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MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

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Conway, Arkansas  
Tuesday 6:30 pm  
February 9, 2016

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: Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Jones, and Alderwoman Whitmore. Also, present and acting: Mayor Tab Townsell, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Chuck Clawson. Alderman Pruitt was not in attendance.

**Call to Order: Mayor Tab Townsell**

**Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett**

**Minutes: January 26, 2016 and February 1, 2016 City Council Meeting**

Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to approve the January 26, 2016 and February 1, 2016 minutes as submitted. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

**1. Report of Standing Committees:**

**A. Community Development Committee (Planning, Zoning, Permits, Community Development, Historic District, Streets, & Conway Housing Authority)**

**1. Consideration to approve the nomination of several members to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board.**

Amanda Potter Cole, Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board Chairman, recognized exiting members and was present to answer questions. Alderman Hawkins motioned to accept the nominations of the BPAB board as recommended. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0. The board members are as follows:

- Bethany Stovall – 3 year term ending December 31, 2018
- David Barber – 3 year term ending December 31, 2018
- Mark Voyles – 1 year term ending December 31, 2016

**2. Resolution supporting the efforts of the Conway Public Schools Foundation Inc. with the “Building the Foundation” project.**

**R-16-05**

Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. Beau Wilcox, Chairperson Conway Public Schools Foundation, stated this organization began in 2007 as a non-profit designed to support the educational mission of the Conway Public School District. Mr. Wilcox stated we have tried to build an organization that supports what our teacher’s do which is sometimes a thankless job and this foundation is designed to not only give thanks, but to enhance their mission. Mr. Wilcox stated we

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have given many grants to the teachers so they can expand their programs and curriculum with technology, tools, and materials they need in the classroom and we have been blown away with the grant proposals that we have received, and grants we have given. Mr. Wilcox stated we elected last year to embark upon a capital campaign and we are close to the \$1 million mark and asked council to support this resolution which will show support of our mission. Mayor Townsell read the resolution for the record. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0. Aaron Knight announced the 2016 Hall of Honor for the Conway Public Schools Foundation Inc.: Richie Arnold, Carolyn Lewis, and Tab Townsell.

- 3. Ordinance appropriating funds to cover the cost of a condemnation for property associated with the 6th street I-40 Overpass and Amity/Elsinger Intersection project for the Street & Engineering Department.**

**O-16-11**

Aldерwoman Whitmore motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Aldерwoman Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Aldерwoman Whitmore motioned to adopt the ordinance. Aldерwoman Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Townsell stated this will set aside \$160,000.00 based on the report of a certified independent appraiser that will be filed with the court. Chuck Clawson, City Attorney, stated Resolution R-15-74 authorized him to proceed with condemnation of this property (William & Chris Hogan Tract); this will formerly set aside funds for this purpose. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Aldерwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Aldерwoman Smith, Alderman Jones, and Aldерwoman Whitmore. The motion passed 7-0.

- 4. Consideration to approve the FY2016 Street Improvement Projects for the Street & Engineering Department.**

Mayor Townsell stated it was determined in the earlier committee meeting that we were going to hold off on this to allow the public to absorb what they have in front of them in the way of street improvement projects and obtain more feedback on the existing projects; we will post this list tomorrow and then make a final decision on a work program at the next city council meeting. Aldерwoman Smith motion to hold this item in committee. Aldерwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

- 5. Consideration to enter into an agreement with Asset Max to provide a Street Pavement Management Program for the Street & Engineering Department.**

Finley Vinson, City Engineer, stated we have discussed this at length in committee meeting 2 weeks ago and stated he tried to address some questions from council via email and is prepared to answer any questions. Alderman Hawkins stated they seem to have a lot of municipalities on their list of clients. Mr. Vinson stated they are not clients, those were municipalities who use a similar system and stated there are a lot of companies that provide pavement management systems but none of those companies are in or near Arkansas. Mr. Vinson stated we have found a company that can provide a system like the ones these other companies provide and we have found a local company that can do that in Assetmax. Alderman Hawkins asked if there is a timeframe on getting the report back. Mr. Vinson

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stated in time for the 2017 budget. Alderman Hawkins asked if this will rate every street in the city. Mr. Vinson stated yes, they will drive every street in Conway with the exception of the state routes and private drives. After some discussion Alderman Jones stated he is concerned that this company does not have any experience except with Wal-Mart. Mr. Vinson stated they have not worked for other municipalities but he cannot think of a reason why providing this for a municipality would provide a unique difficulty, verses providing it for Wal-Mart. Mr. Vinson stated Assetmax is a subsidiary of Garver, which has extensive municipal experience, so they are accustomed to working municipalities and the system they provide is as good as or better than the competitor that he received an RFQ's from. Mr. Vinson stated if it would make council feel more comfortable he can provide the other proposals. Alderman Jones stated he was just trying to get brought up to speed. Alderman Grimes stated since they are owned by Garver this gives him more confidence that they know what they are doing and will be able to deliver what they say. Alderwoman Smith motioned to enter into this agreement. Alderwoman Mehl seconded the motion. Mayor Townsell state the motion should be "to approve the agreement pending final sign off by our city attorney" and possible tweaking of the agreement and approval of it by Mr. Clawson. Alderwoman Smith concurred. Alderwoman Mehl also concurred and asked if we wanted to designate where the funds will come from. Mayor Townsell stated that will need to be done via an ordinance but we should declare our intentions are to take it out of our reserve. The amount approved for this agreement is \$81,300.00. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 7-0. Alderman Hawkins asked when we will have confirmation from Mr. Clawson that he is comfortable with the agreement, particularly the indemnity clause. Mr. Clawson stated the review will not take long, but the negotiation will take longer depending on what they are willing to budge on and could take up to approximately 3 weeks and he will report to council the outcome.

### **B. Public Safety Committee (Police, Fire, District Court, CEOC, Information Technology, City Attorney, & Animal Welfare)**

#### **1. Consideration to dispose of certain inventory for the Conway Police Department.**

Jody Spradlin, Chief of Police, asked council to approve the removal of the listed assets; these items will be sold "as is" thorough auction on [www.publicsurplus.com](http://www.publicsurplus.com). Alderwoman Smith motioned to approve the removal and disposal of these assets. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

- 1999 Chevrolet Lumina - VIN 2G1WL52M7X9255963
- 2005 Ford Crown Victoria - VIN 2FAFP71W15X146780

#### **2. Consideration to purchase additional vehicles for the Conway Police Department.**

Jody Spradlin, Chief of Police, explained approximately 5 years ago we began our new fleet vehicle program with the purchase of Chevrolet Tahoe's equipped with CNG kits; the Tahoe's back then cost approximately \$25,000.00, today they cost \$33,289.00 through state bid which is an \$8,000.00 increase. Chief Spradlin stated the CNG kits now cost \$13,100.00. Chief Spradlin stated over the last few years Ford has developed their Explorer Police Interceptor SUV type vehicle and after researching this vehicle and talking to other agencies who use this vehicle, it has been recommended to us. Chief Spradlin stated the 2016 Ford SUV Police Interceptor is \$25,985.00 at state bid and there is no CNG kit that can be installed

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or serviced locally within the state of Arkansas, which would mean the Fords would not come with CNG. Chief Spradlin stated once we outfit these vehicles with all the necessary equipment they would cost approximately \$46,151.08; the Tahoe's would cost approximately \$60,000.00, thus the Ford would save us approximately \$21,000.00 per vehicle and felt this is something we should look at. Chief Spradlin stated he can do a lot more with purchasing Ford vehicles than Tahoe's; we can purchase 10 Ford SUV's and still have enough money to buy 2 more CID vehicles and recommended council consider the purchase of the Ford SUV vehicle for our fleet in 2016. Alderwoman Smith motioned to approve the purchase of Ford SUV's. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. Alderman Grimes asked if this is funded by the annual \$500,000.00 that is set aside for police vehicles. Mayor Townsell stated yes, pay-as-you-go vehicle funding. Mayor Townsell stated we are still sympathetic and interested in the CNG approach, but right now it does not make sense until we can get a return on our investment. There was no other discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

**3. Ordinance appropriating ad valorem funds for various projects at the Animal Welfare Unit.**

**O-16-12**

Jody Spradlin, Chief of Police, stated the Animal Welfare unit needs approximately \$10,973.00 to strip and paint the kennel walls and reseal the kennel floors. Chief Spradlin explained in the past our Animal Welfare staff would do this, but we need professional help at this point. Chief Spradlin stated we received quotes and recommended Rock Solid Designs out of North Little Rock in the amount of \$9,123.91 to do the concrete work. Chief Spradlin recommended the quote from Garrett's Painting of Conway in the amount of \$1,850.00 to re-paint; the total of these 2 projects is \$10,973.91. Chief Spradlin stated there are some changes that need to be made on the ordinance; the total amount should be \$10,973.91 and the first account number listed should be 222.127.4900, and the last account number should be 222.127.5410. Alderwoman Smith motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderman Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Alderman Jones motioned to adopt the ordinance with the amended changes noted by Chief Spradlin. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Jones, and Alderwoman Whitmore. The motion passed 7-0.

**4. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds from Pet Smart for the Animal Welfare Unit.**

**O-16-13**

Jody Spradlin, Chief of Police, stated this is reimbursement funds from PetSmart Rescue Wagon in the amount of \$1,366.10. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Jones, and Alderwoman Whitmore. The motion passed 7-0.

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5. **Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds received in FY2015 (extra duty) from various entities for the Conway Police Department.**

O-16-14

Jody Spradlin, Chief of Police, stated these are reimbursement funds in the amount of \$22,611.78 for extra duty services. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderman Jones seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Jones, and Alderwoman Whitmore. The motion passed 7-0.

6. **Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds from various entities to the Conway Police Department.**

O-16-15

Jody Spradlin, Chief of Police, stated these are reimbursements from various entities (outlined below). Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Jones, and Alderwoman Whitmore. The motion passed 7-0.

Insurance Proceeds	\$ 9,998.00	Various Companies
Extra Duty Proceeds	\$11,746.29	Various Companies
District Court	\$ 205.00	Restitution

**Adjournment**

**PASSED this 9th day of February 2016**

**APPROVED:**

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**Mayor Tab Townsell**

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**City Clerk Michael O. Garrett**