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

STAFF: Bill Graham, City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Adam Emrick, Planning Director; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Reggie Jenerette, Solid Waste Director; Billy Joe Sawyer, 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: Tom Vitt, Jimmy Gerald, Ralph Selander, Kelli James, Sydney Lawson, Devin Parks, Tommy Moore, Hillary Howard, 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 Lieutenant Tony Martin, Chaplain of the Conway Fire 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 White, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-10-3 (B) Accepting the petition of LeKenzy Jean to annex approximately .5 acres of property located at 5003 Presbyterian Drive (TMS# 151-18-02-016/PIN 38301030007) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation

B. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-10-3 (C) Accepting the petition of Tony C. Jordan to annex approximately .25 acres of property located at 380 Claridy Road (TMS# 137-16-01-031/PIN 36713010058) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation

C. Minutes of City Council meeting – September 19, 2016
**Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

**Jimmy Gerald** requested Council to consider amending Section 11.5.5 C.2. to read “at the nearest practicable intersection” for off-premises subdivision signs.

**Noreen Beck** requested Council’s support at a meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2016, to discuss the heroin epidemic.

**Tom Vitt,** of Horry Telephone Cooperative, commented on the need for Council’s due diligence in regard to the request by Frontier Communications to amend its state franchise agreement to include the City of Conway.

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

A. Special event requests

1. **Conway High School’s Homecoming Parade, Friday, October 21, 2016.** Conway High School submitted this special event request for the annual Conway High School Homecoming Parade to be held Friday, October 21, 2016. The parade route will start at Marina Drive, continue down Elm Street, turn onto 3rd Avenue, left onto Main Street, left onto Fourth Avenue with a right turn onto Elm Street and will end at 12th Avenue. The applicant has requested the closure of all streets included in the parade route. A map of the route accompanied the application. The parade will begin at 4 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. Staff recommended approval of the special event request. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the special event request for the Conway High School Homecoming Parade. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

2. **Big Wheel Race, Saturday, October 29, 2016.** Conway Downtown Alive submitted this special event request for its annual Big Wheel Race to be held Saturday, October 29, 2016. The applicant has requested the closure of Laurel Street from Scarborough Alley to 4th Avenue and 3rd Avenue from Main Street to Elm Street from 9 am until noon for the event. A map of the route of the race accompanied the application. Staff recommended approval of the special event request. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the special event request for the Big Wheel Race as submitted. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

3. **Snowball Drop, Saturday, November 12, 2016.** Conway Downtown Alive submitted this special event request for its annual Snowball Drop to be held Saturday, November 12, 2016. The applicant has requested the closure of Laurel Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues from 9 am until 10:30 am. A map depicting the event area and road closures accompanied
the application. Staff recommended approval of the special event request. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the special event request for the Snowball Drop as submitted. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

4. **Conway Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 10, 2016.** Kelli James and Sydney Lawson of the Conway Chamber of Commerce submitted this special event request for the annual City of Conway Christmas Parade to be held on Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 10 am until noon. Emrick noted that this request included a change in the parade route from previous years. The proposed route would start on Main Street at 16th Avenue and continue down Main Street, turn right on 4th Avenue and conclude near Powell Street. Tommy Moore, Chamber President, noted that the proposed route change was in response to complaints received by the Chamber. There were concerns raised by Council regarding the proposed change to the parade route which would not include the Downtown and City Hall area. James and Moore advised Council that the Chamber would not be adverse to returning to the original parade route and that the proposed route was simply an effort to respond to complaints received in past years. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion to approve the special event request as presented, but after further discussion he rescinded his motion. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the special event request for the Conway Christmas Parade with a change to the original route, that being from 16th Avenue down Main Street, turning right on 3rd Avenue, right on Laurel Street, left on 4th Avenue and ending on Powell Street. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. **Employee Longevity Bonus Awards** were presented to Sandra Naugle, Finance Department, and Wanda Lilly, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department - 10 years; Kent Bitting, Public Utilities Department, and Le Hendrick, Fire Department - 15 years; and Don Parker, Police Department - 30 years. The presentation was made by the City Administrator and Council Member White.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDINANCE FOR FINAL READING:** Public hearing and final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-10-3 (D) Amending Article 9 of the Unified Development Ordinance to amend regulations of Landscape Buffers contained in Table 9.1 as they pertain to the buffering standards of Highway Commercial zoning. During the September 19th meeting, by majority vote, Council approved first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-10-3 (D) amending Article 9 of the Unified Development Ordinance to reduce the buffer required between HC and P, NC, CC, CBD, WRD, and IN zoned properties to a Type A buffer. No changes have been made in the proposed ordinance since first reading. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve final reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-10-3 (D). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE FOR FINAL READING:** Ordinance #2016-10-3 (A) Granting Consent to the Application for Amendment of State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority for Frontier Communications of the Carolinas LLC. By majority vote, Council approved first reading of Ordinance #2016-10-3 at its September 19th meeting. Graham noted that, at first reading, there was concern raised regarding the need for a Frontier Communications office being located within the City limits. No changes have been made in the proposed ordinance since first reading. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion to deny the request. **Substitute Motion:** Goldfinch made motion,
seconded by Timbes, to table consideration of final reading until the next Council meeting and that representatives from Frontier Communications be invited to that meeting to answer questions that Council may have. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:**

A. **Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-10-17 (A) Accepting the petition of Don Quattlebaum on behalf of DAQ Investments LLC to rezone approximately 4.7 acres of property located at 3001 Highway 701 South (TMS# 136-12-06-002/PIN 36809020040) from Low Density Residential (R1) to Highway Commercial (HC).** Emrick noted that the subject property is currently an undeveloped, wooded lot and is adjacent to other properties zoned Highway Commercial. The Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as being zoned Mixed Use. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** Ralph Selander, adjacent property owner, spoke in opposition to the rezoning, noting the close proximity of several residential subdivisions and that, due to public opposition, other rezoning requests for this property were denied in 1991, 1992, 2001, and 2006. **Shawn Hoescher,** on behalf of the applicant, noted that adjacent properties are zoned Highway Commercial and that the request and plans for development were in keeping with incentives approved by City Council. There being no further comment, the Public Hearing was closed. Goldfinch noted that the only access to the subject property is by Highway 701 and Creel Street. Timbes expressed concerns that this property is near the Janette Street intersection where a stop light, previously planned to be installed as part of a GSATS intersection improvement project, is not being installed now due to the Ride III projects. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Alford, to table consideration of first reading until plans (GSATS, SCDOT, and others) for the Janette Street intersection could be ascertained. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. **Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-10-17 (B) Accepting the petition Claude A. White of White Company LLC to annex and rezone approximately 1.2 acres of property located at the corner of University Forest Circle and Highway 501 Business (TMS# 151-00-04-044/PIN 38301010008) from Horry County Highway Commercial (HC) to City of Conway Highway Commercial (HC) upon annexation.** Emrick advised Council that this request is being made to facilitate the development of a retail establishment. He also noted that the subject property cannot be accessed from Highway 501 and it is adjacent to other property zoned Highway Commercial. The City of Conway Comprehensive Plan identifies the parcel as Highway Commercial in the Future Land Use Map. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no input from the public. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2016-10-17 (B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:**

A. **Ordinance #2016-10-17 (C) Establishing admission and sponsorship fees for the Conway Celebration of Lights.** At the September 19th meeting, Council approved recommendations from the Celebration of Lights Committee on admission fees and sponsorship packages for the
Celebration of Lights. The committee’s recommendations will result in the establishment of new fees for the City’s Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department; therefore, an ordinance is required to implement the fees. Hughes noted the required public hearing will be held with final reading at the October 17th Council meeting. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2016-10-17 (C). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**B. Ordinance #2016-10-17 (D) Amending Title 5, Chapter 1, of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Conway by adding Section 5-1-41 Swimming Pool and Spa Code.** Sawyer reported that, although not mandatory, the State of South Carolina has recommended the adoption of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code. He informed Council, that if approved, the ordinance would apply to future swimming pools and spas and would have no impact on existing pools and spas. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve first reading of Ordinance #2016-10-17 (D). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

A. Resolution honoring Amber Campbell – Participant in the 2016 Rio Olympics

B. Resolution honoring Sergeant Don Parker on his retirement from the City of Conway Police Department

Mayor Blain-Bellamy asked for consideration of approval for both resolutions and noted that the resolutions would be presented to the honorees at a future Council meeting. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the resolution honoring Amber Campbell and the resolution honoring Sergeant Don Parker as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

A. Acceptance of bid for purchase of sand/salt spreader for Public Works Department.

Chesnut reported that funds were included in the FY 2016-17 budget for a sand/salt spreader for the Public Works Department. The following bids were received: Lee Transport Equipment, Columbia, S.C. - $10,365.79; B & H Sales, Kingsport, TN - $10,610.05; Commercial Truck & Van Equipment, Norcross, GA - $10,938.61; and Carolina Industrial Equipment, Charlotte, N.C. - $13,944.76. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to accept the low bid of $10,365.79 which was submitted by Lee Transport Equipment for a sand/salt spreader. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Request for matching funds from the Horry County Transportation Committee for street resurfacing and repairs, sidewalk improvements, and medium drainage projects. Staff conducted the annual street survey of all City, State, and County streets and prioritized the list according to the roads with the greatest needs. The City budgeted $284,000 for road and drainage projects and staff plans to request matching funds from the CTC. The prioritized list included asphalt repairs, sidewalk repairs, medium drainage projects and surveying. Chesnut
noted that he had been informed shortly prior to this meeting that the Janette Street project is a SCDOT funded project and recommended that West Ridge Boulevard replace Janette Street on the prioritized list. Staff recommended that Council authorize the prioritized list, as amended, to be presented to the County Transportation committee at its next meeting. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, Council approved staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. In response to an inquiry by Chestnut, Council expressed a desire to host a future CTC meeting, at either the Public Works Complex or the Recreation Center.

C. **Installation of 3-way stop intersections at 5th Avenue and Powell Street and 5th Avenue and Lewis Street.** Staff recommended the installation of a 3-way stop at the intersections of 5th Avenue and Powell Street and 5th Avenue and Lewis Street. Chestnut remarked that flags and temporary signage will be installed to advise the public of the new stop signs for 90 days and stop bars will be installed. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

D. **Request to certify eligibility of property located at 209 A and B Laurel Street for the Preservation Tax Incentive Program.** Anderson disclosed that he is now the owner of the subject property and he abstained from discussion and voting on this item of business. Emrick reported that the property located at 209 A and B Laurel Street meets the requirements of Option #1 under Section 1-5-52 as it is more than 50 years old and it meets the criteria in items (1), (3), (4), and (9) of Section 1-5-52 (c). Staff recommended that Council designate the subject property as historic and eligible for participation in the City’s Preservation Tax Incentive Program. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to accept staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Council Member Anderson abstained; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

E. **Acceptance of bid proposal for a citywide Emergency Communication Network.** Hendrick reported that the following bid proposals were received for an emergency communication network capable of delivering both emergency and community notifications citywide: CodeRed ($4,800 annual recurring fee) and Everbridge/Nixle ($5,000 annual recurring fee of $5,000). Staff recommended acceptance of the bid submitted for the CodeRed Emergency Communications Network. Because this network can be used for all departments, the annual cost would be shared as follows: Fire/Police 50% and the remaining 50% divided equally between Public Works, Public Utilities and Parks, Recreation and Tourism. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by White, to accept staff’s recommendation and to authorize the City Administrator to execute the agreement. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

F. **Proposal for purchase of new fire engine.** Hendrick recommended that the City utilize the services of the Fire Rescue Government Purchase Option Consortium (GPO) for the purchase of a new fire engine. Fire Rescue GPO provides Fire Departments access to publicly solicited contracts created through a nationwide public RFP process. Pierce Manufacturing was awarded the bid through this process. Spartan Fire and Emergency Apparatus, Inc. is the local vendor authorized to sell Pierce Fire Apparatus in North and South Carolina. The cost of the 2017 Pierce Enforcer 6010 Custom Pumper, built in accordance with NFPA 1901 2016 Edition and Department Specifications, is $479,104 which includes the $2,000 fee for the GPO
purchase. In addition, loose equipment, bid through the same process, totals $18,469 and sales tax of $300.00 would bring the total to $497,873. Hendrick noted that the City would save $10,190.00 by making a 50% pre-payment, reducing the purchase price to $487,683. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the purchase of the 2017 Pierce Enforcer 6010 Customer Pumper as presented and to authorize the 50% down payment for a total purchase price of $487,683. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEM FOR INFORMATION:** Proposed joint training agreement between the Conway Fire Rescue and Horry County Academy for Technology and Academics for Emergency and Fire Management Services curriculum. Hendrick reported that this program is designed to train students who are juniors and seniors in South Carolina Fire Academy courses while still in school so they will be prepared for a career in the fire service upon graduation. The program is expected to begin in mid-October.

**ITEM FOR DISCUSSION:** Discussion on sponsorships for Conway Celebration of Lights. Mayor Pro Tem Timbes provided Council members a listing of Conway Chamber businesses along with a copy of a sponsorship form. She recommended each Council member select several businesses to contact for sponsorship and to keep other Council members informed of contacts made to avoid duplication of efforts. Kelli James confirmed that the Conway Chamber of Commerce will assist in promoting these sponsorships.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

- Staff is monitoring and making preparations for Hurricane Matthew; Council will be kept informed.
- Recommended the City move forward with conveying the abandoned railroad spur by quitclaim deed to The Burroughs Company. A proposed ordinance conveying the property will be presented for consideration of first reading at the next Council meeting.
- Presented Council with a list of projects and timeline for completion before the City Administrator’s retirement on June 30, 2016.
- Opportunity for Public Input on the proposed town square will be advertised for the October 17th Council meeting.
- Reported that the masterplan for the Santee Cooper Grainger properties redevelopment has been contracted with the Thomas Hutton Engineering firm. The Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Administrator, and City Planner have been involved in the funding sessions.
- Progress report on Safe Routes to School sidewalk project for Conway Elementary School.
- SCDOT has awarded the contract for the Singleton Ridge/Technology Boulevard roundabout project to Palmetto Paving. The project completion date is November/December 2017.
- The Horry County coroner has requested one burial space in Rose Hill Memorial Gardens for 75 unclaimed bodies. The Rose Hill Memorial Gardens Committee has recommended approval of the request. The County plans to hold a memorial service on November 12th at 10:00 am and will provide a plaque with the names of those whose cremains are interred. The County will also prepare press releases on the event. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the request as presented based on the recommendation of the Rose Hill Memorial Gardens Committee. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
• The City has worked with the Chamber of Commerce to plan a meeting to discuss the heroin epidemic. Chief Gosnell has made contacts to line up speakers from Law Enforcement. The meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2016, in the Wheelwright Auditorium at Coastal Carolina University beginning at 6 p.m.

COUNCIL INPUT:

Timbes
• Inquired about the status of the “collapsed” brick wall on Main Street. Chestnut reported that repairs are underway.
• Requested staff to follow through with a request made at the last Town hall meeting for Council support in promoting Autism Awareness.

White complimented staff on a successful Fall Festival.

Anderson
• Thanked and complimented Mayor Blain-Bellamy on her representation of the City during the 150th Anniversary celebration at the First Baptist Church.
• Thanked the City Administrator for his many years of great service to the City and for keeping City projects on track until the transition is made to a new administration.

Goldfinch
• Thanked Hughes, T. Williams and other employees who helped stage the very successful Fall Festival.
• Reiterated Anderson’s expression of appreciation to the City Administrator.
• Commented that consideration should be given on how to address concerns regarding damage due to vibration on streets that need to be resurfaced.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy
• Distributed “National Baseball Champion” hats from CCU President DeCenzo to Council members.
• Encouraged contributions to a fundraiser for the replacement of Conway High School’s marching band uniforms.
• Commented that the sister of former City employee Antonio Burroughs was a victim in the recent murder/suicide in Bucksport and asked those present to be in prayer for the family.
• Complimented staff on a very successful Fall Festival.

WORKSHOP:

A. Discussion on potential amendments to Table 6.2 of Article 6 of the Unified Development Ordinance relating to building height. Emrick reported that due to the current interest in developing the Riverfront area and plans for potential hotel development, there has been a request from Council to review the current UDO relating to building height. The current maximum height for buildings in the Central Business District is 45 feet and the maximum height for buildings in the Waccamaw River District is 35 feet. There was some concern among Council that historical buildings might be demolished in order to construct buildings in
excess of 3 stories as well as not wanting the integrity of the Downtown compromised. Emrick suggested that Council may want to look at allowing additional parking spaces and offered these options: increase maximum parking across the board by 25%, continue with present regulations, or impose a fee to increase parking (for stormwater fund). **OUTCOME:** Suggestions from Council on the maximum height of buildings in the Central Business District and the Waccamaw River District ranged from 63 feet to 75 feet tall. Emrick will present this information to the Planning Commission at their next meeting.

**B. Discussion on potential amendments to Section 8.3 of Article 8 of the Unified Development Ordinance relating to parking by use.** Emrick reported that in recent months, the Board of Zoning Appeals has received multiple variance requests related to the maximum parking regulations. **OUTCOME:** There was suggestions from some Council members to increase the maximum limitations by 25%. Emrick will present this information to the Planning Commission at its next meeting.

**C. Discussion on potential amendments to Article 9, Landscaping and Buffering relating to requiring a screening wall between commercial and residential zoning districts.** Emrick reported that City Council has expressed an interest in requiring buffer screening walls between commercial development and residential development. Currently, the UDO sets forth the requirements for buffers depending upon adjoining land uses. The commercial districts abutting residential districts have a heightened landscaping requirement. Emrick pointed out multiple factors to consider when contemplating a requirement of screening walls. There was concern among some Council members that the expense of a screening wall would discourage economic development and Emrick suggested that Council may want to look at better incentives for screening walls. **OUTCOME:** Emrick will present possible options for discussions at a future Council meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White to enter into Executive Session to discuss the naming of City buildings, facilities, or property which may include disclosure of information of a personal nature that would constitute an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-40(a)(2)] and to discuss the appointment of City Council members to create a search committee for a new City Administrator [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(1)]. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to return to open session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to appoint a Committee of the Whole (Mayor and City Council members) as a search committee for a new City Administrator and to hold the committee’s first meeting on Tuesday, October 11th, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes approved by City Council this 17th day of October, 2016.

Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk