MINUTES OF EMERGENCY MEETING
CONWAY CITY COUNCIL
CONWAY CITY HALL
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018 – 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Jo Blain-Bellamy, Mayor Pro Tem Larry 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; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Dale Long, Police Chief; Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; and Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: Kathy Ropp

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order.

FLOOD UPDATE: Hendrick informed Council the anticipated crest of the Waccamaw River would occur early next week and the level is predicted to be three to four feet above the level from Hurricane Matthew. Once the river crests, it will take two to three weeks for water to recede. Residents in the projected flood path have been contacted and advised to evacuate. Public Utilities crews are taking care of lift stations in the projected flood zone. Solid Waste is operating and making alternative plans to reach the recycle center from International Drive should Highway 90 be closed. Highway 501 Business may have to close on Friday; however, Highway 501 Bypass may be open to traffic in both directions on Friday.

WAIVER OF PERMIT FEES AND REZONING FEES FOR FLOOD DAMAGED RECONSTRUCTION: Emrick reminded Council that building permit fees were waived for repair of flood damaged properties following Hurricane Matthew in 2016. He recommended that Council waive building permit fees associated with repairs/reconstruction related to damages caused by Hurricane Florence. Motion: Hubbard made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve staff’s recommendation. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF CANCELLATION OF THE FALL INTO CONWAY FALL FESTIVAL: Emrick informed Council that the City would not be ready in time for the “Fall into Conway” festival scheduled for October 5th and recommended that this event be canceled. He also informed Council that it was not certain, given the extent of damage from floodwaters, that the City would be ready for the “Celebration of Lights” scheduled to start in November. Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to cancel the 2018 “Fall into Conway” festival. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON CITY OPERATIONS AND CLOSURE OF CITY OFFICES. Emrick informed Council that he had determined about 70% of the City’s employees would not be able to get to work due to road closures and flooding. There was discussion on protocol for this type of situation and other questions including make up time, use of vacation, or loss of pay for days missed; pay for those employees who are unable to get to work when City offices are open; concerns should employees get to work but cannot get home because of rising water, etc. Motion:
Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hubbard, to authorize the City Administrator to close City offices for all non-essential employees without effect on their pay for time lost. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S INPUT**

- Employees at the Finance, Planning & Building, and Administration Departments have been asked park elsewhere to allow for staging of equipment by the City and Santee Cooper.
- The lift station at the marina has no power. A temporary pump station has been placed there.
- There is a sewer break on Church Street in the vicinity of the intersection with 9th Avenue. The City placed a steel plate over the small sinkhole that developed to keep it from expanding until it can be repaired after the City’s state of emergency has ended.
- Reported on fire at mobile home supply store resulting from chemicals that were combustible with water.
- Sanitation Department is down two trucks and garbage pick-up will be severely impacted should another truck go down. Waste Industries has offered assistance.
- A sinkhole approximately 20’ in diameter is opening at Woodcreek. A Public Works crew working on it now.
- A number of City staff members are working 16 hour days and this is taking a mental toll on them.
- The City received over 100 calls today from people offering to volunteer. A database is being kept of all offers. Offers of food donation should be forwarded to Addison Jarrell.
- The City should not take direct cash donations; the Waccamaw Community Foundation can take monetary donations. There are a few civilian rescue teams that assist and invoice for services rendered.
- Staff went door-to-door in the areas that may flood this time that did not flood during Hurricane Matthew to warn residents.
- A 24-hour non-emergency line has been manned by two people but night time assistance is needed.
- Yard sticks have been put on poles and signs to measure the water levels around the City.
- HTC is attempting to put up webcams to help the City monitor flooding.
- The Recreation Center will work on activities for those who are sheltering after shelter is fully operational.
- All comments on social media are being answered.
- Businesses are being encouraged to stay open if possible.
- 12,000 sandbags have been brought in for residents/ use.
- Shoreline Behavioral Services has been contacted to counsel staff.

**COUNCIL INPUT**

Timbes commented that City staff was working as hard as possible and she was concerned about burnout.

Goldfinch asked that group text messages between Council members be limited to essential messages only.

White suggested that employees refrain from posting on Facebook, but rather direct people to the City’s Facebook page. He thanked staff for all they were doing.
Anderson:
• Posed a question about putting the HESCO boxes on 501 Business.
• Suggested that contact be made with TIDE as that company has trailers with washers that
could be set up for use by persons sheltering at the Recreation Center.
• Commended staff for their efforts.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy commended staff for a remarkable job, but encouraged employees to take
time to recharge.

Hubbard commended staff for doing a great job. He also announced that the Horry County
Council on Aging office had moved its office and senior center to the Collins Park Building.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this 1st day of
October, 2018.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk