

Mayor Bart Castleberry
Clerk/Treasurer Michael O. Garrett
City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder



City Council Members

Ward 1 Position 1 – Andy Hawkins
Ward 1 Position 2 – David Grimes
Ward 2 Position 1 – Anne Tucker
Ward 2 Position 2 – Shelley Mehl
Ward 3 Position 1 – Mark Ledbetter
Ward 3 Position 2 – Mary Smith
Ward 4 Position 1 – Theodore Jones Jr.
Ward 4 Position 2 – Shelia Isby

**Special City Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, December 27, 2021 @ 12:00pm**

Conway Municipal Building - City Council Chambers - 1111 Main Street, Conway, AR 72032

<u>12:00pm:</u>	City Council Meeting
<u>Call to Order:</u>	Bart Castleberry, Mayor
<u>Roll Call:</u>	Michael O. Garrett, Clerk/Treasurer

A. Public Hearing

1. Public hearing regarding an ordinance authorizing the issuance of taxable industrial development revenue bonds for Westrock Beverage Company, LLC.

B. Economic Development Committee (Conway Area Chamber of Commerce, Conway Development Corporation, Conway Downtown Partnership, & Conway Corporation)

1. Ordinance authorizing the issuance of taxable industrial development revenue bonds for Westrock Beverage Company, LLC.
2. Resolution certifying the City of Conway endorsement of Westrock Beverage Company to participate in the Tax Back Program.
3. Resolution certifying the City of Conway endorsement of WestRock Converting LLC (former Rock Tenn) to participate in the Tax Back Program.
4. Resolution certifying the City of Conway endorsement of Acoustic L.P. to participate in the Advantage Arkansas Program.

Adjournment

ORDINANCE NO. O-21-_____

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A TAXABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ACT NO. 9 OF 1960, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING AND DEVELOPING INDUSTRY WITHIN THE CITY; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF THE BOND; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A TRUST INDENTURE SECURING THE BOND; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY, AS LESSOR, AND WESTROCK BEVERAGE COMPANY, LLC, AS LESSEE; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN AGREEMENT FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE BOND; PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Conway, Arkansas (the “City”) is authorized under the provisions of the Municipalities and Counties Industrial Development Revenue Bond Law, Arkansas Code Annotated (1998 Repl. & 2019 Supp.) Sections 14-164-201 *et seq.* (the “Act”), to own, acquire, construct, reconstruct, improve, equip and lease facilities to secure and develop industry and to assist in the financing thereof by the issuance of bonds payable from the revenues derived from such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the necessary arrangements have been made with Westrock Beverage Company, LLC, an Arkansas limited liability company (the “Company”), to provide for the financing of an industrial project consisting of the acquisition, renovation, refurbishment and equipping of existing industrial facilities (the “Project”) located on approximately 44 acres at 480 Exchange Avenue within the corporate boundaries of the City to be utilized by the Company in the production and distribution of coffee, tea, liquid extracts and allied products; and

WHEREAS, permanent financing of the Project costs, necessary costs and expenditures incidental thereto and the cost of the issuance of bonds is being furnished by the City pursuant to the Act through the issuance of its Taxable Industrial Development Revenue Bond (Westrock Beverage Company, LLC Project), in the principal amount of not to exceed One Hundred Sixty Million Dollars (\$160,000,000) (the “Bond”); and

WHEREAS, an open public hearing on the question of the issuance of the Bond was held before the City Council on December 27, 2021, following publication of notice in *The Log Cabin Democrat* on December 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Bond will be issued pursuant to the terms and provisions of a Trust Indenture to be dated as of the date of delivery of the Bond (the “Indenture”), by and between the City and First Security Bank, Searcy, Arkansas, as trustee (the “Trustee”); and

WHEREAS, the necessary arrangements have been made by the City to lease the Project to the Company pursuant to the terms of a Lease Agreement to be dated as of the date of delivery of the Bond (the “Lease Agreement”);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS, THAT:

Section 1. The City Council makes the following findings and determinations:

(a) Based on information compiled and released by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, unemployment in Faulkner County during September of 2021 averaged 2.8%. Completion of the Project is expected to provide additional employment and other benefits to residents of the City.

(b) The Company currently intends to utilize the Project in its coffee, tea, liquid extracts and allied products business.

(c) The Company’s presence within the City is expected to be an important factor in the economic well-being and employment base for the City and its inhabitants.

(d) The Bond shall not constitute a general obligation of the City within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory limitation, but shall be a special limited obligation of the City as provided in the Act, the principal and interest on which shall be payable solely from the revenues or other receipts, funds, monies and property pledged therefor under the Indenture.

Section 2. There is hereby authorized and directed the issuance from time to time of the Bond and the sale thereof to Westrock Coffee Company, LLC, an Arkansas limited liability company and an affiliate of the Company (the “Purchaser”), pursuant to the terms and provisions of a Bond Purchase Agreement to be dated as of the date of delivery of the Bond (the “Bond Purchase Agreement”), which Bond Purchase Agreement is specifically approved in Section 3 hereof. The Bond shall be sold at the purchase price of par plus accrued interest, if any, and shall be issued and delivered according to the terms and provisions of the Bond Purchase Agreement. The Bond shall be issued in the original aggregate principal amount of not to exceed One Hundred Sixty Million Dollars (\$160,000,000), shall be dated as of the date of its delivery, shall have a final maturity of December 31, 2051, shall bear interest at the rate of 2.50% per annum, shall be in the form, and shall be issued upon the terms and conditions recommended by the Company, all as more particularly set forth in the Trust Indenture approved in Section 4 hereof. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Bond at such time as requested by the Company, and the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Bond and to affix the seal of the City thereto, and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to cause the Bond to be authenticated by the Trustee.

Section 3. To prescribe the terms and conditions upon which the Bond is to be sold to the Purchaser, the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute at the request of the Company the Bond Purchase Agreement on behalf of the City, by and between the City and the Purchaser, and approved by the Company. The Bond Purchase Agreement is hereby approved in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, and the Mayor, with the counsel of the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to confer with the Purchaser, the Company and Kutak Rock LLP,

Little Rock, Arkansas (“Bond Counsel”), in order to complete the Bond Purchase Agreement in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, with such changes as shall be approved by such persons executing the document, their execution to constitute conclusive evidence of such approval.

(Advice is given that a copy of the Bond Purchase Agreement in substantially the form authorized to be executed is on file with the City Clerk and is available for inspection by any interested person.)

Section 4. To prescribe the terms and conditions upon which the Bond is to be secured, executed, authenticated, issued, accepted and held, the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, acknowledge and deliver the Trust Indenture, by and between the City and the Trustee, and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to cause the Trust Indenture to be accepted, executed and acknowledged by the Trustee. The Trust Indenture is hereby approved in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, and the Mayor, with the counsel of the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to confer with the Trustee, the Company, the Purchaser and Bond Counsel in order to complete the Trust Indenture in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, with such changes as shall be approved by such persons executing the document, their execution to constitute conclusive evidence of such approval.

(Advice is given that a copy of the Trust Indenture in substantially the form authorized to be executed is on file with the City Clerk and is available for inspection by any interested person.)

Section 5. There is hereby authorized and directed the execution and delivery of the Lease Agreement by and between the City, as lessor, and the Company, as lessee, and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute, acknowledge and deliver the Lease Agreement for and on behalf of the City. The Lease Agreement is hereby approved in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, and the Mayor, with the counsel of the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to confer with the Company, the Trustee, the Purchaser and Bond Counsel in order to complete the Lease Agreement in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, with such changes as shall be approved by such persons executing the document, their execution to constitute conclusive evidence of such approval.

(Advice is given that a copy of the Lease Agreement in substantially the form authorized to be executed is on file with the City Clerk and is available for inspection by any interested person.)

Section 6. The City and the Company recognize that under Article 16, Section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, as interpreted under past decisions of the Supreme Court of the State of Arkansas applicable to facilities financed pursuant to the Act, including particularly the case of Wayland v. Snapp, 232 Ark. 57, 334 S.W.2d 663 (1960), the Project will be exempt from *ad valorem* taxation. Although the City makes no representation as to the continued precedential value of such past decisions, the Company has agreed to enter into an Agreement for Payments in Lieu of Taxes to be dated as of the date of its execution (the “PILOT Agreement”) requiring the Company to make certain payments in lieu of all *ad valorem* taxes

which would otherwise be levied on the Project real and personal property by local public bodies with taxing power. In order to provide for such payments, there is hereby authorized and directed the execution and delivery of the PILOT Agreement, and the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the PILOT Agreement for and on behalf of the City. The PILOT Agreement is hereby approved in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, and the Mayor, with the counsel of the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to confer with the Company and Bond Counsel in order to complete the PILOT Agreement in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, with such changes as shall be approved by such persons executing the document, their execution to constitute conclusive evidence of such approval.

(Advice is given that a copy of the PILOT Agreement in substantially the form authorized to be executed is on file with the City Clerk and is available for inspection by any interested person.)

Section 7. The Mayor and City Clerk, for and on behalf of the City, are hereby authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary to effect the execution and delivery of the Bond, the Bond Purchase Agreement, the Trust Indenture, the Lease Agreement and the PILOT Agreement, and to perform all of the City's obligations under and pursuant thereto. The Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby further authorized and directed, for and on behalf of the City, to execute all papers, documents, certificates and other instruments that may be required for the carrying out of such authority or to evidence the exercise thereof.

Section 8. Because the City is here involved with the acquisition and equipping of a complex industrial project requiring highly specialized work and specialized types of machinery and equipment, it has been and is hereby determined by the City Council that competitive bidding be, and the same is hereby, waived as to this particular industrial project. This action is taken by the City pursuant to applicable laws of the State of Arkansas, including particularly the Act.

Section 9. Kutak Rock LLP, Little Rock, Arkansas, is hereby appointed as Bond Counsel with respect to the issuance of the Bond, the fees and expenses of which firm shall be costs of the Project and paid from the proceeds of the Bond or by the Company.

Section 10. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any section, phrase or provision shall for any reason be declared to be invalid, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the sections, phrases or provisions.

Section 11. All ordinances, resolutions and parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 12. There is hereby found and declared to be an immediate need for the securing and developing of substantial industrial operations in order to provide additional employment, alleviate unemployment, and otherwise benefit the public health, safety and welfare of the City and the inhabitants thereof, and the issuance of the Bond authorized hereby and the taking of the other actions authorized herein are immediately necessary in connection with the securing and developing of substantial industrial operations and deriving the public benefits referred to above. It is, therefore, declared that an emergency exists and this Ordinance being

necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare shall be in force and take effect immediately upon and after its passage.

ADOPTED: December 27, 2021.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(S E A L)



**City of Conway , Arkansas
Resolution No. R-21-**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CONWAY CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003).

Whereas, in order to be considered for participation in the Tax Back Program, the local government must endorse a business to participate in the Tax Back Program; and

Whereas, the local government must authorize the refund of local sales and use taxes as provided in the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003; and

Whereas, said endorsement must be made on specific form available from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; and

Whereas, Westrock Beverage Company, LLC is located at 480 Exchange Avenue in Conway, AR has sought to participate in the program and more specifically has requested benefits accruing from the expansion of their existing business; and

Whereas, Westrock Beverage Company, LLC has agreed to furnish the local government all necessary information for compliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS, THAT:

- Section 1. Westrock Beverage Company, LLC a is endorsed by the City of Conway for benefits from the sales & use tax refunds as provided by Section 15-4-2706(d) of the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003.
- Section 2. The Department of Finance and Administration is authorized to refund local sales and use taxes to Westrock Beverage Company, LLC.
- Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Passed this 27th day of December, 2021.

Approved:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

Attest:

Michael O. Garrett
City Clerk/Treasurer



**City of Conway , Arkansas
Resolution No. R-21-**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CONWAY CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003).

Whereas, in order to be considered for participation in the Tax Back Program, the local government must endorse a business to participate in the Tax Back Program; and

Whereas, the local government must authorize the refund of local sales and use taxes as provided in the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003; and

Whereas, said endorsement must be made on specific form available from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; and

Whereas, WestRock Converting, LLC is located at 198 Commerce Road in Conway, AR has sought to participate in the program and more specifically has requested benefits accruing from the location and expansion of their Conway facility; and

Whereas, WestRock Converting, LLC has agreed to furnish the local government all necessary information for compliance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS, THAT:

- Section 1. WestRock Converting, LLC a is endorsed by the City of Conway for benefits from the sales & use tax refunds as provided by Section 15-4-2706(d) of the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003.
- Section 2. The Department of Finance and Administration is authorized to refund local sales and use taxes to Westrock Converting, LLC.
- Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Passed this 27th day of December, 2021.

Approved:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

Attest:

**Michael O. Garrett
City Clerk/Treasurer**



City of Conway , Arkansas
Resolution No. R-21-

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CONWAY CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ADVANTAGE ARKANSAS PROGRAM (ALSO KNOWN AS THE ARKANSAS ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM) - ACT 947 OF 1993 AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the local government must endorse a business to participate in the Advantage Arkansas Program and benefit from the refunds/tax credits as provided in the Arkansas Enterprise Zone Program Regulations of 1993; and

WHEREAS, said endorsement must be made on specific form available from AEDC; and

WHEREAS, Acoustic L.P. located at 1125 Oak Street, Suite 201 has sought to participate in the program and more specifically has requested benefits accruing from expansion of the specific facility; and

WHEREAS, Acoustic L.P. has agreed to furnish the local government all necessary information for compliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS, THAT:

1. Acoustic L.P. be endorsed by the City of Conway for benefits from the refund/tax credits as provided in the Arkansas Enterprise Zone Program Regulations of 1993, as amended.
2. The Department of Finance and Administration be authorized to refund local sales and use taxes to Acoustic L.P.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Passed this 27th day of December, 2021.

Approved:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

Attest:

Michael O. Garrett
City Clerk/Treasurer