:

First reading of Ordinance #ZA2020-01-06 (B) An Ordinance to annex approximately 0.33 acres of property located at 36 Clemson Road (TMS 151-19-02-035 | PIN 383-10-03-0013) and request to rezone from Horry County Residential (SF10) to City of Conway Low/Medium Density Residential District (R-1). Hyman advised Council that the request is being made to allow a single family residence that recently changed ownership to tie into City services. Staff recommends approval of the first reading. Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2020-01-06 (B). Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

- The Residential Design Guidelines committee met on December 3 for the first time. The second meeting will be tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.
- Even with a few weather delays, the Riverfront playground is making progress. As soon as a few pieces have been added, the area will be turned over to the surface crews. Fence repairs will happen once the heavy equipment has been removed.
- The annual A Christmas to Remember event was held on December 7th. This is the day that underprivileged children are taken to Walmart to shop for Christmas items.
- The Celebration of Lights during the weekend starting December 12th was the top grossing weekend so far. Just over $7,000 was grossed for the four-day period as compared to the first weekend that grossed $4,724.
- The City Christmas Tree lighting on December 5th had the largest crowd the City has had. The estimate was between 3,000 and 3,500, which is at least double what it has been in the past. Due to safety concerns and visibility for the crowd, staff is looking to move the event to a new location for 2020.
- The Under the Lights 5k was last week and boasted 370 people sign up for this first-time event. With the knowledge staff now has, the 2020 event will be much better.
• The Main Street Bridge wreaths are up and lit before Christmas.
• It has been an honor and a pleasure to have worked with Council Member Tom Anderson.

COUNCIL INPUT:

White, based on his own recent personal health issue, encouraged everyone to seek medical help if they have the slightest feeling that something might not be right. Expressed his pleasure in having worked with Council Member Tom Anderson.

Timbes was pleased with the parade, the Celebration of Lights and the wreaths being up and in working order. Commented that she was sorry to see Council Member Anderson’s departure.

Goldfinch remarked that the City looked amazing, the Christmas party had been nice and the parade had gone very well. Commented that Council Member Anderson had been one of the people who had been there for him for many years and he would miss him on Council. He also noted that most people are not aware of all the good Anderson has done.

Anderson commented that he was first elected to City Council in 1998 and that following 22 years have flown by. The City has never been in better shape and has grown in so many directions. He wished the two new incoming Council Members the best of luck.

All Council Members wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this day of January, 2020.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk