CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
229 MAIN STREET
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017 – 5:30 PM

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: Adam Emrick, Interim City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works 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: C. Barry Dykes, Barbara Eisenhardt, Theresa Falke, Rito Della Rocco, B. Werner McLaughlin, Marci Brancia, Todd Gaines, Charlie Vatterott, Patrick Zarcone, Nigel Horonzy, Sarah Bowman, James Trasher, Jason Willwerth, George & Susan Terlizzi, FX Williams, Ed and Mary Watson, 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. Cheryl Adamson of Palmetto Missionary Baptist Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Ordinance #2017-04-17 (B) Amending Article 5, Section 5.2.1, of the Unified Development Ordinance relating to parking, storage and use of recreational equipment

B. Ordinance #ZA2017-04-17 (D) An Ordinance accepting the petition of Joyce J. Utt, et al and Ted Hudgins to annex a portion of a vacant 65 acre tract of property consisting of approximately 15 acres located on East Ferry Road near the intersection with Conway Plantation Drive (TMS# 151-00-04-008, PIN 38300000347) and to rezone the property from Horry County Commercial Forest Agriculture/General Manufacturing and Industrial (CFA/MA2) to Institutional (IN) upon annexation

C. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-07-17 (B) Accepting the petition of Potomac Timber Investments #501, LLC to annex properties situated on El Bethel Road (TMS # 122-00-05-034 / PIN 33700000006) totaling approximately 111 acres and identified as
Tract A (approximately 76.93 acres) and Tract B (approximately 34.17 acres) and to rezone Tract A as Low Density Residential (R-1) and Tract B as High Density Residential (R-3) upon annexation

D. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-07-17 (C) Accepting the petition of Jerry M. Evans to annex approximately 18.03 acres of property located at 826 West Cox Ferry Road (TMS 1500002021/ PIN 38200000008) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation

E. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-07-17 (D) Accepting the petition of LekenyJean to annex approximately .31 of an acre of property located at 132 Clemson Road (TMS# 151-19-02-019/PIN 38310010010) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation

F. Authorization to purchase a Quick View camera for Public Works Department

G. City Council Minutes – June 19, 2017 and March 2-4, 2017 (Budget Retreat)

Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Barbara Eisenhardt gave a recap of the meeting some Wild Wing residents had with the Aspen heights developer. She asked Council to consider conducting an independent traffic study for the project, allow no more student housing and no access to Wild Wing Boulevard.

Barry Dykes asked Council to table or deny the request for rezoning for Aspen Heights until a feasibility study is conducted on a back road to Century Circle from the Wild Wing development that could serve as an access road.

FX Williams stated his opinion that the Aspen Heights traffic study was not valid.

Charlie Vatterott reviewed the concerns discussed during the meeting with the Wild Wing residents and reviewed what is currently allowed on the site. He noted that traffic studies are performed to an industry standard.

Sarah Bowman of CHA Consulting explained how the traffic study was conducted and reported that the proposed Aspen Heights project, when completed, would increase the traffic wait time at the intersection approximately 1-2 seconds.

Hugh Schrowang stated his opinion that a third lane on Highway 501 will have no benefit in reducing traffic for Wild Wing whatsoever.

George Terlizzi reported that he had worked as a traffic engineer in Massachusetts and he spoke on what he believed to be shortcomings of the traffic study and that it was not a valid study because it was not conducted while Coastal Carolina University was in session.

Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to close the public input. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.
ORDINANCE FOR FINAL READING: Ordinance #ZA2017-07-17 (A) Accepting the petition of DDC Engineering, on behalf of 20/20 Properties LLC and ALDI NC LLC, to amend the existing Coastal Estates Planned District located on Highway 501 and Wild Wing Boulevard (TMS 151-00-03-074/PIN 38300000376 and PIN 38313010075) by modifying the Planned District and expanding it to the adjoining parcel. During the June 19th meeting, Council approved first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-07-17 (A). Emrick reported that if the rezoning is approved, the proposed Aspen Heights student housing would decrease the density of the property and would remove 8-acres of commercial property resulting in less traffic. Emrick also addressed the request for an access road stating that creating an access road would increase, rather than decrease, the traffic on Wild Wing Boulevard. Staff recommended final reading approval. Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-07-17 (A). Vote: Alford voted in the negative; all others voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Special event request: Light the Night, Saturday, July 22, 2017. Tina Wilson of Ekklesia Christian Church submitted this special event request. This event will take place on Saturday, July 22, 2017, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at 2461 Highway 501, the future site of the church. Emrick noted that fireworks are scheduled to be a part of this event; therefore, City Council approval was required. Staff recommended approval of the special event application with the cost of any City support services provided to be absorbed by the City’s operating funds. Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the special event application for Light the Night as presented by staff. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Online GIS interactive maps for the City’s website – Citizen Problem Reporter. Stephen Williams, GIS Coordinator, presented Council with an overview of the various information the GIS webpage will provide to the public and a few of the mapping applications. The Citizen Problem Reporter application will allow the public to report complaints or issues. Mayor Blain-Bellamy suggested the GIS webpage be advertised on the City access channel and on water bills.

C. Employee of the Month Awards for July were presented to James Hucks, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department and Eddie Busbee and Josh Avant, Grounds and Maintenance Department. The presentations were made by Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director.

D. Employee Longevity Bonus Awards were presented to Matthew Melvin, Fire Department, 5 years; Braxton Fleming, Public Works Department, 10 years; Jamie Rhodes, Police Department, 15 years; Nate Nelson, Fire Department, James Edward Warren and Reggie Jenrette, Solid Waste Department, 20 years; and Kenn Senn, Public Utilities Department, 25 years. James Edwards, Police Department, was recognized for 5 years but was unable to attend. The presentations were made by the Interim City Administrator and Mayor Blain-Bellamy.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

A. Ordinance #ZA2017-08-07 (A) Accepting the petition of Michael and Stephanie Fazio to annex approximately .42 of an acre of property located at 106 Erskine Drive (TMS 151-21-01-004/PIN 38213040016) and to rezone the property to Low Density Residential (R-1) upon annexation. The request is being made to allow the residential structure on the property to tie onto the City’s water service. The City of Conway Comprehensive Plan
identifies the parcel as Existing Residential. The Planning commission has recommended approval of the request. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-08-07 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. **Ordinance #2017-08-07 (B) Amending the Salary Pay Grades and Positions Schedule of the City of Conway.** Hughes advised Council that the purpose of this ordinance was to amend the City’s salary pay grades and positions to reflect the current needs of the City. In June, 2017, the City of Conway entered into a public/private partnership to lease operations of the Conway Marina Store. Upon execution of the lease agreement, the position of Dock Master will no longer be needed. The new position of Recreation Assistant will be full-time and will assist the Athletic, Programming and Recreation Center staff in areas where additional staff coverage is needed. Hughes noted that if approved, this will have no impact on the current budget. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-08-07 (B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

A. **Renewal of Fire Service Agreement between the City of Conway and Horry County for Fiscal Year 2017-18.** Hendrick reported that Horry County has agreed to provide the City with the majority of the real property fire/rescue millage that is collected from the properties in the contracted areas. The proposed agreement will begin with FY 2017-18 for a period of five years. The first payment amount is $119,500, which will be reduced by $14,500 to cover the cost of the City’s use of Horry County’s Fire Reporting Software. Therefore, the first payment received by the City will be $105,000. Horry County will distribute annual payments to the City in January of each year until the agreement expires. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Fire Service Agreement with Horry County as presented and authorize the Interim City Administrator to execute the agreement. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. **Request by Rivertown Tennis Center members for 30 day extension of delay in implementing increased membership fees and designation of Council members to meet with tennis center members and staff.** At the June 19th Council meeting, City Council approved a 30 day delay in the implementation of increased membership rates. Hughes reported that the Tennis Center group has met with staff on several occasions to discuss their ideas for helping to reduce the deficit at the facility and is now requesting to meet with Council representatives. In addition, they have requested an additional 30 day extension of the delay to allow sufficient time to meet with Council members and staff. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve an additional 45 day delay in the implementation of the increased membership rates for the Rivertown Tennis Center and to appoint Council Member Smith as the City Council representative to meet with the Rivertown Tennis Center group. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy introduced Adam Emrick as the Interim City Administrator.

**INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

- **Update on CDBG and HOME projects:**
  - The contract has been awarded for the Brown/Whittemore Streets project and materials have been ordered.
  - Magnolia Maple Drainage project is taking longer than planned, however, an engineer has given direction to solve the drainage problem and the project is underway.
- CDBG funds have been expended; however, there is are sufficient HOE grant funds to rehab at least 5 homes. Emrick reported that a resident living on Sycamore Street makes $49 over the annual income limit to qualify for HOME funds to rehab his residence. He noted that $6,000 is needed in order to rehab the Sycamore Street dwelling so that it is no longer substandard housing. There was no objection to Emrick’s suggestion to use $6,000 from CDBG funds left over from a drainage project several years ago.

- Announced the award of a grant from the Municipal Association in the amount of $1,277 for Public Safety equipment.

- Reported that the city has been working with Coastal Carolina University, Horry County and GSATS, and SCDOT to develop a pedestrian plan for Highway 544. CCU is looking to close some of the medians to force students to use the crosswalk and possibly widening the sidewalks on Highway 544. Council Member White requested staff to work on encouraging CCU students to walk on the side of Highway 544 that has street lights.

- Congratulated the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department on hosting the Dixie Youth Majors last week.

**COUNCIL INPUT:**

**Anderson**

- Stated his opinion, that Council made the right decision in approving final reading of the rezoning request for Aspen Heights.

- Congratulated Adam Emrick on being named the Interim City Administrator.

- Congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department on the new park.

- Asked staff to assess the danger of pedestrians having to walk around the end of the guard rail on Main Street Bridge and request assistance from all possible places of assistance to.

**Timbes**

- Reiterated the Main Street Bridge is not safe for pedestrians.

- Commented on the “Conway Rocks” art project that is very popular in Conway and the recognition Conway is receiving as a result of the project.

- Reported that she is pleased that 4th Avenue is being cleaned up.

**White** thanked Foster Hughes for allowing the church to use the recreation facility last Saturday to host a picnic for kids from neighboring counties.

**Blain-Bellamy** thanked City employees Lynn Smith, Reggie Jenerette, Robert Cooper, Foster Hughes, Allison Williams, and Chief Gosnell for their hard work. She commented that she is convinced that Conway Police Department is doing Community Policing and it is working.

**WORKSHOP:** The City’s current noise ordinance exempts fireworks discharged on July 4th and December 31st until 12:30 a.m. Chief Gosnell reported that due to the high volume of complaints involving the discharge of fireworks received on the recent July 4th holiday, staff was prompted to seek guidance from Council regarding possible amendments to the City’s regulations on fireworks. Staff has surveyed similar sized cities in South Carolina and the overwhelming majority of these cities restrict fireworks to permitted public displays only. There was some discussion of ending fireworks at 10 p.m. on the Fourth of July and New Year’s Eve. There was also discussion on the possibility of prohibiting all fireworks within the City except on July 4th and New Year’s Eve and to move toward having a City-sponsored fireworks display on the Fourth of July and New Year’s Eve. Chief Gosnell commented on the need to clarify whether or not fireworks are allowed on all other days if they do not violate the noise ordinance. He also noted that the City’s fireworks ordinance was based on state code that has since been repealed and it should be revised. He
suggested that Council consider allowing fireworks only on the Fourth of July and New Year’s Eve or on those dates as well as any other time of the year provided they do not violate the noise ordinance. **OUTCOME:** Using input provided by Council, staff will draft proposed amendments to be presented for discussion at a future meeting.

Chief Gosnell announced that the Conway Police Department has partnered with Coastal Carolina University to conduct a survey of residents on their experiences and their perception of the Conway Police Department. A notice will be placed on utility bills encouraging residents to complete the survey on the City website or on a paper copy. Coastal Carolina University will set up dropboxes at nine locations throughout the City to collect the surveys.

Chief Gosnell advised Council that the Conway Police Department has partnered with Coastal Carolina University to conduct a citizen survey to get feedback from residents on their experiences and their perception of the Conway Police Department. A notice will be placed on all water bills encouraging city residents to complete the survey on the City website or a paper copy. Coastal Carolina University will set up droboxes at nine locations throughout the City and they will be collecting the data.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to enter into executive session to discuss the employment of an employee and to discuss negotiations incident to the proposed purchase of property. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

**ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded Goldfinch, to authorize the Human Resource Director to advertise the vacant Planning Director position. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this _______ day of August, 2017.

Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk