

Conway, Arkansas  
Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
February 25, 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, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawks, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Denise Hurd, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, and Councilman Jones were absent.

**Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry**

**Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk**

**Minutes: February 25, 2025**

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on February 11, 2025, as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Bart Castleberry introduced the Conway High School Girls' Volleyball team and presented a proclamation honoring the Lady Wampus Cat Volleyball team for their success, hard work, and perseverance in securing the Class 6A State Volleyball Championship on November 2, 2024.

Dr. Terry Fiddler, DDS addressed the Council to provide an update for this year's Arkansas Mission of Mercy, (ARMOM), an event that provides free dental care for adults and children. Dr. Fiddler, DDS praised the Council, Chamber, and City of Conway for their hospitality at the event. This year's event will be hosted at the Conway Expo Center on April 11-12, 2025, and will be the event's 18<sup>th</sup> year providing free dental care for the public.

**Monthly Financial Report ending January 31, 2025**

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council with an update on the City's Finances. Mr. Winningham reminded the Council that the City is under a spending freeze, with several factors evident in some of the funds, such as the capital funds for Sanitation, Street, and Airport show very low or zero operating expenses. He added that the City has annual dues in January, including annual maintenance to the City's software programs. Another factor was an extra pay period in January, as well as one of the pay periods in January being carried over from the last pay period of 2024 but is still within the normal limits of the budget. The City's sales tax revenue has decreased from last year's record but still achieved the City's objective. The spending hold will continue through the end of March, at which point Mayor Castleberry will evaluate if the hold will continue. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financial report and Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 5-0.

**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 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2025, CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**

Councilman Hawkins 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 6-0, with Mayor Castleberry voting as per City Attorney, Charles Finkenbinder's recommendation.

**2. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CITY APPLYING FOR THE CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) THROUGH METROPLAN FOR THE CONVERSION OF STREETLIGHTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CONWAY CORPORATION**

**R-25-04**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council and introduced Robbie Alberson, Grants Administrator for the City of Conway. Mr. Alberson presented the Council with a funding opportunity in partnership with Conway Corporation, through Metroplan, that would provide funding for the conversion of the City's current High Pressure Sodium streetlights into safer, more sustainable, LED lights. The City postulates an application request of about \$2,500,000; with the maximum requisition of \$5,000,000. Mr. Alberson stated that if the City of Conway is awarded grant funding, Conway Corporation would implement

and manage the project. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to approve, and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 5-0.

**3. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CORPORATE GROUND LEASE FOR BB RYDER, LLC FOR THE CONWAY AIRPORT**

**R-25-05**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council and introduced Conway Airport Director, Jake Briley. Mr. Briley stated that the proposed ground lease would be the final lease available, and if granted, the proposed Corporation would pay for the construction of the hangar, as well as an annual fee per square footage of the proposed plat. The proposal would be in place for forty years, at which time the grounds and hangar would become property of the City of Conway and could be leased to another entity. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve said Resolution, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded. A vote was called and the motion carried 5-0.

**4. RESOLUTION TO REQUEST A LIEN FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 413 GARLAND ST FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council, and provided that the City of Conway has paid \$399.19 for the removal and cleanup of said property, for the property to meet compliance. Mayor Castleberry requested City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder clarify the statutes of cleanup liens in the state of Arkansas, for the public's understanding. Mr. Finkenbinder explained the statute in Arkansas provides that any city has authorization to order an owner of real property, to require the removal of garbage, rubbish, and other unsightly items from the property that violates a city ordinance. The law also states that after the owner has been given due notice without correction, the city shall do whatever is necessary to correct the condition and to charge the cost of the cleanup to the property owner. After the property owner has been given due notice of the cost of cleanup without expiation, the city has authority to deem if a lien shall be placed on the property to recoup the city's costs for correction, along with administrative and filing fees. Mr. Spencer Clawson, Director of Public Works, presented the Council with receipts of certified mail that had been sent to the property owner, along with emails, phone calls, and text messages-to alert the property owner of the nuisance and the cleanup costs. Mr. AJ Register, representing the property owners, addressed the Council with concernment as to whether enough notice was given to the property owners. Due to several Councilman being absent, and to give the Council additional time to review the facts, Councilman Hawkins made a motion to table Item A4, until the next City Council Meeting on March 9, 2025. Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 5-0.

**5. ORDINANCE TO APPROVE ANNEXATION OF ±67.52 ACRES ON NUTTERS CHAPEL RD**

**O-25-23**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A5 to the Council and introduced Ms. Anne Tucker, who shared the Planning Commission's unanimous vote to pass decision to Council. Ms. Tucker stated that the adjacent properties are already annexed into the City of Conway, and that the proposed acreage has Conway utility services access due to the development of the bilateral properties. Faulkner County Judge, Alan Dodson, has granted approval for proposed annexation. Mr. Hal Crafton, owner of the property, addressed the Council and shared the request for annexation is to coalesce the acreage to its adjacent parcels and the City of Conway. Councilman Ledbetter recused himself from voting on proposed Ordinance. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded. The Clerk called the roll, with Mayor Castleberry voting in lieu of Councilman Ledbetter. The following voted "Aye": Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, and Mayor Castleberry. The Ordinance passed 5-0.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (POLICE, FIRE, DISTRICT COURT, IT, CEOC, CITY ATTORNEY)**

**1. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES FOR THE CONWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council and introduced Conway Police Chief, Mr. Chris Harris. Chief Harris presented the request to remove a 2006 Acura from CPD inventory, to be sold at auction. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote a was called and the motion passed 5-0.

**2. AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FY2024 REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS FOR THE CONWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

**O-25-24**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B2 to the Council. Conway Police Chief, Chris Harris presented the request to appropriate reimbursement funds received in 2024, into the appropriate accounts. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 5-0.

**3. AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS FOR THE CONWAY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**O-25-25**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B3 to the Council. Conway Police Department Chief Harris requested the appropriation of reimbursement funds into their respected accounts. Chief Harris explained that these reimbursement funds are mostly from extra duty services, reimbursements from the bullet proof vest grant, and insurance proceeds. 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 Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 5-0.

**4. CONSIDERATION TO DIPOSE OF INVENTORY (FURNITURE) FROM CONWAY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (CEOC)**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B4 to the Council. Sean Canady, Conway Emergency Operations Center Director, presented a request to dispose of dispatch furniture that is currently about twenty years old. Mr. Canady stated that the furniture is still usable, and other agencies have reported their interest in taking possession of said furniture, with Council's approval. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the consideration, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment-----

**PASSED this 25th day of February 2025**

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor, Bart Castleberry**

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**City Clerk, Denise Hurd**