

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
May 26, 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 Ledbetter, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Denise Hurd, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilman Spurgers and Councilwoman Mehl were not present.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: May 12, 2026

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on May 12th as submitted. Councilman Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Monthly Financial Report: April 30th, 2026

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council stating that the General Fund was looking a bit beat up but added that it is somewhat typical to see this to some extent. He listed off some of the larger bills that the City has had to pay so far in 2026 including insurance compensation program which is about \$700,000, the legal defense fee to the Municipal League is paid in March and is \$200,000, software renewals come due at the beginning of the year that can add up to around \$250,000, and there have been several large payments on the 911 radio project that we took a loan out on last year totaling about \$700,000. He told them that payroll at this time is about \$1.6 million every other week and in January there were three payrolls, which affected cash flow very early on. He said that on the revenue side we are still waiting on the first property tax receipts which should come sometime in May and should be around \$1.5 million. He reported that sales tax is tracking well keeping us right on the number as far as actual compared to budget and is up around 3% this month. He told them we would need to keep an eye on the cash flow and since January Council has approved public safety purchases to be repaid with the new tax he would watch to make sure the General Fund did not suffer. He said that the Street Fund is not looking great either due to large outlays at the first of the year. He reminded them that the Street Fund is where we are recording expenses for the Connect Conway project such as street and pathway engineering, which will be reimbursed by the grant when we get to that point. He added that right now it was out about \$325,000 that has been paid up front for the project. Other large outlays this year are typical such as paving, traffic signal maintenance, sidewalk repair and maintenance, etc. He concluded by saying that the Sanitation and Airport funds look good. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financials, and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. The motion carried 6-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

A. Economic Development Committee: (Conway Aea Chamber of Commerce, Conway Development Corporation, Conway Downtown Partnership & Conway Corporation)

- 1. Consideration to approve waiving all three readings for the ordinances on the May 26th City Council agenda.**

Councilman Jones made a motion to approve waiving all three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. A vote was called and motion carried 6-0.

- 2. Resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Conway, in partnership with Conway Corporation, to apply for Congressionally Directed Spending for the Tucker Creek Equalization Storage Facility Project.**

R-26-21

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A2 to the Council. Brett McDaniel, COO of Conway Corp told the Council they've been working on this project for about 7 years. He said that it is an 80/20 matching grant and Conway Corporation would be responsible for the 20% match. He added that currently it is a wastewater treatment plant that has a discharge into the Arkansas River so what this will do is convert it to where excess rainfall water can be put into the ponds for storage to be pumped into Tupelo Bayou. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 6-0.

- 3. Ordinance authorizing the issuance of taxable industrial development revenue refunding bonds for DGB located at 600 Dave Ward Drive.**

O-26-33

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A3 to the Council. Gordon Wilbourn reminded the Council that back in 2018 they approved the issuance of bonds for DBG to acquire the old AmTRAN property and refurbish it and buy equipment. He told them that this is a restructuring of that deal, not an extension- no change in interest rates or maturity. He explained that in 2024 that property was in two different plats, and they released one back to the City and it went back on the tax rolls. The lease-hold interest on the other part of the property was assigned to another entity and DBG subleased from them. He said that the other entity controls the real property, but DBG controls the personal property, so in order to restructure they are asking for approval for a refunding of two different bonds. Mr. Wilbourn confirmed that both parties were in agreement of the restructuring. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

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

- 1. Resolution approving an agreement for general legal services for the Advertising & Promotion Commission.**

R-26-22

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B1 to the Council. Councilwoman Isby told the Council that the A&P Commission experiences situations where they need legal advice during their meetings, so they sent out requests for bids to retain legal services for the A&P Commission. She said that four firms had sent in bids and appeared before the A&P Commission in April to discuss their qualifications and hear from the Commission. She listed the firms as Beckett Law LLC, Mickel & Chapman Attorneys, Owens & Parker Law Firm, and Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC, and gave an overview of the law firms. She said the decision was influenced by the need for an hourly rate, because of the way the Commission operates. She told the Council that Owens & Parker Law Firm had multiple attorneys that would be available, they are a local firm, and they provided an hourly rate, so it was voted by the Commission to send a recommendation of approval to enter into an agreement with the Owens & Parker Law Firm to provide legal services for the A&P Commission. Councilman Grimes made a motion to approve the agreement with Owens & Parker Law Firm and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 6-0.

- 2. Resolution approving the Conway Emergency Utility Assistance program for the Community Development Department.**

R-26-23

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B2 to the Council. Shawanna Rodgers told the Council that the City often gets calls for utility and rental assistance. She said that the City participated in this program during the Covid shutdown and would like to offer this assistance to the community once again. She said the goal was to start offering the program in early 2027 and would follow HUD's guidelines for qualification. It was confirmed that the public would hear about the program through social media posts, the website, and through the City's partner non-profit organizations. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution was passed 6-0.

- 3. Resolution approving the application to apply for the Love Your Block Grant Program for neighborhood engagement for the Community Development Department.**

R-26-24

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council. Robbie Alberson, Grants Administrator, told the Council that this is a two-year grant program that will connect City leadership and residents together to help revitalize neighborhoods, with projects such as trash and debris cleanup, community gardens, implantation of art, etc. He added that it is a non-matching program and supplied by private philanthropy. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution was passed 6-0.

- 4. Resolution approving the application to apply for the STBG grant program for the Connect Conway project.**

R-26-25

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B4 to the Council. Kurt Jones told the Council that this is a surface transportation block grant administered through Metroplan. He said it is a \$3 million dollar grant with an 80/20 match, with the City's portion being around \$600,000, and would go toward the cost of the Connect Conway project. He added that this grant could help cover expected overruns in the cost of the project. He gave a brief report on the progress of property acquisition, saying that the agency that is handling it has sent out a number of offer letters and has received some acceptances. He added the consultants are working on some revisions to the plan that would have minimal impact on property owners. He was asked if he could clarify where the expected overages would come from, to which he replied that construction costs continue to rise as well as fuel costs which impact budgets. There was some discussion among the Council regarding costs, and it was expressed that costs should not be cut so much so that the project did not meet expectations when it was done. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Jones seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution was passed 6-0.

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

- 1. Ordinance appropriating funds for the purchase of property located at the corner of Center & Robins Streets for the Parks & Recreation Department.**

O-26-34

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council saying that CBC had contacted him about some property they were going to be selling, and one parcel was directly across from the baseball fields at Conway Station Park, which has been serving as overflow parking for the games. HE added that there had been appraisals, the first one coming in at \$500,000 and the second one coming in at \$350,000 and a third one came in at \$512,000. He said he reached an agreement with CBC for

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the amount of \$450,000 for the property. Andrew Thames said the 2.33 acre property was on the corner of Center and Robinson across from Conway Station Park, adding that this is a valuable piece of land for the City to use for parking. He added that payment for the property would come from the Parks Impact Fees Fund. Tyler Winningham told the Council that the Parks Impact Fee Fund can only be used to expand existing parks to accommodate more citizens. There was discussion among the Council as to the need for more parking at Conway Station, especially on weekends when tournaments are happening. Councilman Hawks pointed out that there appeared to be two parcels and urged Mr. Thames to confirm the delineation between the two. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Grimes seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

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

1. Ordinance authorizing personnel changes within the Conway Fire Department.

O-26-35

Councilman Hawkins presented Item D1 to the Council. Chief Weidower told the Council that CFD is asking to reclassify an Engineer Senior Staff to a Captain Basic Staff position which would require no budget adjustment. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 6-0.


Mayor Castleberry reminded the Council that they would be observing the summer schedule and the next City Council meetings would be on June 23, July 28, and August 25th.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 26th day of May, 2026



City Clerk, Denise Hurd

APPROVED:


Mayor, Bart Castleberry