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 Resources Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Ken Senn, Procurement/Inventory Specialist; Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: Philip Heisler, Bonnie Matthews, Beth Smith, 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 Pastor Seth Farrior from Seacoast Christian Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion: Timbes 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 #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

B. Authorization of a contract with Tommy Simpson for the painting of the train mural at Kingston Park

C. Acceptance of bid for budgeted replacement of cardio equipment for the Conway Recreation Center

D. Acceptance of bid for budgeted replacement truck for Public Utilities

E. Minutes of City Council meeting – December 3, 2018
**Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

**Philip Heisler** expressed to Council his concern about the notification process to surrounding property owners for potential annexations or rezonings. Heiser made several suggestions to Council on changes to the process.

**Beth Smith** offered encouragement to Council to rebuild the tennis courts that were destroyed by flood water and asked that members of the Tennis Center be informed about decisions regarding the Riverfront Tennis Center.

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. Recognition of educational achievement by employee.** Le Hendrick, Fire Chief, was recognized by Council and the Mayor for earning his Master’s Degree in Public Administration.

**B. Employee of the Month Award** was presented to Brian Garcia of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department by Jarrell.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FINAL READING:** **Ordinance #ZA2018-12-17 (A) Amending Articles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 of the Unified Development Ordinance to allow the creation of a new default residential zoning district.** Council approved first reading at its meeting on November 19, 2018. Hyman remarked that R-1 zoning would still exist and property owners who wished to annex property that could only meet the current R-1 default lot size of 7,500 square feet could annex as legal nonconforming lots. Staff recommended approval of final reading of Ordinance #ZA2018-12-17 (A). **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hubbard, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve final reading of Ordinance #ZA2018-12-17 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING:** **Ordinance #ZA2019-01-07 (A) An Ordinance to annex approximately 0.53 of an acre of property located on Glass Hill Drive (PIN 339-15-02-0015) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R) upon annexation.** Council Member Smith abstained from discussion and voting on this issue. Hyman informed Council this annexation request was being made to allow a future single-family home on the property to tie into Conway water and sewer. She also stated that this would be the first property to be annexed into the City with the newly adopted “R” zoning designation. Staff recommended approval of first reading of Ordinance #ZA2019-01-07 (A). **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2019-01-07 (A). **Vote:** Council Member Smith abstained; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.
ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. Purchase of two budgeted vehicles for the Police Department. Senn informed Council that Chevrolet is no longer offering police pursuit vehicles. Ford will begin offering a Ford Fusion hybrid 4-cylinder pursuit vehicle in 2019; however, staff has concerns with this car’s effectiveness and performance when used for this purpose. Senn reported that the only police pursuit vehicle on state contract at this time is the Dodge Charger, available from Santee Automotive in Manning, SC, at a cost of $23,139 each, including tax and delivery. If approved, only two Dodge Chargers will be purchased; a half-ton 4-wheel drive truck has been purchased in place of the third budgeted pursuit vehicle as previously approved by Council. Staff recommended that two Dodge Chargers be purchased under state contract and the use of hybrid cars as pursuit vehicles be assessed when more data is available. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Consideration of compensation for exempt employees who worked during Hurricane Florence. Mayor Blain-Bellamy requested that Council consider approving Scenario A from options she had provided. Under Scenario A, compensation for overtime associated with Hurricane Florence for employees who are exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act would be based on the following formula: 100+ hours overtime, $1,500; 50-99 hours overtime, $1,000; 1-50 hours, $350.00; and a flat rate of $2,000 for the City Administrator and department heads. **Motion:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the Scenario A compensation proposal. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Proposed contract with Owens & Associates Consulting for Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing engineering services – Whittemore Project. At the December 3, 2018, meeting, Council authorized staff to begin negotiations with Owens & Associates Consulting Engineers for mechanical, electrical and plumbing (MEP) engineering services for renovation of the former Whittemore School building. The proposal received from Owens & Associates totals $27,000 which includes MEP design services inclusive of construction documents, project specifications and construction administration. The drawings are expected to be completed within three months of the contract being awarded. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the proposed contract with Owens & Associates for MEP engineering services. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

- The City has purchased three properties under the FEMA buyout properties with the possibility of a purchase of another before the end of the year.
- The City is close to completing FEMA schedules Parts A and B for Hurricane Florence. The cost of debris removal (Part A) was not available at the time of this meeting; the cost of emergency protective measures implemented (Part B) was $973,570.78.
- The street lights have been removed from the Main Street Bridge in preparation for the bridge refurbishment project. The lights will be repaired, repainted and rewired for LED electrical connections before being re-installed after project completion.
- Official closure dates for the Main Street Bridge project are January 7, 2019, through March 31, 2019. SCDOT has made this a firm deadline to re-open the bridge; however, there may be limited lane closures after that date. Both lanes will not be closed at the same time and lane...
closures will not be for extended time periods. The project is expected to be completed by June 30, 2019.

• The AT&T lease renewal proposal was not completed in time for this meeting as anticipated but is planned to be on the January 7, 2019, agenda.

• Council members were asked to advise staff of their plans for attendance at the MASC Hometown Legislative Action Day on February 5, 2019.

• Staff met recently with Horry County and Army Corps of Engineers representatives regarding possible projects that would improve the Crabtree Canal wildlife ecology as well as increase capacity of the canal.

• Two bids were received for Phase 1 construction of the Fourth Avenue ECT project. Consideration of the bids will be on the January 7, 2019, agenda.

• The Kingston Park project has been delayed about three months due to Hurricane Florence, but it is now well underway and should be completed before spring.

Council expressed concerns over the coordination of all work along the Main Street/Fourth Avenue areas, including the repaving of Main Street, the ECT project, adequate detour signage for the bridge closure, and the impact street closures for these projects will have on downtown merchants. Emrick advised Council that efforts are being made to coordinate work on the opening of the park, the underground utility construction, and refurbishment of Main Street Bridge so that these projects will be completed near the same approximate time.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Goldfinch requested staff to look at removing parking minimums from the downtown area.

Anderson suggested that Council consider sending a letter to the Governor and legislators opposing the sale of Santee Cooper. He also expressed his appreciation of City staff and the working relationship among Council members.

Jean Timbes asked that the public be informed of the reason the City is unable to reopen Sherwood Forest Park at this time.

Larry White commended staff for doing as much as they can with the resources they have available.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy:

• commented on the attractiveness of the Garden Walk entranceway arch that has recently been installed.

• noted that she has had calls from residents who have inquired if the frequent flooding of the City is being taken seriously and suggested that the City publicize the steps being taken in regard to flooding issues.

• expressed her enjoyment of the yearly Christmas decorations/lights display on Sessions Street.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy and Council members wished a Merry Christmas to all in attendance.
WORKSHOP:

A. Discussion on the first draft of the Economic element in the City of Conway Comprehensive Plan. Hyman informed Council that a copy of this draft would be put on the City’s website along with drafts of the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan for public review and comment. A video explaining the Comprehensive Plan will also be placed on the City’s Access Channel. The Economic element is required to include labor force and labor force characteristics, employment by place of work and residence, and an analysis of the economic base. The draft has been shared with the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation, Conway Chamber of Commerce, and Conway Downtown Alive for feedback. Staff was asked to include all employers within the City limits that have at least 250 employees to the “Top Employers” section of the draft. OUTCOME: After the time allotted for public feedback has ended, the Economic element will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and then presented to Council for consideration.

B. Discussion on proposed inclusive playground that meets standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Jarrell informed Council that staff is proposing construction of an “inclusive” playground that could be used by children of all abilities. He presented renderings of playgrounds that could be expected for approximate expenditures of $125,000 (Option 1) and $200,000 (Option 2). Option 1 would leave ample funds for parking, grading, etc., whereas Option 2 would deplete the $200,000 budget allocation. Both options would include synthetic turf surface and its installation and equipment, but would not include the cost of equipment installation which Jarrell reported could be completed in-house. Emrick advised Council that the Pilot Club, Sertoma Club, Kiwanis, and the Rotary Club are interested in donating to the playground and grants could be sought to assist with this project. Jarrell noted that Sherwood Forest Park #2 was the best location to construct the proposed inclusive park. A discussion followed on the use of Sherwood Park #2 in view of flooding issues and the possibility of incorporating an inclusive park into an existing City park, especially since playground equipment at some parks has to be replaced due to flood damage. Concerns were raised in regard to the increasing amount of work being assigned as in-house. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Robertson, parents of a special needs child, expressed appreciation for Council’s funding of this park and offered input on park design from their perspective. OUTCOME: Staff will prepare an RFP for Option 2. The following persons will serve on a committee to develop a recommendation on location of the new park: Jarrell, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, and Council Members Anderson, Smith and Goldfinch.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Smith, to enter into executive session to discuss pending legal claims and the annual job performance evaluation of the City Administrator. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. While in executive session, no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Hubbard, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 7th day of January, 2019.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk