CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP  
RECREATION CENTER  
1515 MILL POND ROAD  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020 – 3:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Jo Blain-Bellamy, Mayor Pro Tem Shane Hubbard, and Council members William M. Goldfinch, Shane Hubbard, Alex Hyman, Justin Jordan, Jean M. Timbes, and Larry A. White

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; Mary Catherine Hyman, Deputy Administrator/Planning & Development Director; John Rogers, Deputy Administrator/Grants & Special Projects Director Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Mary Catherine Hyman, Planning Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; June Wood, Aquatic Director; Reggie Jenrette; Solid Waste Director; Dale Long, Police Chief; Timmy Williams, Parks and Ground Maintenance Director; Lynn Smith, Human Resources Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer, and Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: Katie Powell, Chris Spiker, Devin Parks, and other media representatives

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.

The following is Council input on discussion items for the FY 2020-2021 budget and future budgets:

Mayor Blain-Bellamy gave the invocation prior to starting the meeting.

**Goldfinch**

- Discuss funding options for new City Hall at upcoming Council Budget Retreat
- Wants “what if” scenarios if the business license bill is passed, if water service bill gets passed, or any other bills that would affect the City would be passed
- Need to budget for replacement/repair of utilities before need arises

**Hubbard**

- No input

**A. Hyman**

- Flood infrastructure funding to mitigate flash flooding
- Continue with beautification efforts downtown
Jordan

- Programs at the Recreation Center for individuals with autism
- Shelter options for women and children with domestic abuse issues

Timbes

- New City Hall needs to be a landmark for downtown; concern for downtown merchants
- Council needs to select a location and move forward with new City Hall
- Consider repurposing the current City Hall to become a City archive for pictures, books, historic documents and small items.
- Move forward in the right direction with the Tennis Center
- Form a committee of Council members to move forward with the City’s gateways
- Look at age of pipes and other infrastructure to prioritize replacements
- Do more to get drugs off the streets beyond just the police
- Provide an update on the former Whittemore School

White

- Look at options for mobile shower facilities
- Research tiny houses as affordable, transitional, and homeless housing
- Consider building apartments on City-owned property
- Clean up medians on Hwy. 501 & clean-up of Hwy 378
- Continue gun buy-back program
- Install sidewalks on Oak Street to Cultra, continue from Darden Terrace to Cultra Road and along 5th Avenue from Church Street to Smith Street
- Discuss with Smith Jones Board an opportunity for the City to purchase the land and develop the entire park site.
- Start discussions with CCU concerning facilities downtown
- New City Hall on 4th Avenue would enhance the area
- Discuss with North Carolina their diversion canal plan that would divert water from North Carolina to keep water from coming through Conway

Mayor Blain-Bellamy

- Plan for equipment needs in advance of the needs
- Plan for employment needs in advance of the needs
- Form a flood commission to look at flooding issues
- Find funding options for new City Hall once site has been determined
- Strive not to lose employees through compression of salaries
- Include in the scope of projects the final outcome, i.e. fixing roads after roadwork, etc.
- Future of City cemeteries
- Look into State procurement purchasing through MASC
- Create activities for children that focus on personal growth and development
- Maintenance of City-owned facilities needs to be a priority
- Mayor’s Banquet should be continued to celebrate Conway citizens
• Expand the offerings of conferences, training, and networking for City leaders, but remain good stewards of public money
• Actively pursue partnering opportunities with HGTC, CCU and Horry County schools with service requirements of their staff and students, and perhaps offer spaces for their cultural events
• Continue working toward properties being developed at the Riverfront

Mayor Blain-Bellamy asked staff if Council’s goals were close to what staff has been discussing. Emrick noted they were very similar.

ADJOURNMENT: The Mayor concluded the meeting and adjournment was by ascension.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 17th day of February, 2020.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk