

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
January 28, 2025

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 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. Councilman Grimes was absent.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: January 14, 2025

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on January 14, 2025, as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Monthly Financial Report ending December 31, 2024

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council stating that the numbers for 2024 won't be final until the audit later in the year. He told them that the General Fund ended with 4.9 million dollars in net revenue, and a 20-million-dollar operating cash balance. He said the Street Fund ended the year with 1.4 million dollars in net revenue and 6 million dollars in operating cash, and the Sanitation Fund ended with 2.2-million-dollar net revenue and 16 million in the operating cash balance for the year. He told them the Airport Fund had a \$65,000 net expense for the year but did end with \$331,000 in the operating cash balance. He added that overall, it was a very good year for the City. He reported that January sales tax (November sales) was down 9% but stated that he felt it was a correction from the January 2024 numbers being unusually high at an 18% increase. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the Financials for December 31, 2024, and Councilman Jones seconded it. The motion to approve carried 7-0.

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 January 28th, 2025 City Council agenda.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A1 to the Council. Councilman Ledbetter made a motion to approve, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 7-0.

2. Resolution to approve Mercer Conway Inc. to participate in the Tax Back Program.

R-25-02

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council and made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

3. Ordinance to approve the private club permit location for Guacamole Social Club, doing business as: Guacamole Inc. located at 2585 Donaghey Ave, Suite 103.

O-25-10

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. 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 Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

4. Consideration to approve a conditional use permit to allow a Mini-Warehouse use in the RU-1 zone for property located at 1550 E. Dave Ward Drive.

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Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council stating that the matter was reviewed by the Planning Commission and was voted to forward to City Council with 15 conditions. Anne Tucker, Director of Planning & Development, told the Council that this property was zoned for this use in 2018 but at that time the applicant did not develop the property. She said the project is currently being reviewed by Planning staff and if approved by Council it would be eligible for permits. She added that the applicant is aware and agrees with all of the conditions. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the conditional use permit and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

5. Ordinance to rezone property located at Lot 22 of the Millers Creek Subdivision from R-1 to R-2.
O-25-11

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A5 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that this request is clean-up due to some of the lots being adjusted to meet code resulting in a narrow strip of land zoned R-1. She said the strip had been absorbed into the lots to the left. 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 Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

6. Ordinance to approve the annexation of +- 43.05 acres on Sturgis Rd.
This item was removed from the agenda.

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

1. Ordinance appropriating funds for the completion of the Conway Community Center.
O-25-12

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Jamie Brice, Director of the Conway Community Center, told the Council that this was an accounting ordinance based on the information given and discussed at the Committee meeting earlier. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause, and Councilman Ledbetter seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Spurgers. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

C. Public Safety Committee (District Court, Department of Information Systems & Technology, Animal Welfare, CEOC (Communication Emergency Operations Center) Police, Fire, & Office of the City Attorney)

1. Ordinance appropriating donation funds for the Conway Fire Department.
O-25-13

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Chief Winter told the Council they had received a \$250 donation for their uniform account. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating insurance funds for repairs on Truck 6 for the Conway Fire Department in the amount of \$6,383.00.

O-25-14

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. 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 Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

3. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds for the Conway Fire Department.
O-25-15

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Mayor Castleberry presented Item C3 to the Council. Chief Winter told the Council they had received a reimbursement check for overtime from last year in the amount of \$82,614.00. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, and Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

4. Ordinance accepting and appropriating grant proceeds from the Homeland Security Grant Program for the Conway Fire Department.

O-25-16

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C4 to the Council. Chief Winter told the Council that this grant was in the amount of \$336,300 and was allocated for the bomb squad. Councilwoman Mehl asked if they had received the funds, and Chief Winter said that they will spend the money, turn in the receipts and then the City will be reimbursed. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to amend the Ordinance to show the correct amount of \$336,300 and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Hawkins, and Councilman Spurgers. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 28th day of January 2025

**APPROVED: _____
*Mayor, Bart Castleberry***

City Clerk, Denise Hurd