MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
October 27th, 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: October 13th, 2026
Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meetings on October 13th, 2026 as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried 8-0.

Monthly Financial Report for the month ending September 30th, 2026:
Tyler Winningham addressed the Council stating that sales tax was down 1.5% for the month, and up just under 1% for the year. He added that he expected sales tax revenues to be below budget by about $460,000. He said that revenues had improved as we got caught up on franchise fees and beverage tax receipts. He said the rest of the report is typical of September, with no big receipts and no big expenses. He added that property tax receipts should appear on the October Financial report. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the monthly financials and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion to approve carried 8-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

A. Public Hearing

1. **Public hearing to discuss the issuance of bonds (series 2026) for the Master Campus Plan for Conway Regional Medical Center.**
   Mayor Castleberry opened the public hearing. Gordon Wilbourn, with Kutak Rock acting as bond counsel for the Hospital, addressed the Council stating that this would be a bond issue by the City Health Facilities Board who will adopt the authorizing resolution for the bonds, which will be presented to the Council at the November 10th meeting. The Council then will ratify the approval by Resolution. He explained that the project is a not to exceed $33 million project for campus improvements, which include a medical office building, women's services facility including the NICU and the nursery, and some additional parking facilities. He added that in connection with this new money they will refund some outstanding Series 2019 bonds that will help free up cash flow for new debt service payments. Councilman Grimes confirmed that this is not a debt obligation of the City and secured solely by hospital revenues and mortgage on the facilities. Mayor Castleberry read aloud the public hearing announcement that was printed in the newspaper. He then opened the floor for anyone to speak for or against the matter. Angie Longing, CEO of Conway Regional addressed the Council with some specifics about the project. She said that the main project was to build a new medical facility of about 30,000 square feet that would allow the orthopedic clinic on Club Lane to relocate to the hospital campus which would then require additional parking around the campus. She said the other piece of the project is to expand the NICU services. There was no one else to speak for or against the matter. Mayor Castleberry declared the public hearing closed.

B. 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 October 27th, 2026 City Council agenda.**
   Councilman Hawkins presented Item B1 to the Council. Councilman Grimes made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. Councilwoman Mehl asked Mr. Finkenbinder if any of the ordinances would fall under the criteria of being permanent in nature. He replied that appropriation ordinances are not subject to the three-reading rule but that the last item on the agenda, E1 would be. A vote was called and the motion to waiving the three readings carried 8-0.

2. **Consideration to approve a conditional use permit for property located at 424 E. 6th Street.**
   Councilman Hawkins presented Item B2 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that this location was known as Airport Park. She said the City has applied for a permit to do some renovations that require a zoning verification because parks are not allowed by right in residential zones. Troy Rice briefed the Council with the specifics of the project. He said it was a two-phase project which would be paid for through CDBG funding. He said that parking would be divided, the ball field would be reconditioned to a T-Ball field, a basketball court would be added and a playground facility and possibly a dog park. He said in phase two would include a pavilion, bathroom facilities and a second T-Ball field. He said that all of the conditions of the permit are approved and the permit would allow the project to be in compliance with current zoning code. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the conditional use permit and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

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

1. **Ordinance appropriating funds for the Conway Animal Services from the Best Friends Animal Society Grant.**

   O-26-70

   Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Spencer Clawson addressed the Council stating that Best Friends Animal Society has been a great partner as they transition into a no-kill shelter and asked for approval to appropriate the grant funds. 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 Jones, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

2. **Consideration to approve the removal of inventory (vehicles) for the Public Works Department.**
   Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Spencer Clawson told the Council there were four vehicles and that earlier this year they were enrolled in the Enterprise Fleet Management Program, and these four vehicles would be cycled out of inventory. He added that they are all at the end of their duty life. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the consideration and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

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

1. **Consideration to approve the removal of inventory (vehicles) for the Conway Police Department.**
Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that they had 10 vehicles to be removed from inventory. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the consideration and Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

2. **Ordinance appropriating asset forfeiture funds for training with the Conway Police Department.**
O-26-71
Mayor Castleberry presented Item D2 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council he was requesting asset forfeiture funds in the amount of $12,600 to send six SWAT operators to the Direct Action Resource Center DARC in North Little Rock for advance tactical hostage rescue training. He added that this would be level two training as they have been through level one. Councilman Spurgers confirmed that there was no overtime pay involved with the training. 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, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Spurgers, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

3. **Ordinance appropriating funds for Operation Shop Secure for the Conway Police Department.**
O-26-72
Mayor Castleberry presented Item D3 to the Council. Chief Harris requested approval for overtime funds in the amount of $70,000 for the program for the 2026 holiday shopping season. He said the funding would provide officers at the shopping centers around Conway to provide extra security during the season. Councilman Spurgers asked if the business owners contributed to the cost of the extra security and Chief Harris said they did not. He said that businesses pay taxes and this is a service provided by the City for the safety of residents and visitors. He clarified that businesses do pay for extra security by officers when they are having a specific event for which they desire extra police presence. 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 Spurgers, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

E. New Business

1. **Ordinance to place a temporary moratorium on certain developments within the City of Conway.**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E1 to the Council. He stated that he would like to postpone voting on the Ordinance for a moratorium until it can be further explored as to what types of developments should be subject. He said that the first step in this education begins with Conway Corporation. He asked Brett McDaniel of Conway Corporation to report on the processes they have in place and what it may be going forward. Mr. McDaniel gave an update to the Council as to how they are handling the 2026 drought. He began by reporting on the status of Lake Brewer stating that at this time it is about 16 feet low. He said that the system is operating at 10 million gallons per day, with

5 million gallons of that being pulled from Brewer, and the rest from Cadron Creek, and about 1 MGD from Community Water System. He gave some details about normal rainfall and the lack of rain in 2026. He said that the City is in phase three of the curtailment, which has created a decrease in system demand of about 12-20%. He told the Council of various plans to acquire additional water sources, such as Point Remove Creek. There was discussion among the Council as to prospective actions for increasing water sources, and the potential of Beaverfork Lake overflowing into Cadron Creek. The Council discussed tabling the Ordinance until a later date and Mayor Castleberry asked Mr. McDaniel what a good projection would be if there continued to be no rainfall. Mr. McDaniel stated that the lake usually recovers in the winter, so he recommended waiting until after the winter rains. It was decided to table the matter and revisit it at the first meeting in December. Councilman Grimes made a motion to table the Ordinance until the December 12th City Council meeting where there would be another discussion and public comment. Councilman Ledbetter seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion to table passed 7-1 with Councilman Hawkins voting "No".

Adjournment----------

PASSED this 27th day of October, 2026

APPROVED:

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Mayor, Bart Castleberry

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City Clerk, Denise Hurd