PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Mayor Pro Tem Randle L. Alford, Council Members Thomas J. Anderson II, William M. Goldfinch IV, Ashley Smith, Jean M. Timbes, and Larry A. White

STAFF: Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Adam Emrick, Planning Director; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director; Reggie Jenrette, Solid Waste Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; Allison Williams, Finance Director; Timmy Williams, Grounds and Maintenance Director; and Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: 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 Rev. Tim McCray, Coastal Carolina University Chaplain, who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Blain-Bellamy asked that the agenda be amended to remove the final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-04-17 (D) accepting the annexation petition of Joyce J. Utt, et al and Ted Hudgins for vacant property on East Cox Ferry Road as requested by staff. Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda with the requested amendment. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: City Council Minutes – May 15 and 22, 2017 – Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Ray Binis, on behalf of Conway Cultural Development Corporation, reviewed a proposal for the City of Conway to establish a planning committee composed of various stakeholders to develop a strategy to expand the City’s cultural tourism market and small business growth. Binis requested Council to discuss and consider the proposal and noted that, if the proposal was approved, the Conway Cultural Development Corporation would request $20,000 from the City to start the program.

Clayton Mauldin presented a complaint regarding noise due to the construction of Leyland Grove, an apartment complex, on property adjacent to his property. He inquired about the provisions of the City’s
noise ordinance, particularly in regard to early morning/Sunday construction work. Mayor Blain-Bellamy requested that staff look into the City’s Noise Ordinance.

Robert Smith, on behalf of Riverfront Tennis Club members, requested that City Council defer implementation of the increase in membership fees for 30 days and to allow time for club members to meet with Council and staff representatives to present a plan for helping reduce the tennis center’s deficit.

Matt Richardson expressed his concern with the crime rate in Conway and he suggested that City Council make efforts to help raise local educational standards.

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

A. **Resolution in honor of employee retirement – Larry Bell, Public Utilities.** At its April 17th meeting, City Council adopted a resolution honoring the retirement of Larry Bell on April 7, 2017, as the Public Utilities Superintendent. On behalf of Council, Mayor Blain-Bellamy read aloud and officially presented this resolution to Larry Bell. Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Mrs. Bell who was in attendance with her husband.

B. **Recognition of employee educational achievement.** Police Lt. Selena Small was recognized for having completed the 18-month South Carolina Certified public Managers program. The presentation was made by Chief Gosnell.

C. **Employee Longevity Bonus Awards** were presented to Lisa Hill, Police Department, 5 years, and Ketrick Porter, Public Utilities Department, 15 years. Carolyn Stevens, Administration (part-time), 15 years, was also recognized but was unable to attend. Mrs. Porter, who was in attendance with her husband, was recognized by the Mayor. The presentations were made by the Deputy City Administrator, accompanied by Council Member White.

**ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING:** Ordinance #2017-06-19 (A) An Ordinance Granting unto the Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., a Body Corporate and Politic, a Franchise to Own, Operate and to Maintain within the Corporate Limits of the City of Conway an Electric Utility Light and Power Plan, Transmission and Distribution System. The City of Conway and Horry Electric Cooperative have agreed to update and renew Horry Electric Cooperative’s franchise agreement with the City. If approved, the proposed franchise agreement will include the following changes: the term of the proposed agreement will be for 10 years; the effective date will be July 1, 2017; and the franchise fee will increase to 5%. Lefler noted the new franchise agreement will replace the current franchise agreement that expired in March 2017. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-06-19 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION:** Installation of four-way stop at the intersection of Ridge Street and 5th Avenue. Staff recommended the installation of this four-way stop to improve safety and help reduce speed and traffic volume in the area of Ridge Street and 5th Avenue. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: None.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Smith commended Foster Hughes and his staff on a successful Summerfest 2017 and noted that this City sponsored event, with arts, brought over 5,000 spectators to the City.

Blain-Bellamy recognized staff members John Rogers and Kevin Chestnut for their efforts which resulted in a Rural Infrastructure Authority grant to the City. She also recognized Representatives Jeff Johnson and Kevin Hardee for their assistance to the City in securing the grant.

WORKSHOP: Discussion on recommendation from Lakeside Cemetery Committee for proposed drainage, new plots, and moving two interments (cremains) at the cemetery. Timmy Williams reported that the Lakeside Cemetery Committee had requested staff to develop a proposal that would eliminate standing rain water in the area of plots #369 to #381 on the first road to the right at the main entrance to the cemetery. Williams and Chestnut reviewed a proposal to remedy this situation (in order): (1) installation of new drainage pipe with 4 new catch basins (work done in-house) - $11,000; (2) due to plot #22 being under water when it rains, the family is in agreement with the relocation of the two cremains in that plot to the space beside plot #381; (3) make the right of way 15 feet wide which will allow space for six new plots (16A, 17A, 18A, 19A, 20A, 21A). If sold at the current rate, the total revenues would be $15,000. There was discussion on whether the City or the committee is responsible for upkeep of the cemetery. Hughes noted that there are two cemetery endowment funds. There is a separate City cemetery fund into which money from the sale of the six new cemetery plots would be deposited. During a discussion on the definition of “maintenance” and what the City does versus what the committee does, Hughes noted that, during the time he worked with this committee only City funds were expended for the cemetery (mulch, upkeep, etc.). OUTCOME: This item will be put on a future agenda for Council consideration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded Smith, to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and to discuss the employment of an employee. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to come out of executive session. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, staff was authorized to negotiate a lease agreement, with the sole proposer, for the operation of the Conway Marina Store and report back to Council. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 19th day of JUNE, 2017.

Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk