CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 – 5:30 PM

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

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator;; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Ashley Smith, Recreation Director; Timmy Williams, Director of Parks and Ground Maintenance; Braxton Fleming, Public Works Superintendent; Lynn Smith, Human Resources Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Mary Catherine Hyman, Deputy Administrator/Planning & Development Director; John Rogers, Deputy Administrator/Grants & Special Projects Director; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Jessica Hucks, Planner; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Kent Bitting, Public Utilities Superintendent; David Crotts, Assistant Finance Director; Selena Small, Police Lieutenant; Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; and Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: Matthew Richardson, Gerry Wallace, Kevin McHugh, Barb Eisenhardt, Bob Calliham, Nathan Skipper, Kathy Ropp

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order and Capt. Carl Melton, Salvation Army, gave the invocation and 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: White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the January 21, 2020 meeting agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Woodland Lakes Phase 2 Letter of Credit

B. Minutes of City Council meeting – January 6, 2020 and Planning & Development Committee Meeting – November 18, 2019
Motion: Hubbard made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the Consent Agenda. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Kevin McHugh – requested that Mill Pond Road be closed during the Night to Shine special event from the Rock Church just past the Rec Center entrance.

**Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hyman, to close Public Input. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

A. **Recognition of Teknoware USA as a River Friendly business.** Chestnut presented a River Friendly certificate to Teknoware USA for meeting the criteria of a river friendly business.

B. **Presentation of 2019 City of Conway Audit Report – Bob Calliham of Smith Sapp Bookout & Calliham.** Calliham thanked the City for their long working relationship and turned the presentation over to Skipper. Skipper thanked the Finance Department for their assistance during the audit. Skipper presented the 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.

C. **Employee of the month – Public Service – Pat Livingston – Finance Department.** A. Williams and Crotts presented Livingston with her award.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING**

Public Hearing and First Reading of ZA# 2020-02-03 (A) An ordinance to amend the Conway Comprehensive Plan by replacing the Natural Resources Element in its entirety.

M. Hyman informed Council that under South Carolina law, a planning commission must establish and maintain a planning process which will result in the systematic preparation and continual evaluation and updating of the elements of the comprehensive plan. The Plan, including all elements of it, must be updated at least every ten years. The Plan must contain an inventory of existing conditions including a description of how they relate to the particular planning element under consideration. The Plan must also include a statement of needs and goals and implementation strategies.

The draft of the Natural Resources Element was reviewed at the December 3, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting and a public hearing was held at Planning Commission on January 2nd. It was also an item for discussion at the January 6, 2020 City Council Meeting.
The Planning Commission gave unanimous approval to the Natural Resources Element at its January 2, 2020 meeting. Staff recommends approval of the first reading of Ordinance ZA# 2020-02-03 (A).

**Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Jordan to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** A. Hyman made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve first reading of Ordinance ZA# 2020-02-03 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

A. **Conveyance of ownership of fire pump system, building and equipment to Metglas located at 440 Allied Drive.** Bitting informed Council that in 1990 the City entered into an agreement with Allied Signal to take ownership of and maintain the fire system for this facility. The fire system is past its service life and needs to be replaced. The price to replace the pumps and controls will be over $250,000. The facility is currently owned by Metglas and they have requested the ownership of the fire system. Metglas will make the needed updates to meet their facility’s needs. Staff recommends the conveyance of ownership of the fire system to Metglas. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White to approve the conveyance of ownership of fire pump system, building and equipment to Metglas. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. **Purchase of inclusive playground equipment.** A. Smith informed Council that Conway Cares wishes to donate $100,000 to purchase additional playground equipment for the City’s Inclusive Playground located at the Billy Gardner Complex. Staff recommends approval of the request to purchase additional equipment for the Inclusive Playground. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Jordan to approve the purchase of equipment for the inclusive playground. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

- The Public Engagement meeting will be held on Thursday evening at Trinity United Methodist Church from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Cordie Page Building. This meeting is to discuss plans to improve infrastructure to relieve flooding pressure on Crabtree Canal.
- The Riverfront Playground is open and is a big hit. All City parks are open now.
- An ordinance is being considered in the State to amend the way business license fees are collected throughout the State from gross revenues to net revenues. This change would have a negative impact on the City’s revenues.

**COUNCIL INPUT:**

Hyman noted that his children had been to the Riverfront Playground and each time there were about 50 children playing on the equipment. Thanked everyone for their birthday wishes.
Goldfinch commented that he had spoken to a state senator who assured him that the legislators understood how devastating the business license fee amendment would be.

White commented that the business license fees had been a topic of discussion for the MASC for the last few years and how this amendment would affect cities statewide.

Timbes asked if the Comprehensive Plan would be a printed document on just online, and Emrick responded that a printed copy could be made available at City Hall. Timbes asked if all City playgrounds were now open, and Emrick responded that they were. Noted it was cold outside and had concern for the homeless.

Hubbard attend the Police Awards banquet and it was a very nice event.

Jordan could not attend the awards banquet, but congratulated all the officers.

Blain-Bellamy noted that she had missed the banquet, but only due to a previous obligation. She also spoke to two state representatives, who on the surface seem to understand the business license issue and how it would impact cities, adding that educating our state legislators must continue. The Riverfront ship is awesome and she is proud of the park. Invited Council to attend the League of Cities meeting that would be held on February 20th and would be hosted by the City at Fifth and Main starting at 6:00 p.m. Has nothing but compliments for the auditors, but was made aware that periodically a municipality should change auditors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Hyman, to enter executive session to discuss Consideration of appointments to boards, commissions and committees [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(A)(1)] and negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale of City-owned downtown lots. [Section 30-4-70 (A) (2)]. 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 MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. Appointments to boards, commissions and committees [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(1)]. Motion: Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the following appointments as discussed in executive session. Vote: Unanimous Motion carried.

Construction Board of Appeals: Reappointed Sandye Hicks to a three-year term expiring on December 31, 2022. Appointed Tyler Thomas to a three-year term expiring on December 31, 2022.

Lakeside Cemetery Committee: Appointed Christy Lineback to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2022.
Planning Commission: Reappointed Brantley Green, Gloria Robinson-Cooper, and John Thomas each to a three-year term expiring on December 31, 2022. Appointed David Sligh to fill a vacated seat for a term of one-year expiring on December 31, 2020.


Board of Zoning Appeals: Reappointed James Shelley and Catherine Dingle each to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Firemen’s Insurance and Inspection Fund (1%) Board of Trustees: Appointed William M. Goldfinch IV as a required Council Member for the board.

B. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale of City-owned downtown lots. [Section 30-4-70 (A) (2)]

Motion: A. Hyman made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to offer to Kingston LLC the opportunity to enter into negotiations for the development of the City-owned lot located at Kingston Street and Fourth Avenue. 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 day of February, 2020.

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk