

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas  
Tuesday, 5:30 pm  
August 13, 2019

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 Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Pruitt and Councilwoman Smith. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett and City Attorney Chuck Clawson.

**Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry**

**Roll Call: Mayor Bart Castleberry**

**Minutes: July 23, 2019**

Councilwoman Isby motioned to approve the **July 23, 2019** minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0.

**Report of Standing Committees:**

**A. Public Hearing**

**1. Public hearing to discuss the City of Conway utilizing the 2019 JAG program funds.**

Mayor Castleberry opened the public hearing. Chief Jody Spradlin explained that this is the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program and it is primary source of federal funding for state and local government to fight crime and violence. He stated that the police department has been involved with the JAG Grant Program for about seven years, and as a requirement for the grant, the funds are split 50/50 with the sheriff's office. Beginning in 2013 the funds received by the police department have been used to purchase patrol rifles for officers in order for them to be adequately armed to respond in an active shooter situation. This year, the department would like to add accessories to those rifles, such as a flashlight. The amount the department will receive this year is \$11,764.30. There was no one else present to speak for or against the proposition, so Mayor Castleberry closed the public hearing.

**a. Resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Conway to utilize 2019 JAG program funds.**

**R-19-31**

Mayor Castleberry presented the Resolution to the Council. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Jones seconded it. The motion carried 8-0.

**B. Community Development Committee (Airport, Community Development, Planning & Development, Permits & Inspection (Code Enforcement), Historic District, Transportation)**

**1. Consideration of the nomination of Jack Bell to the Health Facilities Board for a five year term.**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B1 to the Council. Councilwoman Isby moved to accept the nomination and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The motion to approve carried 8-0.

**2. Ordinance accepting the proposals for a consultant to prepare a city-wide historic preservation plan for the Planning & Development Department.**

**O-19-78**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B2 to the Council. James Walden, Planning and Development Director addressed the Council stating that the City was awarded \$25,000 from Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to develop a city-wide preservation plan, which the City matched with another \$25,000. He said that the sole respondent to the RFQ that was received was from The Walker Collaborative, which is a highly qualified agency with much experience in this area. He added that they along with Thomas & Associates were the team that prepared the Historic Preservation Plan for Little Rock. He asked the Council to approve the proposal and enter into a contract with The Walker

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Collaborative for this project. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 8-0. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The roll was called with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Pruitt, Councilman Grimes and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 8-0.

**3. Resolution expressing the willingness of the City of Conway to utilize EPA funds administered by the ANRC for the Markham Square water quality demonstration project.**

**R-19-32**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council. Jamie Brice was present to address the Council. Mayor Castleberry congratulated past and current members of the City's Planning Department for receiving a certificate for the Conway Urban Watershed Framework and noted that some of the ideas from that framework are being incorporated into the water quality demonstration project. Jamie Brice called the Council's attention to the \$599,995 grant stating that these funds would help to jump start the Markham Square project and positively impact downtown Conway and the drainage in that area. Councilman Pruitt asked if this would allow the City to build the park and Mayor Castleberry responded that this project would improve the water issues which would then allow the park to be addressed. Finley Vinson, Transportation Director added that this grant is from the EPA and that the project was actually more of a quality project than a detention project. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion to adopt passed 8-0.

**4. Resolution accepting the grant funding from ADEM for the Tyler Street Bridge over Tucker Creek Project for the Transportation Department.**

**R-19-33**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B4 to the Council. Mayor Castleberry stated that the City has a set time to use these funds and that it was a matching grant from the ADEM in the amount of \$125,000 with the City being responsible for the same amount. He added that to qualify for the grant the bridge must be in place by June 15, 2020. Finley Vinson added that the original deadline date was April 30, 2020 but the ADEM had extended the date to June 15. He expressed concern that there would be enough time to build the bridge during the summer when school was not in session and because of the heavy traffic on Tyler Street. He suggested that a detour route could be added which would allow the bridge to be completed on time, but would add a considerable amount to the cost of the project. This would allow the City to take advantage of the grant funds, and keep the flow of traffic open during construction. Councilwoman Smith asked how long it was estimated the project would take and Mr. Vinson said that Tyler Street could potentially be closed to traffic for one month. If the detour route was added the time for project would be longer but traffic would not be shut down. Several members of the Council expressed their approval of the detour route. Mayor Castleberry stated that since Tyler is a major east/west thoroughfares and he felt that the money spent on this project would be a good investment for the City. Mr. Vinson reminded the Council that in order to complete the project in this manner that it total cost would exceed the budgeted amounts with the grant funds. Councilman Jones stated that he would like to see actual numbers regarding the extra expenses. The Council agreed that closing Tyler to traffic would be a major inconvenience. Mr. Vinson suggested that it might be worth the extra expenses to re-route traffic rather than shut down Tyler completely. Mayor Castleberry stated that the MOU could be approved now and costs could be discussed at a later date. Mr. Vinson said he would follow up with some figures. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to approve the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Resolution passed 8-0.

**5. Ordinance approving the purchase of right of way and appropriating funds for the Tyler Street Improvement Project for the Transportation Department.**

**O-19-79**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B5 to the Council. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The Clerk called the

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roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Grimes, Councilman Pruitt, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Smith and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

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

#### **1. Ordinance appropriating grant funds from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for the parking lot improvement on Brewer Lake.**

**O-19-80**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Jamie Brice told the Council that the grant was a 100% reimbursement from the AGFC. This was a 2018 project that is complete and the funds are to be put back into that account. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilman Pruitt, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Smith and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

#### **2. Ordinance to waive the bid process for the purchase and installation of three a/c units for the Don Owens Sports Center for the Parks & Recreation Department.**

**O-19-81**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Jamie Brice told the Council that of the three quotes received, this was the most cost-efficient for the City. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

#### **3. Ordinance authorizing the reclassification of positions within the Parks & Recreation Department.**

**O-19-82**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C3 to the Council. Steve Ibbotson, Director of Parks & Recreation stated that this ordinance would bring the grounds maintenance employees into the same classification as other employees who are doing the same work. He added that the salaries were based on the 2018 grid. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Pruitt, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

### **D. Public Safety Committee (Police, Fire, District Court, Animal Welfare Unit, CEOC-Communication Emergency Operations Center, Department of Information Systems & Technology, & Office of the City Attorney)**

#### **1. Ordinance appropriating grant funds from the 2017 Justice Assistance Grant for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-19-83**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council. Chief Jody Spradlin told the Council that this is an accounting ordinance, to accept the funds that have already been received and spent. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Pruitt, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

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**2. Consideration to enter into the SRO agreement with Conway School District for the school year 2019-2020.**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D2 to the Council. Chief Spradlin told the Council that this contract has not changed and remains at \$280,000. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to enter into this agreement and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

**Adjournment-----**

*PASSED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019*

**APPROVED:**

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*Mayor Bart Castleberry*

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*City Clerk Michael O. Garrett*