

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
September 8, 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, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Jones and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Denise Hurd, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: August 25th, 2026 and September 3rd, 2026

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meetings on August 25th, 2026 and September 3rd, 2026 as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried 8-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

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

1. Consideration to approve waiving all three readings for the ordinances on the September 8th, 2026 City Council agenda.

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A1 to the Council. Charles Finkenbinder stated that the only ordinance on the agenda that would be considered of a general and permanent nature, subjecting it to the three-reading statute is the ordinance to rezone property at 113 Conway Blvd. Councilwoman Mehl reminded the Council that this rezoning request had gone through Planning Commission and was presented at the last City Council meeting and tabled. Councilman Spurgers stated that in this case he was in favor of waiving the readings on this matter because it has been heard multiple times. Councilman Grimes made a motion to approve waiving the three readings and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating funds and accepting the low bid for Don Owen's Concession building for the Parks & Recreation Department.

O-26-54

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A2 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council the project is ready to begin and called their attention to the renderings of the building set up in the Council chambers. He said there were 11 bids submitted and asked for approval to enter into an agreement with Stephen Hay Construction as the low bidder with a quote of \$2,589,771.50. He added that he believed there would be an addendum to this. He said that \$2 million has already been appropriated so this ordinance would just be adding the remaining \$589,771.50 from the Advertising & Promotion fund balance. Councilman Ledbetter made a motion to amend the Ordinance to state the appropriation amount as \$589,771.50 and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as amended and accepting the low bid from Stephen Hay Construction, and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

3. Ordinance appropriating funds for the replacement of an HVAC unit at District Court.

O-26-55

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A3 to the Council. Spencer Clawson told the Council his staff did all they could to find a solution outside of replacement but there was none. He said that they collected quotes and chose Jeremy Hayes' HVAC bid at \$21,790.89. He said the funds were to be appropriated and placed in the District Court Maintenance fund. Mayor Castleberry confirmed that he approved the purchase as an emergency situation had occurred. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilman Grimes seconded the motion. The Clerk called with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 8-0.

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

1. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds from various entities for the Police Department.

O-26-56

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Chief Harris noted that the amount of \$113,574.25 is somewhat irregular for reimbursement for extra duty but explained that this was due to overtime for officers providing services for the recent Hendrix event. 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 Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Spurgers. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

2. Ordinance accepting grant proceeds from the Homeland Security Grant Program for the Fire Department.

O-26-57

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Chief Winter told the Council that this is the annual Bomb Squad grant received from the Federal Government and it is 100% reimbursable. He added that the amount received this year is \$267,500. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll and the Ordinance passed 8-0. Chief Winter advised that there needed to be an emergency clause added to the Ordinance. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to revoke the previous vote, and Councilman Jones seconded it. A vote was called and the motion to revoke that vote was approved 8-0. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to amend the Ordinance to add the emergency clause, and Councilman Jones seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion to amend carried 8-0. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as amended and Councilman Jones seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawks, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Ledbetter and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 8-0.

3. Ordinance appropriating funds and insurance proceeds for the Fire Department.

O-26-58

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Chief Winter told the Council they had received two donation checks and a check for insurance proceeds and asked that the funds be appropriated back to their respective accounts. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Jones seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

4. Ordinance to approve the purchase of two fire engines for the Fire Department.

O-26-59

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Chief Winter explained that instead of the City going out and finding bids for the trucks, we go through HGACBuy Cooperative purchasing that has already negotiated the best price on the product. Mayor Castleberry confirmed that the funds are available and will not impact other things going forward because they will come out of the new sales tax. Chief Winter added that delivery would be in 28 to 32 months, and that they would be replacing a 2013 and a 2014 model. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to amend the Ordinance to include an emergency clause and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 8-0.

C. Old Business

1. Ordinance to rezone property located at 113 Conway Blvd from S-1 and R-2A to R-2.

O-26-60

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that the applicant, Mr. Johnson was agreeable to rezoning the property to R-2A, if the Council would amend the Ordinance to read as such. Councilman Grimes referred to a map he had distributed showing the entire neighborhood was originally R-2A. He said that when Central Baptist College bought the properties, it was rezoned to S-1 for institutional use, but they have since sold the property and it will not be used institutionally. He added that while he felt there are places in Conway where R-2 is appropriate he did not feel it was appropriate in the Old Conway Overlay District. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to amend the Ordinance to rezone the S-1 portion of the property to R-2A and Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as amended and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter and Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance as amended passed 8-0.

There was discussion regarding a conflict between the next City Council meeting and the Faulkner County Fair Parade. It was decided the Council would meet on the regularly scheduled date of September 22 but move the meeting time to 7:00 to avoid conflicting with traffic and road blockages for the parade.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 8th day of September, 2026

APPROVED:

Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd