
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Monday, 12:00 pm
December 27, 2021

On this date the City Council of the City of Conway, Arkansas met in a *special session*. The following members being a quorum were present and acting: Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder, City Clerk Michael Garrett.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett, City Clerk

A. Public Hearing

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

Mayor Castleberry opened the public hearing. Brad Lacy addressed the Council and thanked them for their support for this project. He reminded them that the Westrock Beverage Company would be creating 260 jobs and that the project would be a 160 million-dollar investment. There was no one else present to speak to the matter. Mayor Castleberry declared the public hearing closed.

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

O-21-125

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Tucker, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes. Councilwoman Smith, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0. (Councilman Hawkins was not present at the time of the vote)

2. Resolution certifying the City of Conway endorsement of Westrock Converting LL (former Rock Tenn) to participate in the Tax Back Program.

R-21-93

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B2 to the Council. Brady Lacy told the Council that this is the former Rock 10, and that they had gone through a merger and changed their name to Westrock Converting. He added that this is an 18 million-dollar expansion to their facility, and 33 new jobs. He explained that the Tax Back Program that would give them a refund on any city sales tax associated with that expansion. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called for. The Resolution passed 7-0.

Councilman Hawkins joined the meeting.

3. Resolution certifying the City of Conway endorsement of Acoustic L.P. to participate in the Advantage Arkansas Program.

R-21 94

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B3 to the Council. Brad Lacy addressed the Council stating that Acoustic L.P. was formerly a part of IBM and had spun off a division of the business. He said that the company is going to add 20 employees to the 8 they currently have. He added that this program would give them state

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income tax credit. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder pointed out that Section 2 of the Resolution stated that the DFA is authorized to refund local sales tax as well, and Mr. Lacy said that was incorrect. It was agreed that the Resolution should be amended. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to amend the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was call and the Resolution, with the amendment of removing Section 2, was approved 8-0.

4. Resolution certifying the City of Conway endorsement of Westrock Beverage Company to participate in the Tax Back Program.

R-21-95

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B4 to the Council. Brad Lacy told the Council that the Tax Back Program would give Westrock Beverage the refund on any city sales tax associated with the project. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 27th day of December 2021

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett