
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

**Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
February 13, 2024**

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, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilwoman Webb was absent.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael Garrett, City Clerk

Minutes: January 23rd, 2024, City Council Meeting

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 7-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

A. Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing for a proposed water system rate adjustment for Conway Corporation.

Mayor Castleberry opened the public hearing. Erin Brown, Chief Financial Officer, Conway Corporation presented the Council with a report explaining the rate process and why the adjustment is necessary at this time, as well as future projects scheduled by Conway Corp. He went over watershed protection measures taken by Conway Corp. He explained the residential, commercial and industrial rate design and how it would affect customers. He concluded by stressing that this rate adjustment is necessary given the increases in operational expenses, increased capitol expenses and replacement of aging infrastructures. No one else came forward to speak for or against the matter. Mayor Castleberry closed the public hearing.

B. Economic Development Committee (Conway Area Chamber of Commerce, Conway Development Corporation, Conway Downtown Partnership, & Conway Corporation)

1. Consideration to approve waiving all three readings for the ordinances on the February 13, 2024, City Council agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive the three readings for the ordinances on the agenda and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion carried 7-0.

2. Ordinance to approve the proposed water system rate adjustment for Conway Corporation.

O-24-02

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B2 to the Council. There was some discussion among the Council of the matter. Councilman Grimes applauded Conway Corporation for being proactive in addressing the needs of a growing community. Councilmembers agreed that addressing future needs was very important to the health and growth of Conway. 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 Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Hawkins and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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

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1. Ordinance to approve the private club permit for Seven Oaks Steak & Seafood, located at 1117 Oak Street.

O-24-06

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C1 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": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating donation funds for the Conway Tree Board.

O-24-07

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C2 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that this is an annual donation by Conway Corp for Arbor Day. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Jones seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Cummins, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

3. Resolution to approve a lease agreement with the University of Central Arkansas for the Conway Regional Airport.

R-24-11

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C3 to the Council. Jake Briley told the Council that this would allow UCA to go to a 40-year lease as other corporate hangars. He reminded them that after 40 years, the hangar reverts to the City to be sub-leased. He added that the University is building a hangar to hold classes in aviation at the airport to begin in March. Mayor Castleberry added that this would help the Airport in its effort to become a National Airport. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

4. Ordinance appropriating additional funding for the detention ponds project for the Transportation Department.

O-24-08

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C4 to the Council. Kurt Jones told the Council that this project is essentially complete. He said that it was a unit price project where the City paid for actual cubic yards of excavation removal for the ponds. He added that the ponds were larger than originally estimated so there is a cost for the additional excavation. 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 Cummins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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

1. Ordinance appropriating funds for the repair of Tucker Creek Trail north of Pompe Park.

O-24-09

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council there has been some erosion along the creek just north of Pompe park. He asked the Council to approve the appropriation of \$33,400 to allow riprap to be installed to stabilize the area, and \$15,000 for overlay and repair of the trail after the installation. Councilman Jones asked about Jay's Construction who would be doing the work and Mr. Thames replied that they are a local company that has repaired and worked on other City trails and has always done a good job. 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 Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating funds for a shade structure at Bainbridge Park for the Parks & Recreation Department.

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O-24-10

Councilman Hawkins presented Item D2 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council that this appropriation was for \$41,470.50 to purchase a shade structure that will cover the entire playground. 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 Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Hawkins, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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

1. Ordinance appropriating FY2023 funds for the Conway Police Department.

O-24-11

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E1 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that these were reimbursement funds from 2023. 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 Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Cummins, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds for the Conway Police Department.

O-24-12

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E2 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that these are reimbursement funds from 2024 to be placed into the appropriate account. 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 Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 13th day of February 2024

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett