
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
September 24, 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, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk/Treasurer Michael O. Garrett, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett, Clerk/Treasurer

Minutes: September 10th, 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.

Monthly Financial Report ending August 31th, 2024.

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council stating that sales tax was up 1.9% compared to August of last year and up 4.6% year to date. He said that August was another 3 pay period month so expenses look higher this month compared to others. He remarked that all line items in the Sanitation Fund are ahead of budget. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financials and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion carried 7-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

A. Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing to discuss the Great Strides and Trails for Life Grant application for the Tucker Creek canopy benches project for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mayor Castleberry opened the public hearing. Andrew Thames, Director of Parks and Recreation addressed the Council stating that the grant to be applied for was \$30,000 and would provide five canopy benches along Tucker Creek Trail. He added that there have been requests for benches along the trail and that this would be a good use of the opportunity to apply for the grant. There was no one else to speak for or against the matter. Mayor Castleberry closed the public hearing.

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

Councilman Hawkins asked to move Items 8 and 9 up for discussion because the applicant had requested to table the item for the present time. Councilman Cummins motioned to move the items up and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Robert French, of Central Arkansas Professional Surveying, LLC told the Council that the applicant for the rezoning and conditional use permit was requesting the items be tabled until the meeting on December 10, 2024. Councilman Hawkins moved to table the requests and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. Councilman Jones asked if there was anyone present that would be opposed to tabling the item. Jeff Brooks, president of the POA of the neighborhood affected by the rezoning, spoke in favor of tabling the matter until a later date. A vote was called, and the motion to table carried 7-0.

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1. Consideration to approve waiving all three readings for the ordinances on the May 28, 2024, City Council agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the consideration to waive all three readings for all ordinances on the September 24, 2024, agenda and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion carried 7-0.

2. Ordinance to approve the amendment of Ordinance O-06-26 for the Conway Tree Board.

O-24-62

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B2 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that the required number of members for the Board were posing difficulty. The amendment to O-06-26 would reduce the number of members required. Councilwoman Isby motioned to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Hawkins, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

3. Ordinance to approve the amendment of the Historic District Commission.

O-24-63

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council. Anne Tucker read the changes made by the amendment to the Ordinance structuring the Historic District Commission. 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 Hawkins, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

4. Consideration to approve the nomination for Civil Service Commission.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B4 to the Council and motioned to approve the nomination of Harold Clendenin to the Commission. Councilman Cummins seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion to approve carried 7-0.

5. Ordinance appropriating funds for Program Year 2024 for the Community Development Department.

O-24-64

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B5 to the Council. Shawanna Rodgers told the Council that they had received the HUD funding for 2024 and would like to appropriate the funds in the amount of \$476,563.00. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to approve the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Cummins, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

6. Resolutions requesting the Faulkner County Tax Collector place a lien on the following properties for expenses incurred by the City.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B6 to the Council.

R-24-46

1703 Bryant Circle in the amount of \$213.34 – There was no one present to represent the property. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion carried 7-0.

R-24-47

1421 Lincoln St. in the amount of \$737.11 - There was no one present to represent the property. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion carried 7-0.

7. Ordinance to approve the amendment of the Building and Fire Codes Ordinance for the Permits and Inspections Department.

O-24-65

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Councilman Hawkins presented Item B7 to the Council. Cecil Corning, Director of the Permits and Inspections Department told the Council that these fees change periodically, and the Ordinance was needed to bring the City up to the standard. 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 Cummins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

8. Ordinance to approve the rezoning of property located at 377 Reedy Rd from R-1 to R-2A.

This item was tabled until a later date.

9. Consideration to approve a conditional use permit to allow MF-1 density in the R-2A zone for property located at 377 Reedy Rd.

This item was tabled until a later date.

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

1. Resolution to approve the application submission for the Great Strides and Trails for Life Grant for the Tucker Creek Canopy Benches Project for the Parks and Recreation Department.

R-24-48

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Andrew Thames reiterated that this is a no match grant for \$30,000. 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 Safety Committee (District Court, Department of Information Systems & Technology, Animal Welfare, CEOC (Communication Emergency Operations Center), Police, Fire, & Office of the City Attorney)

1. Ordinance appropriating insurance funds and vehicle removal from inventory for the Department of Information Technology.

O-24-66

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council stating. Kevin McCoy told the Council that the insurance proceeds amount was \$24,100 but the Ordinance stated the amount as \$21,400. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to amend Section 1 of the Ordinance to read \$24,100 and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. 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": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

2. Ordinance to approve the reclassification & addition of personnel positions for the Conway Emergency Operations Center.

O-24-67

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D2 to the Council stating that the City will be taking over the 911 dispatch for the entire county on January 1st, and Sean Canady will head the operation. Mr. Canady stated that the City would be bringing on nine county dispatchers and this Ordinance creates the positions to make that transition. He said that a new training position had been added as well as a Training and QA Manager. He added that the Ordinance would add \$120,833.53 for the remainder of 2024. Councilman Ledbetter made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Hawkins, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

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Mayor Castleberry reminded the Council that Councilwoman Cindy Webb had moved out of Ward 3 and her position would need to be filled for the remainder of her term of 2 years and 3 months. He told the Council there were five applicants to consider. Councilman Hawkins made motion to go into executive session to discuss the replacement of Councilwoman Webb. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

When the Council returned to the Chamber, Councilman Hawkins made a motion to appoint Spencer Hawks to fill the vacancy in Ward 3, and Councilman Cummins seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion to appoint Mr. Hawks passed 4-3, with Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Ledbetter and Councilman Grimes voting in favor.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 24th day of September 2024

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett