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MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

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Conway, Arkansas  
Tuesday 6:30 pm  
February 11, 2014

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, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Pruitt, Alderman Grimes, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderwoman Whitmore, and Alderman Jones. Also, present and acting: Mayor Tab Townsell, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Michael Murphy.

**Call to Order: Mayor Tab Townsell**  
**Roll Call: City Clerk/Michael O. Garrett**  
**Minutes Approval: January 28, 2014**

Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to approve the January 28, 2014 minutes as submitted. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0.

**1. Public Hearings:**

- 1. Public Hearing/Ordinance to discuss the closing of an alley between Lots 110 and 111 and a portion of street right of way on McKennon Street in the Village at Hendrix Phase I.**

**O-14-15**

Alderman Hawkins opened the public hearing. Bobby French, 1021 Front Street, explained this request is being sought, in order for Hendrix to construct a building within the footprint of this area. Alderman Hawkins closed the public hearing. Alderwoman Smith motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Whitmore 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 Pruitt, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderwoman Whitmore, and Alderman Jones. The motion passed 8-0.

**2. Report of Standing Committees:**

- A. Economic Development Committee (Airport, Conway Corporation, Conway Development, Historic District, Chamber of Commerce)**

- 1. Consideration to accept the bid for the T-hangar and sunshade construction for the new relocated Conway Municipal Airport.**

Ronnie Hall, City Engineer, recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder Pick-It, in the amount of \$1,949,003.70. Alderwoman Smith motioned to award the bid to the low bidder. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0.

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**2. Consideration to enter into an agreement with Garver Engineers for access improvement to the existing Cantrell Field.**

Ronnie Hall, City Engineer, explained this contract is developed to bill out at an hourly rate, plus the cost of outside services; billing would be based on level of effort. The contract synopsis is outlined below. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to enter into this agreement. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0.

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Estimated Fee</u>
Planning, Environmental, and Concept Phase:	\$488,997.00
Project 1- Oak St Interchange Modifications & access to 6 <sup>th</sup> Street:	\$673,929.00
Project 2 - Elsinger Overpass:	\$1,841,166.00

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

**1. Resolution to name the City of Conway special needs baseball facility located in Curtis Walker Park "Braves Field".**

**R-14-06**

Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0. Alderman Grimes read the resolution. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Pruitt, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderwoman Whitmore, and Alderman Jones. The motion passed 8-0.

**2. Resolution to name the seating area at Braves Field "Ben's Bleachers" to honor the memory of Ben Patterson.**

**R-14-07**

Alderman Grimes read the resolution. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0.

**3. Ordinance accepting and appropriating grant proceeds received from CAPDD for a miracle league field (Braves Field).**

**O-14-16**

Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Pruitt, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderwoman Whitmore, and Alderman Jones. The motion passed 8-0.

**4. Consideration to appoint various members to the Building Code Board of Appeals.**

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Alderman Hawkins motioned to approve the recommendations for the Building Code Board of Appeals. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0. The following are the appointed members:

- Scott Paul – (Alternate Member) – Public Citizen at Large – 1 year term
- Gene Hendrix – (Alternate Member) – Industry Citizen at Large – 1 year term
- Jim Bond – (Regular Member) – Structural Engineer – 4 year term

**5. Consideration to accept the bid from All Service Electric Inc. & Desoto County Electric for the conversion to flashing yellow at various intersections throughout the City of Conway.**

Ronnie Hall, City Engineer, explained we are converting various left turn signals which are currently left turn arrows that change to a solid green, to a flashing yellow and a solid green. Mr. Hall recommended awarding the low bids as follows:

All Service Electric, Inc.

Oak St/Bob Courtway Drive - \$5,600.00

Desoto County Electric, Inc.

Dave Ward Dr and Hogan Rd. - \$6,896.98

Skyline Dr. and I-40SB - \$4,416.13

Alderman Grimes asked why the cost was this high. Alan Alvey, Traffic Signal Operations Manager, stated it is not so much the arrow change, but changes that are needed in our control cabinets; some cabinets are outdated and do not meet new federal requirements. Alderwoman Smith motioned to approve the low bids. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 8-0.

**6. Ordinance waiving the competitive bid process for the purchase and repair of traffic signal products for the Conway Street Department.**

**O-14-17**

Ronnie Hall, City Engineer, explained we purchase traffic signal and specialized products that have limited availability through regional vendors (Temple Inc., Mid American Signal, & Pinkley Sales); the equipment must be of the same brand, in order for the controls to communicate with the control cabinets. Alan Alvey, Traffic Signal Operations Manager, explained these vendors will not be used on projects; they will be utilized as needed for maintenance issues. Alderwoman Smith motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0. 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 Pruitt, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderwoman Whitmore, and Alderman Jones. The motion passed 8-0.

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

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**1. Consideration to approve annual bid for FY2014 for universal roll carts and recycling carts for the Sanitation Department.**

Cheryl Harrington, Sanitation Director, explained these bids were initially accepted in December 2013, but unfortunately, the bids did not include sales tax. Ms. Harrington recommended bid #2 Toter Incorporated, in the amount of \$58.46 each (not \$53.76 as shown); we have a good history with Toter, and the carts hold up very well. Alderwoman Smith motioned to approve Toter Incorporated for the 2014 annual bid. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0.

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

**1. Ordinance appropriating and accepting reimbursement and restitution funds from various entities for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-14-18**

A.J. Gary, Chief of Police, explained \$39,514.94 is for extra duty services from various entities, \$2,782.08 is reimbursement of overtime from DEA, \$151.22 is reimbursement of overtime from OJP, \$11,548.50 are JAG Grant funds from DOJ; we partner with the county on the JAG Grant, and a portion of these funds will be paid to them, and \$7,174.04 are grant fund reimbursements for ballistic vests. Alderwoman Whitmore motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderman Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Pruitt, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderwoman Whitmore, and Alderman Jones. The motion passed 8-0.

**2. Ordinance appropriating asset forfeiture funds for training, conference membership and travel expenses for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-14-19**

Alderwoman Smith motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. Mayor Townsell explained this will allow the Police Dept to use off budget revenues as asset forfeiture funds are allowed by law, to be used for such purposes. A.J. Gary, Chief of Police, stated since our training budget was cut, we feel it imperative to use these funds for training purposes. Chief Gary a portion will be used for CALEA Accreditation, AFCEA, and travel expenses to for the William McGary family, to include a police officer escort, to the Fallen Officer's Memorial, where Officer McGary's name will be added. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Pruitt, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderwoman Whitmore, and Alderman Jones. The motion passed 8-0. Mayor Townsell stated for the record, he paid his own expenses to attend the Arkansas Municipal League Convention, and the Chamber of Commerce paid for his lobbying trip to Washington D.C.

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**3. Ordinance waiving the competitive bid process for the purchase of seven Chevrolet Tahoe's for the Conway Police Department.**

A.J. Gary, Chief of Police, request to hold this item in committee, as it will be brought back before council in 2 weeks. Chief Gary explained there are no 2014 pursuit Tahoe's on the 2014 state bid contract, but we have been able to locate 7 Tahoe's, which we will be able to get at the 2013 state bid price and is the reason we want to waive bids. Chief Gary stated we already know that our vendor can outfit the vehicles with lights, inside equipment, and CNG. Mayor Townsell asked how the CNG project is going on the patrol cars. Chief Gary stated we have saved approximately \$2,000.00 - \$4,000.00 per month on fuel; the only downfall is with the extreme cold weather, we have had to switch back over to gasoline. Alderwoman Smith motioned to hold this item in committee. Alderwoman Whitmore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0.

Mayor Townsell asked Chief Gary when last we hired general police officers. Chief Gary stated sometime prior to 2012. Mayor Townsell stated he does not believe we have hired any since 2007. Chief Gary stated we are at 1.7 per thousand of the estimated population. The Mayor stated it has been a difficult budget year, but we cannot continue to not hire police officers.

**Adjournment**

**PASSED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2014**

**APPROVED:**

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**Mayor Tab Townsell**

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**City Clerk Michael O. Garrett**