

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
March 24, 2026

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, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: City Clerk Denise Hurd, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Mayor Castleberry, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Hawks were not present.

Call to Order: Councilman Andy Hawkins

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: March 10, 2026

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on March 10th as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Monthly Financial Report: February 28th, 2026

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council stating that sales tax for February was up 5.4%. He reminded them that in the budget process he did a fund balance appropriation to cover the Community Center once it was determined what the first year of operations would actually be. He pointed out where the item was shown in the report since normally only appropriations for the current year would be shown. He added that after a full year had passed, then they would have a better idea of any steps that might need to be taken. He also told them that an appropriation request would be forthcoming, to pay off the airport loan that is due June 16th. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financial report and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 6-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

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

1. Consideration to approve waiving all three readings for the ordinances on the March 24th, 2026, City Council agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve waiving the three readings and Councilwoman Mehl seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

2. Consideration to approve the nomination of Brandon Ruhl to the Conway Corp Board of Directors.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to approve the nomination and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 6-0.

3. Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of wastewater revenue refunding bonds to finance improvements to the Wastewater System for Conway Corporation.

O-26-15

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. Gordon Wilbourn told the Council that this ordinance is a refinancing ordinance with respect to the outstanding series 2016 bonds, which does not extend the maturity or increase the principal amount. He said that it is for debt service savings and is a preparation for when the market becomes favorable. There was no further discussion on the matter.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 6-0.

4. Ordinance accepting and appropriating donation funds for the Conway Tree Board.

O-26-16

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council. Anne Tucker, representing the Tree Board told that Council that she had received a check from Conway Corporation for \$5,000.00 as a donation to the Tree Board. 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, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

5. Ordinance approving the private club permit location for Waldo's Conway dba: Waldo's Chicken at 2205 Dave Ward Drive.

O-26-17

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A5 to the Council. Ben Brainard of Waldo's Chicken was present to represent as applicant. 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 Ledbetter, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Spurgers and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

6. Resolution approving the use of policies and procedures for the administration and implementation of the RAISE Grant for Connect Conway.

R-26-08

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A6 to the Council. Kurt Jones of the Transportation Department told the Council that the property acquisition phase was beginning for the Connect Conway Project. He said that for this project the City is dealing directly with the Federal Highway Administration and that this Resolution would adopt ARDOT standard procedures for property acquisition, and documentation to ensure the process is accomplished according to federal guidelines. There were no questions from the Council. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 6-0.

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

1. Consideration to remove vehicles and equipment from inventory for the Department of Sanitation.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B1 to the Council. Joe Hopper told the Council that all of the items on their list have been replaced and asked them to approve removing them from inventory. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the removal and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called the motion carried 6-0.

2. Resolution to approve the purchase of an articulated dump truck for the Department of Sanitation.

R-26-09

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B2 to the Council. Joe Hopper told the Council that the purchase comes in under budget by around \$30,000. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 6-0.

- 3. Resolution to approve the purchase of three refuse trucks (one side-load, one rear-load, and one roll-off) for the Department of Sanitation.**

R-26-10

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council. Joe Hopper asked the Council to amend the Resolution to state two refuse trucks as the roll-off vehicle is not included in the list of purchases. He added that these trucks also came in under budget. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to amend the Resolution to remove the roll-off vehicle and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 6-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the amended Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 6-0.

- 4. Ordinance appropriating funds and approving the purchase of two refuse trucks for the Department of Sanitation.**

O-26-18

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B4 to the Council. Joe Hopper told the Council that these purchases were not in the budget but were needed to replace the CNG trucks. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Spurgers seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawkins. Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

C. Public Safety Committee (Police, Fire, CEOC, District Court, & Information Technology):

- 1. Consideration to dispose of seized assets (vehicles) from inventory for the Conway Police Department.**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C1 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that these seven vehicles, when removed from inventory, would be sold at auction. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the removal of the vehicles and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 6-0.

- 2. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds from various entities for the Police Department.**

O-26-19

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C2 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that the majority of these reimbursement funds were for extra duty. 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, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

- 3. Ordinance appropriating funds for the purchase of ballistic plates for the Conway Police Department.**

O-26-20

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C3 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that the ballistic plates would add an additional level of safety for officers. He added that the public service sales tax that would go into effect on April 1, would provide the funds to purchase the vests and enhance the safety of the officers. 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 Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

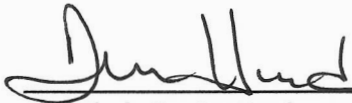
D. Finance:

1. Ordinance appropriating funds for the vehicle leasing program for the City of Conway.
O-26-21


Councilman Hawkins presented Item D1 to the Council. Tyler Winningham told the Council that this is a new program for the City, which will allow leasing of City vehicles instead of purchasing. He added that Enterprise keeps track of the market value of the vehicles for the ideal time to sell, and when the vehicle is sold, if there is equity in the sale, it would be credited to the City for the next vehicle. He said that this will allow the departments to have better and more current vehicles and would save money on maintenance and repairs for the City. He told the Council that as there is no funding in the budget for some of the departments, but for the Police Department, the new sales tax would be used to cover their costs. The other departments- IT, Physical Plant, Code Enforcement, and Animal Welfare would need additional funding, which is appropriated by this Ordinance and is about six-months costs for about 43-45 vehicles. There was discussion as to whether the City was obligated to continue participation or if it could be terminated at will. City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder stated that he was satisfied after reviewing the contract that the City could cancel the agreement if it so desired. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 24th day of March, 2026



City Clerk, Denise Hurd

APPROVED:


Mayor, Bart Castleberry