
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
April 9, 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 Webb, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael Garrett, City Clerk

Minutes: March 26th, 2024, City Council Meeting

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 8-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

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

1. Update from Pafford Ambulance Service

Clay Hobbs, Chief Operating Officer for Pafford gave a detailed update on the services and operations they have provided to Conway. Mr. Hobbs presented a visual report covering staffing, special events and services, community engagement, and response time data. The Council expressed their thanks for the services provided by Pafford to the City.

2. Consideration to approve waiving all three readings for the ordinances on the March 12, 2024, City Council agenda.

Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to approve the consideration to waive all three readings for all ordinances on the April 9, 2024, agenda and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion carried 8-0.

3. Consideration to approve the nomination of Jacqueline Wright for the Conway Housing Authority Board.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. Councilman Ledbetter made a motion to approve the nomination of Jacqueline Wright for a five-year term ending on April 12, 2028, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the nomination was approved 8-0.

4. Consideration to approve the nomination of John Ben Scherrey for the Conway Corporation Board of Directors.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the nomination and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the nomination was approved 8-0.

5. Ordinance to approve the private club permit location for Fatburger of Conway, Inc. DBA Volstead Proper located at 2205 Dave Ward Dr., Conway AR 72034.

O-24-25

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A5 to the Council. Manuel Rosas, spokesperson for the business, addressed the Council stating their plans for the restaurant. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt

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the Ordinance approving the private club location, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Webb, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

6. Resolution to approve fleet maintenance services for the City of Conway.

R-24-17

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A6 to the Council. Jamie Brice told the Council that an RFP was solicited and two were submitted and she asked for approval for entering into agreements with both vendors, Superior Chevrolet and R&B Tire. She added that pricing from both vendors was the same. Councilman Grimes stated that he liked the idea of having two vendors to service the City's maintenance needs. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

7. Ordinance appropriating funding and approving the lowest bid for the East German Road Improvements for the Transportation Department.

O-24-26

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A7 to the Council. Kurt Jones told the Council that requests for bids for the project were sent out, and there were two bidders. He said that the engineers' estimate was 2.5 million and the low bid came in at 2.04 million. He added that the project included widening, putting in bike lanes, enclosed storm drain system to improve drainage, and sidewalks. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance approving the private club location, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": 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 Cummins, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Webb, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

8. Resolution to approve professional services for the Connect Conway project for the Transportation Department.

R-24-18

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A8 to the Council. Kurt Jones told the Council that this is the RAISE grant project that was awarded in the amount of 25 million dollars. He added that the grant agreement has been finalized, noting that it is a 100% funded project, which also includes engineering. He told them there had been an RFQ process with a very good turnout of applicants which were interviewed. He said the project had four components that could be bid to, but it was decided to split the project into two design components. He stated that the committee voted to award the component east of the I-40 corridor to Crafton-Tull, and the component west of the I-40 corridor to Garver. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

9. Ordinance to rezone property located at 2014 Washington Avenue from R-2A to R-2.

O-24-27

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A9 to the Council. Anne Tucker, Director of Planning addressed the Council stating the applicant was asking for a rezone with the intent to remove the existing structure which was heavily damaged by fire. She added that the applicant planned to divide the lot into two and construct duplexes. 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 Jones, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

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

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1. **Ordinance appropriating asset forfeiture funds to purchase equipment for the Conway Police Department.**

O-24-28

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that the asset forfeiture funds would be used to purchase new badges as well as E-Bikes for the Crime Suppression Teams. 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 Webb, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

2. **Ordinance waiving the bid process and appropriating funds for new vehicles for the Conway Police Department.**

O-24-29

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B2 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council the vehicles were available only from one source and asked the Council to waive the bid process to acquire the vehicles. 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": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Hawkins, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 8-0.

3. **Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds for the Conway Police Department.**

O-24-30

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B3 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council they had funds from extra duty, and insurance proceeds from vehicles to be reallocated. 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 Webb, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

4. **Resolution to approve the application submission for the Fire Prevention Grant for the Conway Fire Department.**

R-24-19

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B4 to the Council. Chief Winter told the Council he needed approval to apply for a grant for the Fire Marshall division, for equipment, cameras, etc. He added that the grant required matching up to 5%, and the total grant was \$25,000. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

5. **Ordinance appropriating funds for a new Fire Truck for the Conway Fire Department.**

O-24-31

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B5 to the Council. Chief Winter told the Council he had been in touch with Pierce Manufacturing, and they did have some stock units, but that they were difficult to obtain because they sell as fast as they are made available. He asked the Council to approve a price up to and not to exceed 1.2 million dollars, so that when the units become available, the funds would be available to purchase. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance approving the price range, waiving the bid process and declaring an emergency, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Webb, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Cummins, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 8-0.

Adjournment-----

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PASSED this 9th day of April 2024

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett