

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
February 11, 2025

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 Spurgers, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Denise Hurd, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilman Grimes was absent this session.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: February 11, 2025

Councilman Spurgers made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on January 28, 2025, as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

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

1. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE WAIVING ALL THREE READINGS FOR THE ORDINANCES ON THE FEBRUARY 11TH, 2025, CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A1 to the Council. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve waiving all three readings for the ordinances and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

2. RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 1001 MCNUTT RD #201, CONWAY, ARKANSAS AND FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT TO RAZE SAID PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARKANSAS STATE LAW AND CITY ORDINANCE

R-25-03

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council and introduced Spencer Clawson, Director of Public Works. Mr. Clawson presented the Council with information from Pafford, Conway Police Department, and Conway Fire Department, in their response to an emergency call at the aforementioned location. After inspections, the property has been deemed a nuisance structure and uninhabitable by Code Enforcement Officials for the City of Conway. There was a discussion about if appropriate procedures and notifications have been followed in determining and notifying of condemnation. Mr. Finkenbinder and Mr. Clawson confirmed that due process was followed. There was no one present to speak for or against the matter. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

3. ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE DAVE WARD DR. TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

O-25-17

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council and introduced Mr. Kurt Jones, who presented information about the need for fiber optics for the traffic lights adaptive system. The current coaxial traffic modems frequently glitch, causing the system to reset and interfere with the adaptive capabilities of the system. Mr. Jones presented an estimate of \$130,000.00 that was provided by Conway Corporation for the installation and equipment of the proposed project, with minimal downtime during installation. The proposed project would be completed by the end of this year. The \$130,000 shall be appropriated from the Transportation Department Traffic Signal Maintenance budget. 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, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

4. ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY EQUIPMENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT'S NEW LOCATION LOCATED AT 800 S. HARKRIDER

O-25-18

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council: the City of Conway Transportation Department is relocating to a new facility located at 800 S. Harkrider Drive that will require the installation of new equipment for computer technology and security. Kurt Jones presented the estimated cost of the equipment is \$125,000, whereas to be appropriated from the Transportation Department Fund to the Transportation Department Building Improvements Account. 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, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

5. AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN LANDS COMPRISED OF ±43.05 ACRES, INCLUDING 2.25 ACRES OF 50-FOOT RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG 2,271.18 FEET OF STURGIS ROAD SOUTHEAST OF 2255 STURGIS ROAD AND 40.80 ACRES OF LAND ABUTTING TO THE WEST THE SOUTHERNMOST 940 FEET OF THE AFOREMENTIONED RIGHT-OF-WAY, TO THE CITY OF CONWAY

O-25-19

Mr. Hawkins presented Item A5 to the Council, that was first presented to the Planning Commission at the January meeting. Anne Tucker, presented the Planning Commission's vote to pass the approval to the Conway City Council. Charles Finkenbinder, City Attorney, presented an explanation of the statute, and approves the contingency of the proposed Ordinance. Faulkner County Judge, Allen Dodson, signed approval through the Faulkner County District Court on January 14th, 2025; after Council with the Faulkner County District Attorney. Anne Tucker confirmed both landowners have submitted written dedication of required right of way to the city of Conway. Mrs. Tucker presented the applicant's request to annex said property with R1 zoning to allow for subdivision development at a later date. The applicant intends on the development to be all single family homes and requests all lands and territory to have and enjoy all the rights and privileges of, and be subject to all the laws, rules, ordinances, limitations and regulations imposed upon the inhabitants within the original limits of the City of Conway, Arkansas, and for voting purposes, said lands to be assigned to and designated as part of Ward 4 of the City of Conway, Arkansas. Mitch Hart addressed the Council and requested to proceed with the project. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Spurgers. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

B. Public Safety Committee (Police, Fire, District Court, IT, CEOC, City Attorney)

1. AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM JSI METAL RECYCLING FOR THE CONWAY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (CEOC); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

O-25-20

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council and introduced Sean Canady, Director of Conway Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Canady presented CEOC sold batteries that were removed from a decommissioned backup battery system and has received funds from JSI Metal Recycling in the amount of \$1,033.30; the CEOC requests to receipt the funds obtained by sale of assets back into the department's Building Maintenance account. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the role with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, and Councilman Jones, and Councilman Spurgers. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE CONWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

O-25-21

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B2 to the Council. Conway Police Chief, Chris Harris presented the request to appropriate funding received from the Arkansas Department of Public Safety, and the Public Safety Equipment Grant, in the amount of \$39,341.50 for the purchase of two unmanned aircraft systems (drones). The funding will allow the Conway Police Department to utilize the drones on every shift, and the crime suppression teams utilization, as well. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The Clerk called the role with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

3. AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF (5) FIVE NEW VEHICLES FOR THE CONWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

O-25-22

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B3 to the Council. Conway Police Department Chief Harris requested the appropriation of pay as you go funds for the purchase of five new Chevrolet Tahoe's and enter into an agreement with Bale Chevrolet in the amount of \$500,000 from the Fund Balance Appropriation Account. Chief Harris confirms Bale Chevrolet has the vehicles reserved for Conway Police Department. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause, and Councilman Jones seconded. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 11th day of February 2025

APPROVED: _____
Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd