CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 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 Viewer; 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: Kathy Ropp

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. 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: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the September 3, 2019 agenda with two changes - removing the Resolution Honoring the 70th anniversary of the Salvation Army in the City of Conway from the agenda and adding an Ordinance and Declaration of a State of Emergency for the City of Conway due to Hurricane Dorian. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Purchase of cell Meters (budgeted)

B. Purchase Phase 1 SCADA Systems for lift stations (budgeted)

C. Special Event - Falktoberfest

D. Special Event – Reindeer Run
E. Special Event – Christmas Parade

F. Acceptance of ownership of a 640' segment of Live Oak Street from SCDOT

G. Purchase of backup software (budgeted)

H. Purchase of fitness equipment (budgeted)

I. Resolution Honoring the 70th anniversary of the Salvation Army in the City of Conway

J. Minutes of City Council meeting – August 19, 2019

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

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

A. **Presentation of Tree City USA designation.** Lois Edwards of the South Carolina Forestry Commission presented Conway’s 2018 Tree City USA award, the City’s 34th year of earning this designation. Edwards reviewed the requirements of this program and she commended City Council and staff for their commitment to maintain the Tree City designation. Edwards presented City Council with a Tree City USA flag, plaque, and new Tree City USA signs.

B. **Special Event – Rivertown Christmas.** A. Smith informed Council that this event was an annual event, but this year an additional request was made to close Scarborough Alley on December 5th only. The event will run on Thursday night, December 5th, 12th, and 19th. Road closures for each night will be Third Avenue from Main Street to Laurel Street. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Hubbard to approve the Rivertown Christmas special event. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. **Longevity Awards – Michelle Johnson – Police Department – 20 years; Natasha Sherman – Administration – 15 years; Debbie Smith – Administration – 5 years.** Emrick and Council Member Hubbard presented the awards.

**FIRST READING:** First 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. Emrick informed Council that the purpose of this ordinance was to amend the City’s salary pay grades and positions, and to amend the City’s FY2019-2020 General Fund budget to reflect the current needs of the City.
The salary pay grade and positions are the new positions of Deputy City Administrator /Grants & Special Projects Director, Deputy City Administrator/Planning & Development Director, Planner and Property Maintenance Inspector.

The General Fund budget amendment is for an increase of $154,448 to provide funding for the salaries of the new positions and an additional Solid Waste Heavy Equipment Operator and a Grants Coordinator, an increase of $28,000 for an additional shared vehicle for the Building & Planning Departments, an increase of $130,000 for the Main Street Bridge lighting. (Funds were available in FY2018-19 but funds were not expended due to the delayed completion SCDOT’s bridge rehab project), an increase of $300,000 for property acquisitions, and an increase of $500,000 for the new City Hall. Funding in the amount of $150,000 was available in the FY 2018-19 budget for City Hall, but was not expended. FY 2019-20 Budget does include $100,000, but additional funding is needed since the planning stages have progressed faster than staff anticipated.

Emrick noted these changes will increase the City’s FY2019-2020 total budget from $45,837,240 to $46,949,687.

**Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2019-09-16 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**A. Approval of vendor for the Riverfront Park playground redevelopment.** Rogers advised Council that all of the playground equipment at Riverfront Park had been destroyed by flood waters of Hurricane Florence. Replacement of the equipment was delayed while the City awaited obligation funds from FEMA. Those funds have now been received, and the City solicited proposals from playground vendors. Based on consideration of FEMA funds available, and discussions with playground vendors, staff proposed a budget of $200,000 for equipment.

Nine proposals were received on August 23, 2019, and on August 26, 2019, a committee of staff reviewed and scored the proposals based on design, flood resilience, price, and meeting the requirements of the City’s request. The highest scored vendor was Bliss. Bliss has a very high end surface that will provide protection to children while being relatively flood resistant. Staff recommends that if Council approves Bliss’s bid, that the City negotiate a new surface price in the range of $75,000-$85,000 to be in-line with surface costs of other vendors.

**Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve retaining Bliss to provide the Riverfront Park playground equipment and for staff to negotiation for a surface cost of $75,000-$85,000. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**B. Acceptance of bid for concessions for the Billy Gardner Recreation.** A. Smith informed Council that running the concession stand was not a profitable venture as it was now being done having City staff stock products and run the concessions stand. An RFP was sent to three vendors to furnish inventory and run the concessions stand at the Recreation Center. Of the three, only one, Biz Focus LLC, responded. They will compensate the City $16.00 per registered participant which,
based on the 978 registered participants, would be $15,648.00 for the fall season. Staff recommends accepting the bid from Biz Focus LLC to furnish concessions at the Recreation Center. **Motion:** Hubbard made a motion, seconded by White, to accept the proposals from Biz Focus LLC to furnish concessions at the Recreation Center. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**C. Approval of a State of Emergency Ordinance #2019-09-03 (A) for the City of Conway.**

Emrick requested that the approval of a localized State of Emergency be combined with the Administrator’s Report as the report was all storm-related.

- Hurricane Dorian has sustained winds of 110 mph as of 5 p.m. and moving forward at 6 mph. The prediction is still to hug the coastline, but there is uncertainty as to its path.
- The City is under a hurricane warning, meaning conditions are favorable within the next 48 hours to have hurricane-force winds. Experts expect the City to have 40-60 mph sustained winds with 60-80 mph gusts.
- Rainfall is expected to be in the 8-10” range, with up to 13” locally. There is likelihood of flash flooding. No riverine flooding is expected.
- City has gone to Opecn 1, which means the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated. Multiple staff meeting with critical staff have been held during the day.
- Starting Wednesday night at 7 p.m., critical staff and emergency staff will be located at the EOC and other points throughout the City to be strategically situated after the storm passes.
- City offices are being closed as of noon on Wednesday.
- Once sustained winds reach 40 mph, all non-emergency crews will be called back in. At sustained winds of 60 mph all emergency crews will be called back in.
- The Help Line has been activated and will remain as such until after the storm.
- Staff went door-to-door in the flood-prone area to make certain the residents were prepared. Because of the FEMA buyout, there are less houses in the flood-prone areas.
- Ground maintenance crews have removed anything can blow away, i.e. tables, chairs, benches, banners, etc. Electrical podiums have also been removed at the riverfront.
- Trash services will be suspended on Thursday and Friday. Schedule for next week has not been determined. It will be based on the amount of damage sustained.
- All committee meetings and recreation events have been cancelled for the remainder of the week.
- A burn ban has been put into effect as of today.
- All fly ash has been removed from Ash Pond 2 according to Santee Cooper. There is some ash on the banks has been stabilized and contained. The dike on the inlet side of Ash Pond 1 will be breached to allow water to flow in during the storm.

Governor McMaster declared a State of Emergency for the State on September 1, 2019 at noon. Emrick recommended that the City follow suit and declare a localized State of Emergency and back date to the date of the Governor’s declaration. Horry County has declared a State of Emergency. The Emergency Operation Plan prohibits building permits to be issued during a State of Emergency. Incorporated in the State of Emergency should be included that building permit fees will be waived for storm-related repairs.

Questions were asked about trash pick-up and Emrick noted that the plan was to run the trash routes as usual. Trash that should be picked up this Thursday and Friday will be picked up next Thursday and Friday.
**Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the signing of a State of Emergency for the City of Conway as of September 1, 2019 at 12 noon including staff’s recommendation concerning building permits. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL INPUT:**

*Anderson* was pleased that the access channel sound was much clearer now.

*Timbes* asked that the critters are the riverfront be removed prior to the storm, and hoped that everyone would be safe.

*White* also hoped that everyone would be safe.

*Hubbard* thanked staff for their efforts before, during, and after the storm.

*Blain-Bellamy* noted that she had received an invitation as part of the North Strand Citizens Appreciation Day on September 19 for all first responders to be held from 5:30 -8 p.m. at the North Myrtle Beach High School. Chiefs Long and Hendrick were asked to make their staff aware of the invitation.

The Mayor received an email today from the Municipal Association that stated those in the path of Hurricane Dorian, and need supplies and/or equipment, to let them know. The Mayor was not sure of the limitations on this offer.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy echoed everyone’s hope for safety during the storm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Timbes, for Council to enter into executive session to consider appointments to boards, commissions, and discuss negotiations incidental to potential acquisitions of property. **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 MATTER 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 Timbes, following appointments as discussed in executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
Election Commission: Brewsena Jackson was appointed to fill a recently vacated seat. This term will expire on April 26, 2020.

Discuss negotiations incidental to potential acquisition of property [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(2)]

Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Hubbard, to authorize staff to enter negotiations to purchase 221-223 Main Street with an offer up to $200,000. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to authorize staff to enter negotiations to purchase a parcel adjacent to A Father’s Place on Racepath Avenue with an offer of up to $20,000. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 16th day of September, 2019.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk