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: Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Pruitt, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, and Alderwoman Whitmore. Also, present and acting: Mayor Tab Townsell, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Chuck Clawson. Alderman Grimes and Alderman Jones were not in attendance.

Call to Order: Mayor Tab Townsell

Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett

Minutes: February 9, 2016 City Council Meeting

Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to approve the February 9, 2016 minutes as submitted. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6-0.

Employee Service Awards

5 Years
Cody Smith – Fire Dept.
Charles Waits – Police Dept.

10 Years
Alan Alvey – Street Dept.

15 Years
Jan Meeks – City Attorney’s Office

20 Years
John Mushrush – Police Dept.
Tim Capps – Fire Dept.
Ronnie Daves – Fire Dept.
Gene Neumeier – Fire Dept.
Kenny Starkey – Fire Dept.

25 Years
Michael Edgmon – Police Dept.

Conway Police Department Arkansas Law Enforcement Accreditation Presentation

Chief of Police Jody Spradlin and Former Chief of Police A.J. Gary were presented an award from Gary Sipes, Executive Director Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police, for Law Enforcement Accreditation.

Tyler Winningham, CFO, explained he added a new line item “Insurance Tax Turnback – LOPFI” so council will be able to see the breakdown; this will not be received until mid-year. Mr. Winningham stated sales tax was up less than 1% for January 2016 and stated the bottom line is not great and is in the negative which is due to the non-departmental expenses that are paid in January. Mr. Winningham moved onto the Street fund and stated the Ad Valorem tax line item shows no monthly activity but we did receive 2 payments in January, and stated all other revenues and expenditures seem to be within reason. Mr. Winningham moved onto the Sanitation Fund and stated we are off to a good start with very little spending and the standard monthly revenues are in line, and we have a positive bottom line. Mr. Winningham moved onto the Airport Fund and stated we have some front loaded revenue and we had a good month for the ground leases and the expenditures are well within their parameters. Mr. Winningham moved onto the Sanitation Fund and stated we are off to a good start with very little spending and the standard monthly revenues are in line, and we have a positive bottom line. Mr. Winningham moved onto the Airport Fund and stated we have some front loaded revenue and we had a good month for the ground leases and the expenditures are well within their parameters.

1. Report of Standing Committees:

A. Public Hearing Community Development Committee (Planning, Zoning, Permits, Community Development, Historic District, Streets, & Conway Housing Authority)

1. Public hearing to discuss the annexation of certain lands which have been completely surrounded by incorporated limits for the City of Conway.

Mayor Townsell stated there was a public hearing announced for tonight and explained state law allows us to close this without a public vote, but it does require us to properly notify land owners and publish legal notice, and we did not promulgate that state law. Mayor Townsell stated we will hear public input tonight and explained there is a resolution on the agenda tonight to re-schedule a public hearing for March 23, 2016 regarding this topic which will be the formal public hearing regarding this annexation issue. Mayor Townsell opened the public hearing. There was no one present to speak to the issue. Mayor Townsell closed the public hearing.

B. Community Development Committee (Planning, Zoning, Permits, Community Development, Historic District, Streets, & Conway Housing Authority)

1. Consideration to accept the interest rate quote for the Conway Loop South Interchange Project.

Alderwoman Smith motioned to accept the interest rate quote from Arvest for 1.6%. Alderwoman Mehl seconded the motion. Mayor Townsell stated in order to make our cash flow work, we decided it would be best to borrow the money for the South Interchange base/paving portion, as many of our projects would be hitting our budget approximately the same time. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0-1. Alderwoman Whitmore abstained.
2. **Ordinance authorizing the issuance of a promissory note to provide short term financing for the Conway Loop South Interchange Project.**

   **O-16-16**

   Mayor Townsell stated we can have the first reading of the ordinance tonight unless we have 6 votes to suspend the rules and waive the readings. Alderwoman Smith motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the ordinance and the emergency clause. Alderwoman Mehl seconded the motion. Mayor Townsell stated 1.60% will be added to Section 2. Alderman Hawkins stated Section 4 will need to have Arvest Bank added. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting “Aye”: Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Pruitt, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, and Alderwoman Whitmore. The motion passed 5-0-1. Alderwoman Whitmore abstained. Alderwoman Smith stated there is an emergency clause and stated she would like to add that to her previous motion. Alderwoman Mehl stated that is also a part of her second to the motion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting “Aye”: Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Pruitt, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, and Alderwoman Whitmore. The motion passed 6-0.

3. **Consideration to approve a counter offer on the Newberry Tract #4 property acquisition for the Central Landing Blvd. Project.**

   Shantelle Mears, O.R. Colan and Associates, was present to answer questions. Finley Vinson, City Engineer, stated Ms. Mears is present tonight to speak on behalf of the property owner Glendon Newberry, who is unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Mr. Vinson stated before you is the Newberry’s counter offer, which quite adequately outlines the details of the original offer as well as the counter offer; the original offer is for $2.00 per sq. ft. and the Newberry’s are asking for $4.00 per sq. ft. and explained the appraisal reflected $2.00 per sq. ft. and stated the Newberry’s did not obtain an appraisal. Mr. Vinson stated the Newberry’s counter offer on the temporary construction easement is also $4.00 per sq. ft. verses $2.00 per sq. ft. but stated the Newberry’s agreed to the fencing offer. Mr. Vinson stated the original offer did not include any money for landscaping and presumed that landscaping that is lost, is part of the property being purchased. Ms. Mears stated that is correct. Mr. Vinson stated there have been other property owners in this project where we have paid for lost landscaping because it was considered screening. Mr. Vinson stated they are asking for the replacement of 4 trees and they have included an estimate from The Plant Outlet in the amount of $4,241.25, but they are asking for $6,313.00 because they believe The Plant Outlet priced replacement trees at 6” caliber, and the trees that are there are much larger than that. Alderman Hawkins asked if this property owner is asking us to pay them for replacement of the trees/shrubs or are we going to pay the provider that replaces the trees/shrubs. Mayor Townsell stated that is a good question and stated the city attorney would like to speak to this issue. Chuck Clawson, City Attorney, stated this came up in the last meeting when other property acquisitions were discussed and stated he, Mr. Vinson, and he Mayor have discussed this and stated we have paid for things like this before and he recommends that we either reimburse or pay directly to the provider in some way. Mr. Clawson stated we are negotiating a contract here and we can put some protections in for the city. Mr. Clawson stated he does not feel comfortable paying for something like this without assurances that it will actually be completed, or at least some time frames put in
Mr. Clawson is not sure if council wants to include language regarding a timeframes, reimbursements etc. and stated this would be a better way to approach this type of situation. Alderman Hawkins asked if we could just reimburse for actual billing. Mr. Clawson stated legally we only have to provide just compensation; in this particular instance we feel that $2.00 per sq. ft. is within the realm what we have paid in the area and he is not aware of any appraisal that states otherwise although we usually look at that to entertain what is fair market value for a particular piece of property. Mr. Clawson stated for full disclosure if we were to condemn and it were to proceed to a court hearing the property owners testimony is enough to say “they feel like it is that much” even though we have a certified appraiser saying it is worth $2.00 per sq. ft. Mr. Clawson stated he is also aware that we have paid some property owners a little more than the appraised value by way of good will. Alderwoman Smith stated we have not paid anyone $4.00 per sq. ft. Mayor Townsell stated why typically smaller parcels tend to value more than larger parcels in sale, we have not given or offered 200% of an appraised value; we may have gone up 20-25% and stated what we are doing in these litigations is being watched. Mr. Clawson stated if we are determining that in the past, we feel a fair price may be a little bit in excess of the appraised value somewhere within the realm of 20-25%, he believes it has been pretty consistent and he recommended staying within those guidelines for not only the future/current, but also the past property owners we have worked with. Mayor Townsell stated we can accept the counter offer or we can make a counter offer as well. Alderman Hawkins motioned to counter offer at 25% above the $2.00 per sq. ft. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Mr. Clawson asked if that motion also include certain conditions on any fencing and landscaping. Alderman Hawkins motioned to reimburse for fencing, trees and or shrubs that are placed back on the property up to $2,800.00 for fencing which was accepted. Ms. Mears stated the $2,800.00 for fencing was included in the city’s appraisal and he accepted this amount for compensation to him for the destruction of the fence. Ms. Mears stated usually when this is done, it is money that is given to the property owner as just compensation for something that is being taken away. Alderman Hawkins asked if they plan to put the fencing back up. Ms. Mears stated they may not as they intend to keep this as rental property, and stated a fully fenced yard is attractive to potential tenants. Mayor Townsell stated but in essence by accepting our offer that is something of a deal and if we want to add another condition to it, it is a new deal for them to accept. Mayor Townsell asked if council wished to accept Mr. Newberry’s offer on the trees/landscaping. Mr. Clawson stated the quote is $4,241.25, and they are asking for $6,300.00 plus because the trees are bigger than what can be replaced. Alderman Hawkins suggested to offer up to $4,500.00 for trees/shrubs. Council concurred. Alderman Hawkins motioned to amend the motion for reimbursement of trees up to $4,500.00. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Alderman Ledbetter asked if this means they will have to show us proof they purchased trees. Alderman Hawkins stated we will pay whoever plants the trees up to $4,500.00. Mayor Townsell this is a 25% increase that puts the cost at $2.50 per sq. ft. and asked if that also includes the temporary construction easement. Council concurred. There was no further discussion. Mayor Townsell asked how quickly will we need to move forward on this to condemnation if not accepted. Mr. Vinson stated this is not as critical as some of the other acquisitions. Mr. Clawson stated he could have a resolution ready for the next council meeting if needed. Ms. Mears stated due to his illness she will present this offer to him tomorrow. The motion passed 6-0.
4. Consideration to Approve the FY2016 Street Improvement Projects for the Street & Engineering Department.

Mayor Townsell asked if council wish to continue to divide the money up by wards. Council concurred. Finley Vinson, City Engineer, stated we have $406,297.00 to divide up between the wards. Mayor Townsell stated each ward has $100,000.00. Alderman Hawkins (Ward 1) stated suggested Ward 1 and Ward 3 could split the cost of resurfacing College Road from Salem Road to Country Club (#54 on the project list - $85,000.00). Alderwoman Mehl (Ward 2) stated they wish to complete project #56 ($50,000.00) Clifton Street to Fleming and #61 ($50,000.00) Bob Courtway Drive Bridge to Siebenmorgan. Alderwoman Mehl stated Ward 2 and Mr. Vinson can discuss the leftover funds from last year for Winfield at a later time. Alderwoman Whitmore (Ward 4) recommended #82 ($45,000.00) Springwood Drive – S. Donaghey to Autumwood, #85 ($35,000.00) Evening Drive – Hallous to Wigwam, and #83 ($15,000.00) Enderlin Drive – Amos to Woodland Springs which would leave us $5,000.00. Alderwoman Smith stated Ward 3 will contribute to Ward 1’s project; College – Salem to Country Club which would cost each Ward $42,500.00. Alderman Hawkins stated that would leave Ward 1 with $57,500.00. Alderwoman Whitmore stated Ward 3 selects #63 ($120,000.00) Eve Lane – going to the East as far as possible. Alderman Hawkins stated Ward 1 selects #51 ($40,000.00) Adamsbrooke Drive – Farris to Bridge which leave Ward 1 with $17,500.00. Alderman Hawkins asked Scott Grummer, Planning Dept., if he knew about CDBG funds for sidewalks. Mr. Grummer stated the money is tied up with other projects taking place in the Pine Street area and he does not know of any funds available right now for sidewalks. Alderman Hawkins stated Ward 1 will hold onto their $17,500.00. Mayor Townsell stated Ward 4 has $5,000.00 remaining and asked if they would like to hold on to that for now. Alderwoman Whitmore stated yes. Alderman Hawkins stated Ward 1 will also hold onto their $17,500.00. Mayor Townsell stated we understand as a city that this is not enough money to maintain the streets in the City; there are other monies that we are having to hold onto in case we need them in case some of the land acquisition negotiations do go to court and these cost us more than we anticipated. Mayor Townsell stated we should have more monies available next year to go toward road maintenance. Alderwoman Smith motioned to approve the recommended projects by all Wards. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. Alderman Ledbetter asked Mr. Vinson to get a cost to finish sidewalks on the west side of Country Club Road all the way to Prince Street. Mr. Vinson stated yes. Mr. Vinson stated it is possible we will not get to Eve Lane until next year because we will have to design it and our crews are tied up working on Central Landing Blvd. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 6-0.

5. Resolution to amend Resolution R-16-04 establishing the intent of the City to annex certain lands along Mill Pond Road and Bronnie Lane which have been completely surrounded by the incorporated limits of the City.

R-16-06

Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Townsell stated this is the correction he mentioned earlier during the public hearing and this sets the new public hearing for Tuesday March 22, 2016 at 6:30 pm. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 6-0.
6. Resolution of support of an NEA Art Works Grant application for the purpose of developing designs for the former Conway Scrap Metal property.

R-16-07

Scott Grummer, Planning & Development Department, stated the cleanup study/plan put together by the engineers from FTN and Associates and the plan came back showing that the contamination that we estimated was lower than we thought. Mr. Grummer stated we are hopeful that the costs will come in lower and once we have a bid for the cleanup we can put bids out for the actual cleanup. Mr. Grummer stated we hope the cleanup will begin this summer and finished by years end and prepared for the re-development. This grant is for up to $100,000.00 and would require the city to match up to $100,000.00. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Alderwoman Mehl stated we have appropriated money to the Public Arts Committee and stated if we get this grant it is a one to one match so the City would have to come up with $100,000.00 and she asked that the Public Art Committee would not spend their money until we know about this grant. Mayor Townsell stated he would not necessarily say it had to go to the match if this council wishes it to and does not want to take that money away from them. Alderwoman Mehl stated this is for art. Mayor Townsell stated this is for more than art, this is for a re-design. Alderwoman Mehl stated so you are asking us to commit to $100,000.00 over what we have already committed to public art. Mayor Townsell stated this if for a re-design of a park facility that could have art elements in it, but in the end it is a park facility so it is eligible for A&P monies to develop, which would be an appropriate use of those monies too. Alderwoman Mehl asked so it is just for design, not for art. Mayor Townsell stated it is not buying pieces of art. Alderwoman Mehl stated she just wants everyone to be aware that we have to match up to $100,000.00. Mr. Grummer stated a total of $200,000.00 would go toward the design which would include engineering. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 6-0.

7. Ordinance appropriating grant funds for the Spencer Street Brownfield Cleanup Project.

O-16-17

Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Townsell stated this is simply an accounting ordinance recognizing we received $740.00. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting “Aye”: Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Pruitt, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, and Alderwoman Whitmore. The motion passed 6-0.

8. Ordinance appropriating funds for an interim training period to replace a position within the Planning & Development Department.

O-16-18

Bryan Patrick, Planning & Development Director, stated Wes Craiglow has expressed his intent to leave the City which will leave the Deputy Director of Planning position vacant and is requested $14,000.00 so he can hire someone before Mr. Craiglow leaves so we can get
9. Ordinance to rezone property located at 3100 W. Tyler Street from R-1 to S-1.

O-16-19

Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting “Aye”: Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Pruitt, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, and Alderwoman Whitmore. The motion passed 6-0.

10. Consideration to approve a conditional use permit request for religious activities for Lighthouse Christian Church for property located at 1216 Hamilton Street and 1215 Factory Street.

Alderman Hawkins motioned to grant the conditional use permit request and stated there were no conditions placed on this request. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. Gilbert Credit, Pastor Lighthouse Christian Church, stated they would like to construct a larger facility to serve the public. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6-0.

11. Consideration to approve a conditional use permit for Amusement Center for Jack’s Ultra Sports for property located at 655 Equity Avenue.

Alderman Hawkins motioned to grant the conditional use permit request with the listed conditions. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. Curtis Butler, applicant, stated they have been in the community through Paint Ball Arkansas for 18 years and we have a good safety reputation there. Holly Barger, Greenbrier resident, spoke in favor of the conditional use request. Jeff Pencer, employee Paint Ball of Arkansas, stated this facility
would be a positive outlet for the city’s youth that is much needed in the city and urged council to approve this request. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 6-0.

1) Conditional Use Permit is limited to applicant, Curtis Butler/Jack’s Ultra Sports.
2) Business hours must conclude by 9:00 pm each day of operation.
3) All activities must be contained inside the facility.

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

1. Consideration to dispose of certain inventory (lawnmowers) for the Parks & Recreation Department.

Mayor Townsell stated the Parks Dept. is requesting these lawnmowers be removed from inventory and scrapped. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to approve the removal of the lawnmowers. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6-0. The lawnmowers to be disposed of are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inventory Item</th>
<th>Asset Number</th>
<th>Purchase Price</th>
<th>Disposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005 Grasshopper Mower</td>
<td>#2063</td>
<td>$5,150.75</td>
<td>Scrap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Grasshopper Mower</td>
<td>#2079</td>
<td>$7,295.25</td>
<td>Scrap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Grasshopper Mower</td>
<td>#2080</td>
<td>$6,812.81</td>
<td>Scrap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 John Deere Mower</td>
<td>#2081</td>
<td>$4,667.25</td>
<td>Scrap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Public Safety Committee (Police, Fire, District Court, CEOC, Information Technology, City Attorney, & Animal Welfare)

1. Consideration to dispose of certain inventory (weapons) for the Conway Police Department.

Jody Spradlin, Chief of Police, stated we have weapons that we would like to dispose of as they have reached the end of their service life and malfunction. Alderwoman Smith motioned to destroy/trade-in certain weapons of the Police Dept. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. Chief Spradlin stated the last paragraph lists weapons that still retain some value and stated he would like to trade these in and use the funds for purchase of new Glock 27. Alderwoman Smith and Alderwoman Whitmore stated these are also included in their motions. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6-0.

**Weapons to be disposed of:**
- Mossberg 500 12 gauge pump action shotgun – Serial # L511702
- Mossberg 835 12 gauge pump action shotgun - Serial # UM282861
- Remington 870 12 gauge pump action shotgun - Serial # T335453V
- Mossberg 500 12 gauge pump action shotgun - Serial # G540321
- Winchester 1200 12 gauge pump action shotgun - Serial # L1165485
- Colt AR-15 .223 caliber - Serial # SP206791

**Weapons to be traded in:**
- Ruger Model 77 .308 caliber bolt action rifle – Serial # 771-94266
- Ruger Mini-14 .223 caliber semi-automatic rifle – Serial # 185-73036
2. **Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds to the Animal Welfare Unit.**

   **O-16-20**

   Jody Spradlin, Chief of Police, explained this is money we received for a grant from Pet Smart Charities and any money left over from travel would stay with program that Pet Smart has always supported. Mayor Townsell stated so this ordinance is to accept grant funds not reimbursement funds. Chief Spradlin stated we will pay for the travel and they will reimburse our receipts from the conference. Alderwoman Smith motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Mehl seconded the motion. Alderwoman Whitmore asked if the account listed for reimbursement purposes should read differently. Chief Spradlin stated he spoke to Shona Osborne, Animal Welfare, as he had the same question and there is one account that is set up for Pet Smart Charities Rescue Wagon puts their money into and this grant went into that account, with the understanding that this is a training grant; they estimated the travel expenses at $2,038.00. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 6-0. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderwoman Mehl seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 6-0.

E. **New Business**

1. **Ordinance setting use regulations for signage on the Arch at Rogers Plaza located in Downtown Conway.**

   Mayor Townsell explained we have had many requests for signage that are diverse and we are looking for an ordinance to help us regulate that, however into the discussion about any kind of signage in the City of Conway we learned of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that complicates matters and has everyone recalculating the effect of their sign ordinance nationwide, because they are asking us to not regulate content. Mayor Townsell stated in light of that ruling we are looking to come out with an entire re-draft of our sign ordinance and stated we need to be careful of those very same content concerns in this ordinance. Mayor Townsell stated Chuck Clawson, City Attorney, advised us to hold this ordinance in committee, knowing this means we will hold all signage displayed on those signs until we know how to regulate them. Alderwoman Smith motioned to hold this item in committee. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

   **Adjournment**

   PASSED this 23rd day of February 2016

   APPROVED: