
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
May 14, 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: 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. Councilman Hawkins was not present.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael Garrett, City Clerk

Minutes: April 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.

A. Public Hearings:

1. Public Hearing to discuss an ordinance to approve the issuance of bonds for water revenue improvement for Conway Corporation.

Mayor Castleberry opened the public hearing. Brett Carroll of Conway Corporation addressed the Council stating that the Conway Corp Board had approved this issuance in April, which will allow them to expand the water treatment plant from 24 million gallons a day to 32 million gallons a day. He added that this action will not result in a rate increase. Gordon Wilbourn of Kutak Rock addressed the Council with the financing aspect of the project. He reiterated that the Ordinance would approve the issuance of the two bonds that the State is going to purchase and the bond purchase agreements. There was no one else present to speak for or against the matter. Mayor Castleberry declared the public hearing closed.

Report of Standing Committees:

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 May 14th, 2024, City Council agenda.

Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the waiving of all three readings for the May 14th, 2024, City Council agenda and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion to waive the three readings passed 7-0.

**2. Ordinance to approve the issuance of bonds for water revenue improvements for Conway Corporation.
O-24-36**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 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": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Webb, Councilwoman Isby and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

**3. Resolution to approve the issuance of bonds for an industrial facility located in Conway.
R-24-22**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B3 to the Council. Gordon Wilbourn explained the purpose of the issuance of bonds for the facility and stated that there would be an ordinance to come before them in the near future. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

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

1. Ordinance to approve an agreement with UNITI Franchise for the use of public right-of-way for the City of Conway.

O-24-37

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Donald Cooper with Uniti Fiber addressed the Council asking them to approve the franchise agreement allowing them to expand their fiber network for the business customers. Mr. Cooper confirmed for Mayor Castleberry that this is a city-wide use of rights-of-way and that they are only serving businesses at this time. 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 Jones, and Councilwoman Webb. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Resolution to approve the submission of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

R-24-23

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Robbie Alberson addressed the Council stating that the Department of Energy has released this funding opportunity for which Conway is eligible. He added that the funds are non-matching, and the application must be submitted by October 31, 2024. He said that plans for the funds included up to 8 Solar Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) for crosswalks around the City. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

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

1. Resolution to approve entering into an agreement for the landscape and maintenance for the Public Works Department.

R-24-24

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council. Spencer Clawson told the Council that this was a contract with Will Canady to maintain the hanging baskets of flowers in downtown Conway. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution 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 waiving the bid process and appropriating funds for SCBA bottles for the Conway Fire Department.

O-24-38

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E1 to the Council. Chief Winter told the Council that this is a sole-source vendor and asked them to approve waiving the bid process to purchase the SCBA bottles needed for the Fire Department. 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, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

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PASSED this 14th day of May 2024

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett