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# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

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**Conway, Arkansas  
Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
February 28, 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, Councilman Grimes, 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.

**Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry**

**Roll Call: Michael Garrett, City Clerk**

**Minutes: February 14, 2023 and February 22, 2023**

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 8-0.

**Monthly Financial Report:** Month ending January 31, 2023

Tyler Wunningham addressed the Council stating that expenditures for January are very low due to the first payroll being mostly related to 2022. He said the overall budget is 80-83% personnel causing the expenditures to appear very low, along with the spending freeze the Mayor has put in place for the first of the year. He added that revenue was down just a little, but does not affect the budget very much. He concluded by saying that next month the revenues and expenditures should look more normal. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financials and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 8-0.

**Report of Standing Committees:**

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

**1. Resolution to approve entering into an agreement with Neighborly Software for the Community Development Block Grant Program.**

**R-23-11**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A1 to the Council. Shawanna Rodgers explained to the Council that this request is for a software program that will drastically streamline the process by bringing a lot of the process online. She added that it would be helpful for administration and participants as well. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Jones seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

**2. Resolution to modify the grant application submission for the Runway Rehabilitation Project for the Conway Airport.**

**R-23-12**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. Jake Briley addressed the Council stating that this is a second grant which will be combine with one that was approved at a previous council meeting. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

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**3. Resolution to approve the bid for ready-mix concrete for the City of Conway.**

**R-23-13**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. Kurt Jones told the Council that this is an annual material bid and that there was only one bidder this year. He said the prices per cubic yard are approximately \$15.00 a cubic yard higher than last year, and that the City would use approximately 1500 cubic yards on projects this year. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

**4. Ordinance accepting the FEMA BRIC grant for the Centennial Creek Drainage Study.**

**O-23-17**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council. Robbie Alberson, Grants Administrator, told the Council that the City received an award from the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program and asked the Council to approve the acceptance of these funds for the Centennial Creek Drainage Study. 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 Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilwoman Webb, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

**5. Ordinance to rezone property located at 3130 Nutters Chapel Road from A-1 to R-1.**

**O-23-18**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A5 to the Council stating that the matter was reviewed by the Planning Commission and voted unanimously to forward to City Council with the recommendation for approval. Kris Paxton told the Council that this rezoning is consistent with neighboring properties and with the comprehensive plan. 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 Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilwoman Webb, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

**B. 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 appropriating reimbursement funds for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-23-19**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Chief Tapley asked the Council to approve appropriation for the funds received from various entities for fiscal year 2023. 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 Hawkins, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Webb, and Councilwoman Tucker. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

**2. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds from FY2022 for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-23-20**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B2 to the Council. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

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**3. Ordinance appropriating asset forfeiture funds to purchase two additional K-9 service dogs for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-23-21**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B3 to the Council. Chief Tapley told the Council that the Department has four canines presently. He said that one canine is assigned to narcotics investigators, one is assigned to schools, two canines perform patrol type functions. He said that they would like to acquire two additional canines for a total of six. He told them the amount of purchase includes the animals, insurance, supplies, kennels, etc. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. Councilwoman Webb expressed concern with the equipment used in the training of the canines. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 8-1 with Councilwoman Webb voting "no".

**4. Ordinance appropriating law enforcement public safety equipment funding for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-23-22**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B4 to the Council. Chief Tapley told the Council that grant funds for the VR equipment and training has been received and that this is an accounting ordinance to appropriate those funds. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Webb. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

**5. Ordinance authorizing the reclassification of personnel within the Conway Police Department.**

**O-23-23**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B5 to the Council. Chief Tapley told the Council that due to staffing issues the Crime Suppression unit was not able to operate but it was in the processing of becoming active again. He said that the unit needed a supervisor position and asked the Council for the reclassification of a police officer position to a Sergeant position. Mayor Castleberry added that the salary increases awarded to the Police Department enabled two certified officers to be hired and will aid Chief Tapley in acquiring a full service staff. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Tucker, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

**Adjournment-----**

*PASSED this 28th day of February 2023*

**APPROVED:**

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*Mayor Bart Castleberry*

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*City Clerk Michael O. Garrett*