
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
January 24, 2023

On this date the City Council of the City of Conway, Arkansas met in regular session. The following members being a quorum were present and acting: Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilman Grimes was not present.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael Garrett, City Clerk

Minutes: January 10, 2023

Councilwoman Isby made note of an incorrect Resolution number R-22-03 that should be R-23-03 and motioned to approve the **January 10, 2023** minutes with that correction. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

Monthly Financial Report: Month ending December 31, 2022

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council reminding them that these are not final numbers for 2022 but it appeared that the General Fund would have a 5 million dollar net revenue for the year. He said that sales tax revenues should end up around 15% over the budget even though sales tax revenue for December was actually down due to an amended return that got filed at the end of the year, but he added that his sources expected that January numbers would return to normal. He said the Beverage Tax was up and Parks & Recreation revenue was up as well. He told them that revenues ended about 13% over budget and expenditures are all within budgeted numbers. He said that the street fund balance ended up around 11% over budget and stayed within the expenditure budget. He told them that the Sanitation had a similar result as the street fund and has a 2.4 million dollar increased in their reserves for the year. He said that the airport fund showed a net revenue for the year of a little over \$40,000. He reminded them that the Airport fuel budget was over spent but it was offset by fuel sales. Councilwoman Mehl commented that at the first February City Council meeting there would be a discussion regarding the non-uniform pension fund. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financials and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion carried 7-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

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

1. Resolution to approve an application for United Parcel Service, Inc to participate in the Tax Back Program.

R-23-04

Mayor Castleberry told the Council that this is simply a business transaction for the City allowing UPS to participate. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

B. Community Development Committee (Airport, Community Development, Code Enforcement, Permits, Inspections, & Transportation, Planning & Development)

1. Resolution to approve the annual transportation services contract for 2023.

R-23-05

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council stating that this is our yearly contract with three local non-profits: Faulkner County Agency on Aging, Independent Living Services and the Boys and Girls Club of

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Faulkner County. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

2. **Ordinance approving the private club permit location for Fatburger in Conway Inc. to be located ta 2250 Dave Ward Drive.**

O-23-13

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B2 to the Council. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

3. **Consideration to approve nominations for various boards/commissions for the City of Conway.**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B3 to the Council and read the names of the nominees:

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board

- o Keith Duncan Term expires in December 2025
- o Wesley Pruitt Term expires in December 2025
- o Stacia Adams Term expires in December 2025

Historic District Commission

- o Marianne Black Term expires in December 2023
- o Jenny Davis Term expires in December 2025

Planning Commission

- o Lori Quinn Term expires in December 2025

Public Art Advisory Committee

- o Ana Gwatney Term expires in December 2024

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the nominations and Councilwoman Webb seconded it. A vote was called, and the nominations were approved 7-0.

4. **Consideration to approve a conditional use permit to allow a transmission tower in the C-3 zoning district for property located at 1305 S. Harkrider Street.**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B4 to the Council. He said that it was voted 7-0 by the Planning Commission to forward to City Council with the recommendation for approval with conditions. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the conditional use permit and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and approval was granted 7-0.

5. **Resolution to amend the Conway Master Street and Tail Plan for the City of Conway.**

R-23-06

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B5 to the Council. Kurt Jones, Transportation Department told the Council that this amendment would create a Master Transportation Plan that would consolidate several other planning documents into one such as the master bike plan, parks plan and trails plan, etc. He said this plan also incorporates an alternative route to the Baker Wills corridor. He said that based on studies it would be a more development-friendly option. Mayor Castleberry remarked that he felt that the Council should revisit the original bypass that was to go around the City. He said that there is a large right-of-way there and the area is ready to be developed but the size of the right-of-way is prohibitive to developers because of the amount of land and the cost. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

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C. Public Service Committee (Physical Plant, Parks & Recreation, Sanitation)

1. Resolution approving the rental slip agreement and fees for Lake Beaverfork.

R-23-07

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C1 to the Council. Steve Ibbotson showed the Council the agreement as drafted, recommending \$750 annual fees and with some conditions added. He said the conditions will ensure that the boats kept in the slips are cared for and kept operational. Councilwoman Tucker expressed concern that the fee increase was considerable for slips that were not covered. Mr. Ibbotson said a comparison study was made of other marinas and storage facilities, and the new slips would be better quality. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

D. Public Safety Committee (District Court, Department of Information Systems and Technology, Animal Welfare, CEOC (Communications Emergency Operations Center), Police, Fire, & Office of the City Attorney)

1. Ordinance waiving the competitive bid process and entering into an agreement with Axon to purchase virtual reality training program equipment for the Conway Police Department.

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council. Chief Tapley told the Council that the Police Department had received a \$100,000 grant from the State for public safety equipment. He said that this is a subscription contract to Axon who is the company that they get their tasers and training through. He added that the first year the City would pay the \$100,000 up front and the remaining four years would be around \$17,000- \$20,000. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Webb, and Councilman Hawkins.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 24th day of January 2023

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett