CITY OF CONWAY
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP
CITY HALL CONFERENCE
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019 – 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Blain-Bellamy, William Goldfinch, Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members Tom Anderson, Shane Hubbard, Jean Timbes, and Larry White:

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; Mary Catherine Hyman, Planning Director, Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: Billy Connell, Bill Eubanks, Barb Eisenhardt, Kathy Ropp, Devin Parks, Chris Spiker, Tyler Fleming, Dan Fanning

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order noting the temporary absence of Tom Anderson and William Goldfinch.

DISCUSSION OF GOALS RELATING TO FUNCTION, FORM, FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP, AND PROJECT TIME ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CONWAY CITY HALL. Billy Connell and Bill Eubanks with Stubs Muldrow Herin Architects introduced themselves. Connell began the presentation by informing Council that today’s focus would be on the big picture. The idea today was to seek Council’s goals for the project and to do a visual preference survey on building and landscaping design. The idea was not to necessarily choose a design for the building, but to give the architects an idea of the scale and features Council preferred.

Blain-Bellamy noted that the building should be durable in that the current City Hall had been used as City Hall for the past 111 years and the new building should be relevant and useable for at least 100 years. Input ranged from combining the Mills style of architecture with current day Mills-type architecture. Non-painted brick was mentioned. The current City Hall will remain and the new building should not be just a recreation of the current one.

Size of the building was discussed in that it should be designed for future growth. It was suggested that unused space might be offered to other public entities until such time as the City required more space.

Incorporation of green space for after-hours use was discussed offering a park-like setting and public restrooms, which could also be used for employees during breaks or at lunch. A water feature was discussed, which would be a symbolic nod to the riverfront. Council voiced the need for the building and landscaping to be welcoming, offering the feeling of being able to slow
down and meander. Lighting was discussed and the consensus was for low and easy lighting, but to also light up dark areas. Traffic flow and security were also discussed.

Mention was made that citizens were accustomed to paying for their water bills by means of a drive-through and that should be taken into account. Security was a critical issue, but the want to be secure and yet appear open should be examined. Another suggested item was to have fewer individual office spaces to reduce the building’s footprint. Large conference rooms were also requested.

The building and landscaping preferences were similar between Council and City staff; however, it was pointed out that until an actual site was selected, the design of the building would have to be on hold.

Connell said the next step was to meet with the individual departments to hear what their needs and wants were while understanding the need for fiscal responsibility.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Blain-Bellamy adjourned the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this 19th day of August, 2019.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk