CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
229 MAIN STREET  
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy, Mayor Pro Tem Randle L. Alford, Council Members Thomas 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; James Friday, Public Utilities Director; Reggie Gosnell, Police Chief; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director; 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 IN ATTENDANCE: Laila Johnson, Cara Schildtknecht, Brian O’Neil, Rein Mungo, Erin Pate, Robert Dale Hawkins, Phil Hucks, Nancy Cove, Hillary Howard, Leslie Wilson, Harold Phillips, 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. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of the victims of the recent Las Vegas mass shooting.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Blain-Bellamy recognized Dr. Jeffrey Gaskins of North Conway Baptist Church who gave the invocation. City Council and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Final reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-08-21 (E) Accepting the petition of Venture Engineering on behalf of N.B. Hughes and Lesia Hughes to annex approximately 5.60 acres, composed of four parcels, located on Highway 544 and Todd Road (TMS #1500006079 / PIN #38205040048; TMS #1500006035 / PIN #38205040044; TMS #1500006032 / PIN #38205040047; and TMS #1501710002 / PIN #38205040117) and to rezone the properties from Horry County General Residential (GR) and SF 6, and Highway Commercial (HC) zoning to a combination of City of Conway Institutional (IN) and Mixed Use (MU) upon annexation

B. Final reading of Ordinance #2017-10-02 (A) Amending the salary pay grades and positions schedule of the City of Conway
C. Final reading of Ordinance #2017-10-02 (B) An Ordinance adopting an amended budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18

D. Final reading of Ordinance #2017-10-02 (C) Declaring that a localized state of emergency exists within the City of Conway and authorizing the appropriate action to be taken in connection therewith

E. Purchase of a small vector truck for the Public Utilities Department

F. City Council Minutes – September 18, 2017 (public hearing and regular meeting)

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

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

Sam Yarborough commented that the speeding problems on Graham Road are increasing and he requested that Council consider installing speed bumps on this street.

Shane Hubbard reported that some of the increase in traffic on Graham Road is a result of Graham Road being used as a cut-through from Country Club Drive to Highway 701 by way of Long Road. He agreed that speed bumps would decrease traffic as well as mitigate speeding.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy requested a show of hands of those who were in attendance to discuss Graham Road and invited them to stay for a discussion on this topic in the workshop portion of the meeting.

Barb Eisenhardt inquired about the procedure for public input during the workshop portion of the Council meeting.

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

A. Special presentation by the Honorable Harold Phillips, Horry County Councilman, District 7. County Councilman Harold Phillips presented a check to the City in the amount of $52,185 from Horry County Council to be used for recreational purposes. Mayor Blain-Bellamy accepted the check and expressed appreciation on behalf of the City and Council.

B. Funding recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. The total Accommodations Tax funds available from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, is $66,086.65. In accordance with state law, the first $25,000 of these funds is allocated to the General Fund and the balance is allocated as follows: 5% to General Fund, 30% to the City’s selected designated marketing organization (Conway Downtown Alive), and 65% to tourism related expenses. Rein Mungo, Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Chairman, presented the committee’s recommendations as follows: Conway Area Chamber of Commerce, $8,000; Conway Downtown Alive, $6,200; Create Conway, $1,500; Waccamaw Market Cooperative (Conway Farmers Market Association), $1,000; Theatre of Republic,
$10,000. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the allocation of the Accommodation Tax funds as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. **Proposal to install a rock garden in Collins Park in memory of CresCom Bank employees Donna Major and Katherine Skeen.** Barbara Bartley with Conway Rocks submitted this proposal to install a rock garden in memory of the two CresCom bank employees who were killed during the recent bank robbery. Hughes noted the proposed location for the memorial is at the “Y” junction of the sidewalk into the retreat garden. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch to approve the request as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

D. **Special event request: Community Chalk Board, November 20-27 at Kingston Park.** Hillary Howard of Conway Downtown Alive submitted this special event request. The event will take place from Monday, November 20, 2017 until Monday, November 27, 2017. The purpose of the chalk board is to create awareness and give participants a public opportunity to write their answers to the question, “What are you thankful for?” Staff recommended approval of the special event request. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by White, to approve the special event request for the Community Chalk Board as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

E. **Special event request: Veterans Day Celebration and Parade, November 11, 2017.** Rev. Bob Fogner submitted this special event request. The event will take place on Saturday, November 11, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The request for street closures for the parade are from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. with Third Avenue remaining closed between Lewis and Elm Street until noon for the memorial service. A map depicting the parade route was shared with Council. Staff recommended approval of the special event request. **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve the special event request for the Veterans Day Celebration and Parade as presented. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Council Member Anderson remarked on the importance of this event and thanked Rev. Fogner for coordinating the event.

F. **Report on City’s participation in the United Way of Horry County Campaign.** Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director, reported that the City once again received the “Pacesetter” recognition with a total contribution of $10,349.50. Five City employees participated in the “Day of Caring” on Friday, September 15, 2017.

G. **Employee of the Month for September Award** was presented to Tasha Sherman, Administration. The presentation was made by the Interim City Administrator.

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

A. **Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-10-16 (A)** Accepting the petition of Castles Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Horry-Georgetown Technical College, to annex approximately 3.58 acres of property located at 250 Allied Drive, Parcel 39 in the Atlantic Center (TMS# 151-00-04-129 | PIN 383070100001), from Horry County HC-PUD and to rezone the property to City of Conway Institutional (IN) upon annexation. Hyman advised Council that this request is being made to allow water service to be provided to a newly constructed HGTC building which serves as a classroom and lab facility. The City of Conway
Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as Industrial on its Future Land Use Map. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the request. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Public Hearing:** There was no comment from the public. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-10-16 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-10-16 (B) Accepting the request of Paige French, owner of Westmoreland Holding Company, LLC, to rezone approximately 151 acres of property identified as 1100 Depot Road (TMS 137-00-01-018 | PIN 36700000011) from Forest Agriculture (FA) to Mineral Mining Flexible District (MM). Council discussed this item during the workshop portion of the September 18th meeting and there was concern voiced about the mining project being adjacent to the Waccamaw River Park and the effect it might have on the wildlife as well as Depot Road. **Public Hearing:** Phil Hucks expressed concern that his property, which is adjacent to the subject parcel, would be negatively affected in a flood event. **Laila Johnston** of the American Rivers Organization and Conway resident, expressed concern that the mining project would negatively impact the river. **Robert Hawkins** stated that he frequents the Waccamaw River Park daily and expressed his concerns of the impact the heavy equipment used at the mine will have on Depot Road. **Erin Pate,** North Coast Director for Coastal Conservation Wildlife, spoke in opposition to the project, stating the negative effects it would have on the wildlife, the water quality, and wetlands. **Cara Schildtkecht,** Waccamaw Riverkeeper, requested that Council consider denying this request. **Leslie Wilson** expressed concerns of the amount of trash the mining project would allow to enter the river. **Jamie McLean,** owner of the proposed mining project, addressed these concerns, and noted that wetlands on the parcel are not located within the 5 acres that would contain the mining project. He also explained the maintenance agreement he would have with SCDOT which would require him to maintain Depot Road to its current condition and that DHEC would be doing quarterly reports both on-site and off-site of the mining project. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by White, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to deny first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-10-16 (B). **Vote:** Alford, White, Timbes, Blain-Bellamy, and Smith voted in the affirmative; Anderson voted in the negative; and Goldfinch recused himself. Motion carried.

C. Public hearing and first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-10-16 (C) Amending Article 5, Section 5.2.5, of the Unified Development Ordinance to allow the keeping of chickens on Institutional (IN) zoned properties. Conway High School recently asked City Council to consider allowing chickens to be kept at the high school to further its agricultural program. During the workshop portion of the September 18th meeting, Hyman proposed an amendment to the UDO which would allow up to 10 chickens, per household, to be kept in R-1 neighborhoods and in Institutional zoning districts. The proposed amendment did not allow roosters. During that meeting, Council requested that the ordinance only allow chickens in the Institutional zoning district. **Public Hearing:** Jackie Hinson, Leslie Wilson, Brian O’Neil, and Bob Scarborough spoke in support of allowing chickens to be kept in residential areas. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to close the public hearing. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. **Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-10-16 (C) with the addition of language to specify “for educational purposes.” **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING: Ordinance #2017-10-16 (D) Amending Section 9.1.21(c)(10) of the City of Conway Code of Ordinances (Noise Ordinance) to revise regulations pertaining to construction noise and allowable times. During the September 18th meeting, Council discussed amending the Noise Ordinance as a result of public comment received during that meeting. Based upon information received from Council, staff presented an amendment to Council that would allow construction from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday and from 8 am to 7 pm on Saturdays. No construction would be allowed on Sundays. Emrick noted that staff had added a provision to exempt home owners from this section. Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-10-16 (D). Further discussion on the added exemption will be held by Council prior to consideration of final reading. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

A. Selection of Municipal Advisory Services firm to provide financial advisory services to assist the City in implementation of Master Planning efforts. Emrick reported that legal discussions with Frannie Heizer of the McNair Law Firm began more than a year ago on legal mechanisms that could provide funding for implementation of the Master Plan. Mrs. Heizer has recommended that the City hire a financial advisory firm to assist in developing a strategy to create revenue streams to fund the infrastructure as set forth in the Master Plan for the downtown/riverfront area. A Request for Qualifications was issued and responses were received from First Tryon Advisors, Charlotte, N.C.; Compass Municipal Advisors, Columbia, S.C.; and Hilltop Securities, Charlotte, N.C. Staff recommended pursuing negotiations with First Tryon Advisors. Motion: Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to authorize negotiations with First Tryon Advisors to provide financial advisory services to the City. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Acceptance of low bid for Woodcreek Subdivision drainage improvement project. During the October 2015 flood, the storm drainage pipe located at 2708 Woodcreek Drive was damaged and is too close to the foundation of the residence to be repaired. A request for bids was issued to install a new pipe and fill the old pipe with concrete. The following bids were received: Donald Richardson and Son, Inc. - $59,666.28; Wade Lott, Inc. - $73,820.00; Greenwall Construction Services, Inc. - $82,139.40; and Landsdown Earth & Pipe, Inc. - $160,400.00. Chestnut noted that the City has already received $31,888.07 for this FEMA-approved project and once the project is complete, the City can apply to FEMA for reimbursement for the overages. Emrick noted that the low bid had been protested by the second lowest bidder; however, following a review, he and Chestnut had determined that the low bid met the requirements of the bid solicitation and City policy. Staff recommended acceptance of the low bid. Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Alford, to accept the low bid submitted by Donald Richardson and Son, Inc. in the amount of $59,666.28. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Consideration of priority lists for street resurfacing and repairs, sidewalk improvements, and medium drainage projects. The City budgeted $377,250 for road and drainage projects. Chestnut presented a proposed project list of asphalt repairs, sidewalk repairs, drainage projects, and surveying which includes City and state-owned roads within the city limits of Conway. Chestnut noted that staff will request matching funds from the Horry County Transportation Committee for these projects. Motion: Timbes made a motion, seconded by
White, to approve the project list and to authorize staff to request matching funds from the Horry County Transportation Committee. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**D. Purchase of tractor with boom side cutter for Public Works Department.** Funds were included in the Public Works Department’s FY 2017-18 budget for a tractor with a boom side cutter. Bids were solicited per the City’s specifications and the following bids were received: Blanchard Machinery, Myrtle Beach - $139,434.00; Flint Equipment, Aynor - $161,549.00; and NJPA contract (national) - $158,131.80. Cheesnut noted that the low bid submitted by Blanchard Machinery did not meet the specifications and recommended that the equipment be purchased under the NJPA contract for $158,131.80 which was the next lowest bid. The overage in cost can be absorbed by the Public Works Department’s budget. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

- Reported that the City’s Fire Department personnel will wear pink on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in the month of October in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- Announced that an application for the City’s Family Entertainment Incentive will be presented to Council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.
- Reminded Council of the special called City Council meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, beginning at 4 p.m. to discuss the expenditures of budgeted funds for large items.
- Announced the SC Chapter of the American Planning Association has planned a day trip to the City of Conway during its conference held in Myrtle Beach.
- Announced that the hours for “Trick or Treat” will be from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on October 31st.

**COUNCIL INPUT:**

**Anderson** expressed appreciation for veterans and encouraged everyone to recognize the sacrifices of veterans on behalf of all Americans.

**Timbes** gave a reminder of the unveiling of the Conway Critters on Saturday, October 7, 2017, beginning at 2 p.m. in front of City Hall.

**White** asked that the need for low income housing within the City be kept in mind.

**Alford**
- Requested that staff look at the current street light policy to consider how lights might be installed closer together.
- Suggested that consideration be given to the extension of existing sidewalks in the City, particularly on 16th Avenue.

**Blain-Bellamy**
- Requested that staff create a list of City streets that do not have sidewalks but are high foot traffic areas.
- Commented that the “Conway Critters” program was Council Member Timbes’ idea and thanked her for her persistence in making sure this program came to fruition.
- Thanked Foster Hughes and his staff for an excellent job in preparing the City for the upcoming Fall Festival.
WORKSHOP:

A. Discussion on proposed installation of speed tables on Graham Road. As a result of complaints from residents regarding speeding and traffic volume on Graham Road, the Police Department conducted two speed studies on that street. Graham noted that results of the studies indicated that speed mitigation measures are warranted. Staff recommended the installation of three speed humps to discourage use of Graham Road as a short-cut and to slow traffic. OUTCOME: Council agreed to consider this proposal at a future Council meeting.

B. Discussion on options for automatic license plate readers. Council was provided with 3 options for automatic license plate readers and deployment options: two fixed systems (intersection of US Highway 501/375 and Main Street Bridge) and a mobile system that mounts on a vehicle. Costs and benefits of each option were reviewed. OUTCOME: Council requested that Emrick and Gosnell meet with the Myrtle Beach Police Chief, the Solicitor, and the Horry County Auditor to discuss their possible interest in partnering with the City on this project. Staff was asked to develop a proposal on this issue for discussion at a future Council workshop.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion: Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to enter into Executive Session to discuss a proposed settlement of legal claim with Coastal Outdoor Billboards [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(2)], contract negotiation for consideration of acceptance of property from Burroughs and Chapin Corporation [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(2)]; contract negotiation for consideration of acceptance of Lake Busbee from Santee Cooper [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(2)]; and the employment of City Administrator [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(1)]. 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. During the executive session, the Council engaged in discussions of matters relating to pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege; negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements; and employment of a City Administrator. While in executive session, no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: White 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 ________________, 2017.

Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk