

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
March 11, 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 Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawks, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Denise Hurd, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilman Jones was absent.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: February 25, 2025

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on February 25, 2025, as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Castleberry told the Council that the Resolution to request a lien for property at 413 Garland St. that was held in committee from the February 25th meeting would not be brought back to the table. City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder told the Council that the placement of a cleanup lien on a property is optional, and there are many reasons for placing or not placing a cleanup lien on a property. Mayor Castleberry added that there are many instances where the City conducts a property cleanup that does not include a lien, and in this case, it was determined that the City should not pursue the matter.

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 March 11, 2025 City Council agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve waiving all three readings and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

**2. Resolution to approve Conway Quick Cab for a taxicab permit in the City of Conway.
R-25-06**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. The applicant was not present at the meeting. The City Clerk clarified that the applicant had provided all of the required documentation for the permit issuance. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 6-1 with Councilman Ledbetter voting "no".

3. Consideration to approve the nomination of board members for the Robinson Cemetery Board, Oak Grove Cemetery Board, and the Public Art Advisory Committee.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council and made a motion to approve the following nominations:

Tom Courtway	Oak Grove Cemetery Board (partial)	Term through December 31, 2026
Joseph Brigance	Robinson Cemetery Board	Term through December 31, 2029
Tamekah Corely	Robinson Cemetery Board	Term through December 31, 2029
Gabrielle Reeves	Robinson Cemetery Board	Term through December 31, 2029
Ashely Bruce	Public Art Advisory Committee	Term through December 31, 2026
Bryttani Barlett Montgomery	Public Art Advisory Committee	Term through December 31, 2026

Councilman Spurgers seconded the motion to approve the nominations. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

4. Ordinance approving the annual vendor list and appropriating funding for the Public Art Advisory Committee.

O-25-26

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council. Felicia Rogers presented the Committee's annual request for artists and funding for various art projects around the City, in the amount of \$30,000. Several projects under consideration are downtown murals, an art project for 5th Avenue Park, and artwork to be placed at the Animal Welfare Unit. There was discussion among the Council as to the process of selecting and approving artists and installations. 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 Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, and Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

5. Resolution to approve the annual transportation services contract for 2025.

R-25-07

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A5 to the Council. Felicia Rogers explained that Independent Living Services, Boys & Girls Club of Faulkner County, and the Faulkner County Council on Aging provide a great deal of transportation services for Conway and this Resolution approves the contracts with these organizations. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

6. Resolution to approve the Nutter Chapel Road Reconstruction Project for the Transportation Department.

R-25-08

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A6 to the Council. Kurt Jones told the Council that this unimproved section of Nutter Chapel would receive curb and gutters, storm drainage and would be a 36' wide street section with a bike lane and sidewalks. He said they had received four bids for the project with the low bid coming from A&B Dirt Movers at \$1,510,029 which was very close to the engineering estimates. He asked the Council to approve the awarding of the project to A&B Dirt Movers. Councilman Spurgers asked if there was a timeline as to when the work would commence and Mr. Jones replied that there is typically a period of 2-4 weeks for contracts to be signed, etc. He added that there is one utility to be relocated that Conway Corp is waiting on parts for, but they were hoping to start on another part of the project that would not be affected by the relocation. He said that only half of the roadway would be closed at one time, allowing local traffic only. There was some discussion among the Council as to whether the project could be delayed until after completion of the Salem Road Bridge project. Mr. Jones told them that the Salem Road Bridge should be opened by late spring, and that the plan was not to have much overlap of the projects, although this being prime construction season, it is difficult to postpone such projects. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

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

1. Ordinance accepting the lowest bid and appropriating funding for the construction of a Class 1 Landfill for the Sanitation Department.

O-25-27

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Joe Hopper asked the Council to approve the low bid for the construction in the amount of 1,759,316.00. He told the Council that the last cell was approved in 2010 and was roughly the same size as the proposed new one at about 8.2 acres, and at current volumes should last 12-15 years. 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, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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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. Consideration approving the disposal of IT equipment for the Conway Police Department.

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Chief Harris asked the Council to approve the disposition of the listed IT items, to be disposed of or sold online depending on the condition. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the disposition and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called and the motion to approve carried 7-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating funds and approval of a rental agreement for the Conway Police Department.

O-25-28

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that the Police Department is beginning to outgrow the current office space. He said that more space was needed in order to expand the Detective Division. He said they have located a rental property just behind the police station where additional investigators could be located, which would also free up space at the Police Department Headquarters. Chief Harris described to the Council what is left of available space in the current Headquarters building to accommodate increasing staff and the need for additional workspace and offices. Several options for future growth were noted, including adding onto the existing building. 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, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 11th day of March 2025

APPROVED: _____
Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd