CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy; Mayor Pro Tem Larry A. White and Council Members Thomas Anderson II, William M. Goldfinch IV, Ashley Smith, and Jean M. Timbes ABSENT: Council Member Shane Hubbard (sickness)

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Tammy Carter, Police Captain; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Le Hendrick Fire Chief; Mary Catherine Hyman, Planning Director; Reggie Jenrette, Solid Waste Director; Lynn Smith, Human Resources Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Timmy Williams, Grounds and Maintenance Director and Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk

OTHERS: 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.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Chaplain Deborah Dixon of the Conway Police Department who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2018-01-16 (A) An Ordinance to annex four parcels of property totaling approximately 9.3 acres located on Highway 544 and Edwards Lane (TMS #150-00-06-154 / PIN 38205010009; TMS #150-00-06-084 / PIN 38205010008; TMS #150-00-06-100 / PIN 38205010007; TMS #150-00-06-114 / PIN 38205010006) and to rezone the property from Horry County Single-Family Residential (SF20) to City of Conway Institutional (IN) upon annexation

B. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2018-01-16 (B) accepting the petition of Rodolfo S. Moreno to annex approximately .9 of an acre of property located at 564 Bethel Drive (TMS #122-07-01-018 / PIN 33703020041) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation

C. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2018-01-16 (C) accepting the petition of C & R Builders LLC of SC to annex approximately 7.4 acres of property located on Sellers Road (TMS #123-12-01-022 / PIN 33906020004; TMS #123-12-01-009 / PIN 33906030002; TMS #123-12-01-031 / PIN 33906030033; TMS #123-12-01-041 / PIN 33906030008; TMS #123-12-01-021 / PIN 33906030002; TMS #123-12-01-013 / PIN 33906030015; TMS #123-12-01-035 / PIN 33906030016; TMS #123-12-01-039 / PIN 33906030006; TMS #123-12-01-042 / PIN 33906030009; TMS #123-12-01-043 / PIN 33906030007; TMS #123-12-01-005 / PIN
D. City Council meeting minutes - January 2, 2018

**Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Waverly Stanley commented that the $7 daily fee is too expensive for kids to use the Conway Recreation Center facilities.

Veronica Gerald-Davis, Director of the Charles Joyner Institute for Gullah and African Diaspora Studies, invited the City to co-sponsor a “meet and greet” with CCU for Nikki Finney as part of a “Welcome Home” event on April 20 and 21, 2018. Mayor Blain-Bellamy requested the City Administrator to work with Ms. Gerald-Davis.

Aaron Wilkes suggested that the fee for kids to participate in the Conway Youth Play program be reduced to $1-$2 per day, participation allowed for in-kind work or as an incentive for earning good grades in school.

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

A. **Presentation of the 2017 City of Conway Audit Report.** Bob Calliham of Smith Sapp Bookout Crumpler & Calliham presented results of the audit which included a clean opinion on the City’s financial statements. He also reported that a review of the City’s internal controls revealed no material weaknesses and no instances were noted of any compliance matters required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards. Calliham advised Council that the City is in a very sound financial position.

B. **Update on 4th Avenue underground wiring conversion project.** Steve Powell, Venture Engineering, reported that most of the survey issues with this project have been resolved and the SCDOT permit process has begun. Boring underneath Kingston Lake will take place on the right side of the bridge (traveling north). Powell noted that most of the work will be on the right-of-way and SCDOT will likely require that this work be performed at night. Powell estimated approximately 6-8 months for Phase I (from Kingston Lake to Beatty Street) to be completed. He also noted that most of the field data for Phase II has been completed and attributed the Phase I delay to property line issues and time needed to ascertain correct data for mapping. Jake Powell, Project Manager, was also in attendance.

C. **Employee of the Month Awards for January** were presented to Glen Black, Raphael Dawson, Buddy Martin, Mason Simpson and Chris Weatherford, Public Utilities Department; Tony Collins, David Martin and Mitchell Rabon, Vehicle Maintenance Department; Braxton Fleming and Gavin Rowe, Public Works/Streets Department. Jamie Givens, Public Utilities Department, was recognized but was unable to attend. The presentations were made by James Friday, Public Utilities Director.
ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. **Acceptance of bid for marking of piano key crosswalks on Highway 501 and Highway 378.** Chestnut reported that only one qualified bid was received for the marking of piano crosswalks at the intersection of Highway 378/Ninth Avenue and Highway 501/378: Carolina Pavement Markings in the amount of $44,585. Staff recommended acceptance of the bid. Chestnut reported that SCDOT would require this work to be done at night and the City will be responsible for the maintenance of the crosswalks. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to accept the bid submitted by Carolina Pavement Markings in the amount of $44,585. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. **Installation of additional street lights on Highway 501 and Highway 378.** As part of the Downtown and Riverfront Development master plan, Council discussed adding street lights to Church Street and Wright Boulevard between Ninth Avenue and the foot of the Highway 701 overpass bridge. Santee Cooper prepared a lighting plan that adds 9 additional roadway lights with a one-time installation fee of $30 each and a monthly rate of $14.02 each. Chestnut reported that the proposed locations places the additional poles closer together than allowed under existing City policy and recommended that Council not allow the proposed spacing of the additional poles set a precedence for all areas of the City. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the installation of the additional lights as outlined by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. **Street repairs in Macala Acres Subdivision.** Chestnut reported that Green Pond Circle in the Macala Acres Subdivision was heavily damaged during the recent snow and ice event. The City’s most recent contract for asphalt repair ended last summer; however, staff requested approval to allow the same company (Southern Asphalt) to make the necessary repairs, estimated at $50,000. There are sufficient funds in the Public Works Department budget to cover the cost. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

D. **Authorization of a 2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grant application.** Staff requested permission to submit an application to FEMA for an Assistance to Firefighters grant in the amount of $135,000 to replace 23 air packs. The grant has a 10% match requirement. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to authorize staff to submit an Assistance to Firefighters grant application in the amount of $135,000. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

E. **Authorization to submit three Justice Assistance Grant applications.** The FY 2018 cycle of the Justice Assistance Grant programs provides the opportunity for the City of Conway to submit applications for three projects which will require a 10% match from local funds. Staff requested authorization to submit applications for the following: (1) Security for the courtroom and second floor of City Hall in the amount of $9,427.27. Items include the installation of 8 security cameras ($8,000); two metal detection wands ($970); and two electronic keypads. The City’s match will be included in the Court’s FY 2018-19 budget; (2) Two new police vehicles (SUV Interceptors) including equipment and decals, in the amount of $63,618.18. The City’s match will be included in the Police Department’s FY 2018-19 budget. Rogers advised Council that a grant request for a Police Department Elder Assistance Program will be presented for consideration at a later date. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to authorize staff to submit two 2018 JAG Competitive Grants applications as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
ITEM FOR INFORMATION: Fiscal Year 2017-18 mid-year budget update on the City’s budget as of December 31, 2017, was presented as information by the Finance Director.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:
- Interviews for the Public Information Officer position will conclude this week and this item will be on the February 5th agenda for Council discussions.
- Interviews for the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director position will conclude next week and a recommendation could possibly be on the February 5th agenda.
- Applications for the Police Chief position are currently being accepted.
- The budget workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 18th, at Fifth & Main, beginning at 3:30 p.m.
- The Budget Retreat will be held March 8-10, 2018, in Pinopolis, SC.
- Hometown Legislative Action Day is scheduled for February 6th in Columbia.
- The weather forecast predicts wintry weather beginning Wednesday afternoon and staff will respond appropriately.
- The Community Development Block Grant will be discussed during the workshop portion of the February 5th Council meeting.

COUNCIL INPUT:

White:
- Requested an update on the FEMA buy-out program.
- Reported complaints that he received regarding the sidewalk project on Rhue Street not continuing all the way to Whittemore.
- Reported that Live Oak Street needs to be resurfaced.
- Inquired if the open ditch by Canal Terrace on the right-hand side of 16th Avenue could be filled.
- Thanked the Recreation Department for use of the public address system during the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

Timbes:
- Noted the passing of former Mayor Ken Holt and provided information on funeral services.
- Asked the City Administrator to contact Congressman Tom Rice for assistance in seeing that the pollution in Lake Busbee is cleaned up.
- Suggested that Wild Wing and other subdivisions be included in the Council tour through the City before the Budget Retreat.
- Inquired about possible conversations with SCDOT relative to the Main Street Bridge guard rail. Emrick reported that SCDOT representatives advised that the purpose of the guard rails was to protect the integrity of the bridge, not to accommodate pedestrians, and will be presenting a response in writing to the City in the future.

Anderson:
- Thanked those city employees who worked outdoors during the recent winter weather.
- Suggested that representatives from Santee Cooper be invited to a future City Council meeting to discuss the annexation of the Grainger Steam Plant property.
- Announced the passing of Chuck Merryman, a Conway businessman.

Blain-Bellamy:
- Requested that staff work out a better method for City residents to contact police for non-emergencies.
- Noted there appears to be an increase of stray dogs in the City and asked for stronger enforcement of the animal control ordinance.
- Reported that she and the City Administrator have a meeting scheduled with the President of CCU to discuss a partnership for strengthening the arts in Conway.
- Requested the open ditch on Boundary Street be filled.
- Reported an increase of litter along Suggs Street.
- Requested that the issue of protocol for the Mayor Pro-Tem election be placed on the February 5th agenda for discussion.
- Suggested that the City provide hand and foot warmers to City employees who work outdoors during extremely cold weather.
- Reported that Horry County Council has proposed to reduce the City’s road fee allotment by $80,000 and suggested that Council prepare their questions regarding this reduction for presentation at a future meeting with Council Council.

WORKSHOP:

A. **Discussion on the Conway Youth Play program fees and schedule.** Due to the variety of programs offered and scheduled activities, setting time aside for the Conway youth play program in the gym and pool has been difficult. Council discussed a youth membership fee, membership incentive based on earning good grades, and a gym play program which would allow access to the gym only.  
**OUTCOME:** Staff was requested to prepare a proposal for a youth membership plan for future Council discussion.

B. **Discussion on possible partnership for acquisition of the Westmoreland Tract on Highway 501 Business/Depot Road.** Maria Whitehead with the Open Space Institute advised Council that the property owners of the Westmoreland tract on Highway 501 Business are planning to harvest the timber from the tract; however, they have agreed to briefly postpone the timber harvesting to allow time to consider conservation of the site. It was noted that a request to rezone this 156-acre parcel to allow mining was recently denied by Council. Whitehead informed Council that The Nature Conservancy, the Upper Waccamaw Task Force, Open Space Institute and the Winyaw Rivers Foundation have indicated they are ready to work with the City on a larger vision of the Waccamaw Conservation Corridor which includes this property. Possible funding sources to purchase the property would include a $200,000 grant (to substitute for a Black River property) and applying for a Duke Water Resources Grant in the amount of $100,000. She asked Council to consider a financial commitment from the City, and to designate at what level, toward the remaining $200,000 needed to purchase this tract of land. Concerns discussed by Council included the recent rezoning request denial and the cost of the property and its stewardship.  
**OUTCOME:** The request was taken under advisement.

Council Member White left the meeting during the above discussion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements.  
**Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Smith, to come out of executive session.  
**Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: During the executive session, the Council engaged in discussions of matters relating to negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege. While in executive session, no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 5th day of February, 2018.

Debbie F. Smithy, City Clerk