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

STAFF: Adam Emrick, Interim City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Kevin Chestnut, Public Works Director; Robert Cooper, Building Official; 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: Barb Eisenhardt, Matt Varnadore, Clayton Mauldin, Kathy Mauldin, Kyle Randle, 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 Rev. Kyle Randle of First United Methodist Church 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 Alford, to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Final reading of Ordinance #2017-09-18 (A) Amending the City’s fireworks ordinance (Title 7, Chapter 4, Article B) and the City’s noise ordinance (Title 9, Chapter 1, Article B (h) (8) and (16)

B. Final reading of Ordinance #2017-09-18 (B) Amending the City of Conway Business and Professional License Ordinance by changing the rate structure for rate class 2 with NAICS code 310000-330000 (manufacturing) by establishing a declining scale

C. Final reading of Ordinance #2017-09-18 (C) Amending the 2017-18 fee schedule for Parks, Recreation and Tourism adopted under Ordinance #2017-05-15 (A) by revising the membership rates for the Riverfront Tennis Center

D. Special event request: Conway High School Homecoming Parade, October 21, 2017 – Ashley Hinch, Conway High School
E. Purchase of three digital in-car camera systems for the Police Department

F. Acceptance of low bid for the engineering for the design of a large force main

G. Acceptance of low bid for the engineering for the design of Park Hill lift station

H. State of South Carolina Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency and Disaster Response/Recovery

I. City Council Minutes – August 7, 8, 21 and September 7 and 8, 2017

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

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Clayton Mauldin expressed disappointment that Council had not addressed his concerns regarding construction noise while discussing the fireworks issue, which is also in the Noise Ordinance. He also criticized staff for not fully informing him about the ground level for the Leland Grove development and stressed the importance of fencing between his property and Leyland Grove development. Mayor Blain-Bellamy informed Mauldin that the Noise Ordinance would be discussed during the workshop portion of this meeting and invited him to attend.

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

A. Special event request: Pumpkin Patch, October 1-31, 2017. Rev. Kyle Randle of First United Methodist Church submitted this special event request. This event will take place October 1-31, 2017, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The pumpkin patch will be located in the courtyard of the church on Fifth Avenue between Main Street and Laurel Street. No street closures have been requested. Staff recommended approval of the special event application. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Alford, to approve the special event application for the Pumpkin Patch as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Special event request: CCU Homecoming Cookout, October 24, 2017. Sierra Hairston of Coastal Carolina University, in partnership with Conway Downtown Alive, submitted this special event request. This event will take place on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. CCU students will judge downtown storefront windows decorated in observance of CCU homecoming and a cookout will follow on the former City Law Enforcement Center site. No street closures have been requested; however, parking spaces in front of the event location on Laurel Street will be blocked for food trucks. Staff recommended approval of the special event application. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Timbes, to approve the special event application for the CCU Homecoming Cookout as presented by staff. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried. Mayor Blain-Bellamy introduced Eric Bruce, the CCU student body president, who was present in support of this request.

C. Employees of the Month Award for August were presented to Police Officers Shane Carter and Logan Long and Firefighters Ryan Clyde, Jake Drew, and Jimmy Hammond (volunteer). James Roberts and James Sanders, civilians, were also in attendance and were recognized for their assistance in the rescue event for which these awards were given.

D. Employee Longevity Bonus Awards were presented to David Hutchinson, Fire Department, 5 years; Richard Andrews, Police Department, 10 years; Vili Schwenke and Chris Williamson, Police
Department, 15 years; George Griffin, Jr., Solid Waste Department, 20 years; and Andy Hendrick, Municipal Court, 30 years. Schwenke and Griffin were August recipients but were unable to attend that meeting. The presentations were made by the Interim City Administrator and Council Member Smith.

RESOLUTION: Adoption of resolution committing the City of Conway to provide a local match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant. The Riverfront and Downtown Development Master Plan for Conway identifies the enhancement of Norman Alley and the garden walk-thru that begins at Scarborough Alley and ends behind the Downtown Grill with overhead string lighting at an estimated cost of $30,000. Rogers noted the maximum grant award is $25,000, and it requires a 15% local match ($3,750). The additional $5,000 needed to complete the project could come from local funds (Hospitality Tax Fund) and would fulfill the match requirement. Staff recommended adoption of the resolution. **Motion:** Alford made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to adopt the resolution committing the City of Conway to provide a local match of $3,750 for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

A. 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 / TMS #38205040044 / TMS #1500006032 / TMS #38205040047; and TMS #1501710002 / TMS #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. A public hearing was held and first reading of this ordinance was considered at the August 7th Council meeting. Based on the concerns stated during the public hearing, first reading was tabled and the issue was discussed during the workshop at the August 21st Council meeting. At the workshop, staff suggested that the primary entrance to the large parcel connect to Highway 544 at Founders Drive and Steve Powell of Venture Engineering assured Council and residents that Carter Lane would be gated and used only for emergency ingress and egress. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #ZA2017-08-21 (E). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Ordinance #2017-10-02 (A) Amending the salary pay grades and positions schedule of the City of Conway. Smith reported that the specific revisions which will be implemented by this ordinance are as follows: Public Information Officer (new position) – Pay Grade 18; Building Plan Reviewer (new position) – Pay Grade 11; Municipal Clerk of Court/Associate Judge (reclassified) – Pay Grade 15. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve first reading of Ordinance 2017-10-02 (A). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Ordinance #2017-10-02 (B) First reading of Ordinance #2017-10-02 (B) An Ordinance adopting an amended budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18. Williams reported the proposed ordinance will make the following adjustments in the City’s FY 2017-18 budget: General Fund – increase of $161,100 to provide funding for the salaries of the two added positions and the reclassification referenced in Ordinance #2017-10-02 (B); Utility Fund – Increase of $90,000 to support the extension of a fire protection water line to the rear of Langston Heights Subdivision. These changes will increase the City’s FY 2017-18 total budget from $36,451,283 to $36,702,383. Staff recommended first reading approval. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-10-02 (B). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
D. 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. Hendrick reported that, in order to qualify for reimbursement through FEMA Public Assistance Category B, the City needs to have a declaration of a state of emergency. Although there were no damages associated with Hurricane Irma, the City incurred costs associated with overtime for Public Safety personnel. Staff recommended first reading approval. It has not yet been determined if Horry County will meet the threshold to qualify for funding. **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by White, to approve first reading of Ordinance #2017-09-18 (D). **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION:** Authorization to submit a revised PARD grant request. Hughes reported that the City applied for two PARD grants in November 2016; one was for a mobile recreation unit which was denied and the other was for assistance on the construction of the proposed community center at Smith-Jones Park which was approved but the project has been deferred indefinitely. The total amount approved by the delegation was $22,921.88. Staff requested permission to submit a revised PARD grant application for the purpose of constructing a girls’ 200’ softball field to be located adjacent to the Billy Gardner Recreation Complex multi-purpose fields. **Motion:** Timbes made a motion, seconded by Anderson, to accept staff’s recommendation. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**
- Commented that the City was spared from Hurricane Irma and thanked staff for their preparations. He reported that no assistance from surrounding municipalities was requested.
- Announced the following city events:
  1. Pete Wilkes Field dedication will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.
  2. Floating docks dedication will be held on Friday, September 29, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.
  3. Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2017.
- Reported that Conway High School is currently 4-0 in football.
- Reported that the City received a FEMA reimbursement check from Hurricane Matthew in the amount of $170,000.

**COUNCIL INPUT:**

Alford asked if more restrictive regulations could be placed on the operation of golf carts, particularly in regard to passengers standing while the golf cart is in motion.

White thanked the Police Department for assistance during the conference at Friendship Baptist Church.

**Timbes:**
- Congratulated Mary Catherine Hyman on her recent employment as Planning Director and noted that she is the third female department head in the City of Conway.
- Commented on the informed input received during the Lake Busbee public hearing.
- Congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Hammond, who were in attendance, on the birth of their grandchild.

**Anderson:**
- Commented on Judge Hendrick’s 30-years of service and noted the contributions by the Hendrick family to the City of Conway.
- Noted the passing of Jessie Allen, Nancy Hendrick and Etrulia Dozier.

**Smith** suggested that a called Council meeting be held to discuss current city ordinances.
Blain-Bellamy:
- Suggested that the City create a College Town Advisory Board.
- Recommended that recognition separate from “Employee of the Month” be awarded for heroic acts by employees as the opportunity arises.
- Reported that she is launching a campaign to collect trial-size personal and toiletry items to send to those in need.

WORKSHOP:

A. Discussion on possible long-term lease of marina store operations. In June 2017, City Council approved a one-year lease agreement between the City and Matt Varnadore, DBA Waccamaw Outfitters, for the operation of the City of Conway’s marina store. Hughes reported that Varnadore has requested that Council consider a five-year extension under the same terms with a five-year renewal option. **OUTCOME:** This item will be put on a future agenda for Council consideration.

B. Discussion on request to rezone approximately 151 acres of property on Depot Road from Forest Agriculture to Mineral Mining Flexible District. Hyman reported that Paige French, owner of Westmoreland Holding Company, LLC, has submitted this rezoning petition. The Comprehensive Plan identifies this parcel as Conservation Preservation on its Future Land Use Map. Jamie McLain, owner of Waccamaw Backwater Farms, LLC, informed Council that he has submitted a copy of the Notice of Intent to the state to obtain a mining permit for this property. McLain stated that if the rezoning is approved, the mineral mining project will basically be a dirt pit and consisting of about five acres located in the center of the parcel and he anticipates the pit will operate about five years. Council expressed concern about the mining project being adjacent to the Waccamaw River Park and the effect it will have on the wildlife, as well as impact on Depot Road, the only access for the large trucks. McLean estimated trucks will make about 100 trips to the pit each day it is in operation and stated that he had an agreement with SCDOT to repair any damages his trucks caused to Depot Road. Hughes shared with Council his concerns regarding possible negative impacts on the park, park patrons, and area wildlife. The Planning Commission has unanimously approved the rezoning request. **OUTCOME:** This item will be put on a future agenda for Council consideration.

C. Discussion of possible amendments of Article 6 and Article 8 of the Unified Development Ordinance to revise parking, curb cut, drive-through, and design requirements for the Professional District (P) and the Upper Main Street Overlay District (MSO). Section 6.5.1 of the UDO sets forth the regulations governing development along the Upper Main Street Overlay District, Section 6.3.2 sets forth regulations for the Professional District, and Section 8.1.4 sets forth regulations for properties affected by parking requirements. Hyman remarked that the current standards could hinder commercial site development and architectural flexibility. She reported that the proposed amendments would remove the requirement for rear parking only and there would be no parking maximums. Drive-thru facilities for financial institutions would be allowed when approved by the Community Appearance Board. One curb cut would be allowed on Main Street on corner lots, and setbacks would be dictated by underlying zoning. New commercial structures would no longer be required to have a single-family detached residential appearance, although the design review requirements would remain. The current regulation that residential structures may be demolished if determined structurally beyond repair would be removed (for lots with frontage from 5th Avenue to 16th Avenue). Several developers were present during this discussion. **OUTCOME:** This item will be put on a future agenda for Council consideration.

D. Discussion on possible amendment of Article 5 of the Unified Development Ordinance to allow the keeping of chickens in R-1 and IN zoning districts. Currently, the keeping of chickens is illegal throughout much of the City. Conway High School principal and other high school staff members recently requested Council to consider allowing chickens to be kept at Conway High School as part
of the agricultural program. Hyman noted that the proposed amendment to the UDO would allow up to 10 chickens, per household, to be kept in R-1 neighborhoods and in Institutional zoning districts. The proposed amendment would not allow roosters and the chickens would have to cooped and penned in a clean and healthy condition. **OUTCOME:** Council was in agreement to focus on the needs of the school and to defer consideration of changes in regulations for residential areas at this time. This item will be put on a future agenda for Council consideration.

**E. Discussion on possible amendment of Noise Ordinance.** Section 9.1.21 (c)(10) of the City of Conway General Code prohibits the construction, demolition, alteration, or repair of any building before 7:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. Monday thru Sunday except in the case of an emergency. Emrick reported that staff has received a complaint from Clayton Mauldin, an adjacent property owner, about construction work at the Leland Grove senior apartments beginning too early on weekends. Staff surveyed multiple builders in the community about their opinions on changing the noise ordinance to prohibit construction work before 9 a.m. on weekends and there was overwhelming opposition to restricting construction start time to later than 7 a.m. Clayton Mauldin and his wife, Kathy were present during this discussion. **OUTCOME:** Council was in agreement to consider amending the Noise Ordinance to allow construction from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays and to prohibit construction on Sundays. This item will be put on a future agenda for Council consideration.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Smith, to enter into executive session to discuss a proposed settlement of legal claim with Coastal Outdoor Billboards. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:** **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, 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. While in executive session, no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

**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 2nd day of October, 2017.

Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk