
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

**Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
February 27, 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, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilman Ledbetter was absent.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael Garrett, City Clerk

Minutes: February 13th, 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.

Monthly Financial Report ending January 31st, 2024.

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council stating that Municipal League dues, and software maintenance for Finance and IT are all due in January which causes expenses to be high. He added that the software costs would be reimbursed from the Rescue Plan funds in February. He said that sales tax was up 18% over the same month last year. He pointed out that the Reserve account was back up to the 2-million-dollar balance. He called their attention to the Street fund revenue section that the state tax turnback, other was a really low number and added that he was looking into the reason for that. He remarked regarding the American Rescue Plan Account, that the City has until the end of 2024 to obligate those funds, and until the end of 2026 to spend it. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financials and Councilwoman Webb seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion 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 February 27th, 2024, City Council agenda.

Councilman Jones made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0.

2. Resolution to set a public hearing for a proposed closing of a utility easement at 192 Commerce Road (Rock-Tenn Subdivision) for Davis Properties, LLC.

R-24-12

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. Anne Tucker and a representative of the applicant, Conway Manufacturing, explained that during plans to add onto their building it was discovered that there is an easement in the way. He added that the easement is empty, and the easement would only be altered about 6 feet. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution setting a public hearing on March 12th at 6:00 pm, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

3. Ordinance to rezone property located at 1803, 1809, & 1811 Meadowlake Road from R-1 to R-2.

O-24-13

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council stating that this matter was reviewed by the Planning Commission at their regular meeting on February 20th and was voted unanimously to forward the matter

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to City Council with a recommendation for approval. Preston Sanders addressed the Council on behalf of the applicant stating that the applicant is looking to preserve the existing structures on the property and make good use of the space. 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 Cummins, Councilwoman Webb, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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

1. Ordinance authorizing a personnel reclassification for the Parks & Recreation Department.

O-24-14

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council that the reclassification would not require a budget adjustment. 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 Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Webb, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. 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 funds for the Conway Police Department.

O-24-15

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council there were two reimbursements, one for extra duty services and one for a grant for bullet-proof vests. Councilman Hawkins 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 Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Webb, and Councilman Cummins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating funds for software purchase for the Conway Animal Welfare Unit.

O-24-16

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. David Mitchell of the Conway Animal Welfare Unit told the Council that the software would save money and would make the system more accessible to officers in the field. Councilman Jones 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, councilwoman Webb, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Cummins, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

3. Ordinance appropriating funds for additional portable radios for the Department of Information Systems & Technology.

O-24-17

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C3 to the Council. Sean Canady told the Council that while the radios are for the department, they will also be used for communications during emergency events, and during the Eclipse event. He added that this was not a budgeted item. Mayor Castleberry gave the Council information regarding the City's response to the upcoming Eclipse event in Conway. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Cummins, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Jones. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

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PASSED this 27th day of February 2024

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett