
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
November 28, 2023

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 Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilwoman Webb and Councilman Jones were absent.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael Garrett, City Clerk

Minutes: November 14th, 2023, City Council Meeting

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 6-0.

Financial Report for month ending October 31st, 2023

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council calling their attention to the ad valorem tax revenue that had been received from the first wave of personal property tax payments, adding that the month of November would show the largest amount of ad valorem revenue of the year. He said that sales tax was up a little over 5% after two months of being down and added that year-to-date the number is up 3.6% over this time last year. He told them that the franchise fee revenue budget has almost been met for the year and he was confident that 100% of that budget would be met. He said that the City was showing 1.6 million dollars in net revenue through October. He went over the other Department revenues and expenditures with the Council. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to approve the monthly financial report and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 6-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

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

1. Consideration to approve waiving all three readings for the ordinances on the October 24, 2023 City Council agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 6-0.

2. Resolution to approve an agreement with Pro Track and Tennis Inc. for the Parks & Recreation Department.

R-23-69

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A2 to the Council. Andrew Thames, of the Parks & Rec Department addressed the Council asking them to approve Pro Track and Tennis to repair and resurface all eight tennis courts at the Conway Tennis Center. He said the courts have not been resurfaced since the Center was opened and should be done every 6 to 8 years. He told them the company would power wash, clean, and repair any cracks in the surfaces, then resurface and paint the courts. He added that this proposal came in at \$85,250. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 6-0.

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

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1. Ordinance appropriating funds received for the Conway Animal Welfare Unit.

O-23-100

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. David Mitchell, Director of the Animal Welfare Unit told the Council that this Ordinance was requesting the appropriation of \$19,649.72 from ad valorem tax money, for the purchase of two four container slide-in dog boxes for the new units that were purchased. He said that money was budgeted in 2022 for the vehicles with the slide-ins but because of rising costs they were not able to purchase the vehicles with the slide ins at that time. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Cummins, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

2. This Item was removed from the agenda.

C. Finance

1. Ordinance appropriating funds for employee bonuses.

O-23-101

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council saying that this is a substantial increase over previous years, but the department heads have done well keeping within budget. He stated that he believed the City's employees give their best, and he asked Mr. Winningham if this bonus increase could be funded. He added that the bonus would be \$1,000 for full time employees and \$500 for part time employees. 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 Ledbetter, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Cummins, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 6-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 28th day of November, 2023

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett