
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday 6:30 pm
August 11, 2015

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

Call to Order: Mayor Tab Townsell

Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett, City Clerk/Treasurer

Minutes: July 28, 2015 City Council Meeting

Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0 with the Mayor's vote.

Mayor Townsell stated all we can do tonight is discuss the ordinances, they cannot be passed due to the lack of a quorum. Mayor Townsell stated the ordinances can be read for the first time which will automatically hold them until the next meeting where they can be read for a second time. Mayor Townsell explained ordinances are handled in this fashion unless the rules are suspended to waive the readings which takes 6 votes, and he is unable to vote on a super majority.

1. Report of Standing Committees:

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

1. Ordinance accepting and appropriating grant funds for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board.

The Mayor read the title of the ordinance for the first time and it will be held over until the next council meeting. A \$500.00 donation has been made to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board.

Alderman Grimes entered the meeting.

2. Ordinance to authorize approval of the destruction of accounting records for the Finance Dept.

The Mayor read the title of the ordinance for the first time and it will be held over until the next council meeting.

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

1. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds from various entities for the Animal Welfare Unit.

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The Mayor read the title of the ordinance for the first time and it will be held over until the next council meeting. Mayor Townsell stated we received \$5,753.36 from Pet Smart – Rescue Wagon Grant and \$2,286.30 from Rescue Wagon.

2. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds from various entities for the Conway Police Dept.

The Mayor read the title of the ordinance for the first time and it will be held over until the next council meeting. Mayor Townsell stated these reimbursement funds from various entities for the following:

- Affair of the Heart - \$1,509.85 - Extra Duty Services
- Insurance Companies - \$1,125.48 - Insurance Proceeds
- Arkansas State Police - \$2,406.43 – DUI/Seat Belt Grant
- District Court - \$26.10 - Restitution

3. Ordinance authorizing a change in staffing levels for the Information Technology Department.

The Mayor read the title of the ordinance for the first time and it will be held over until the next council meeting. Lloyd Hartzell, IT Director, stated the IT Department was created in 2008 and since that time we have increased our staff by 1, and there is no back up for my personnel. Mr. Hartzell stated Jeff West and Bob Blanchard arrive early and usually stay late and often have police personnel go to their homes on weekends needing something repaired, and explained we need more staffing so when our personnel leave for the day, they can actually go home. Mr. Hartzell stated this is not about salaries, this is about having enough staffing to do the job and give personnel time to spend time with their families. Mr. Hartzell stated with the new radio system we expect no radio maintenance cost for at least 5 possibly 10 years based on the contract; this cost savings can offset the additional personnel cost based on the 2015 radio maintenance cost of \$115,000.00 and proposed to increase staffing levels. Mr. Hartzell explained Mr. Blanchard just completed his Microsoft Training Certification and he would like to promote him from Computer Support Specialist Supervisor to a Network Engineer which would give us 2 Network Engineers, and explained we would not fill his supervisor's position so some of this money can be used for this purpose. Mr. Hartzell stated he would like to hire another Communications Telecommunications Engineer which would give us 2, and hire another Computer Support Specialist. Mr. Hartzell stated the cost this year would be approximately \$43,000.00 and next will increase next year's budget by approximately \$48,000.00.

C. New Business

1. Consideration to enter into an easement agreement with Conway Community Services (Baptist Health – Conway)

Mayor Townsell stated Baptist Health Medical Center has requested this item and item C-2 be held in committee. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to hold item C-1 and C-2 in committee until the next council meeting. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

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2. Consideration to approve a quit claim deed for property located at Lot1B Conway Community Services Campus (Baptist Health - Conway)

Item held in committee.

Mayor Townsell stated we did not have time to discuss drainage during our committee meeting tonight and asked council to suspend the rules to allow us to continue our committee meeting now. Alderman Grimes asked if we need to vote on the UCA request. Mayor Townsell stated it takes 6 to suspend the rules but if you agree he can do it as an executive order explaining UCA has asked to close Bruce Street for construction from 7:30 am - 3 pm, from the parking lot entrance at the Farris Center back to about Western Ave., to allow for a safer construction environment; access would be allowed for emergency and handicapped vehicles. Mayor Townsell this cannot be acted on tonight but if council approves he can approve this with an executive order. Council concurred. Mayor Townsell recommended closing the council meeting and come back together as a committee immediately after to continue discussions on drainage.

Adjournment

PASSED this 11th day of August 2015

APPROVED:

Mayor Tab Townsell

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett