

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
May 27, 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 Grimes, 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.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: May 13, 2025

Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on May 13, 2025, as submitted. Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

Monthly Financial Report ending April 30, 2025

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council stating that we were heading for a challenging year but that the issue is not unique to Conway, with other cities are experiencing the same downturn in sales taxes. He reported that Conway's sales tax in April was down 1.9% and 3.6% for the year. He added that the City budgeted for 3% growth in sales tax this year but if the trend continues sales tax revenues will be down 1.5 million by the end of the year. He said that other revenues could do better than expected citing Parks and Recreation as an example as well as the Airport fuel sales. He told the Council that there is still an active spending freeze, and all purchases are being evaluated. Mr. Winningham went over several project funds and their status. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financials and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion to approve carried 8-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

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 May 27, 2025 City Council Agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive all three readings for the ordinances on the May 27, 2025 agenda and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

2. Ordinance to approve the private club permit location for Promoting Progress, Inc. dba: Lost Pizza Co. Conway located at 2600 College Ave. Ste 100, Conway, AR 72034.

O-25-46

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. 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 Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

3. **Resolution accepting and approving the grant agreement for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Project in partnership with Conway Corporation for the City of Conway.**

R-25-15

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. Robbie Alberson told the Council that the City was awarded a grant through Metroplan which is funded through EPA dollars and will allow the City to convert streetlights to LED lights. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Spurgers seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

4. **Resolution approving the submittal of the Program Year 2025 Annual Action Plan and budget for the Community Development Department.**

R-25-16

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council. Shawanna Rodgers told the Council that this is a revised budget sheet for approval for the 2025 Action Plan. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 8-0.

5. **Ordinance to appropriate donation funds for the Conway Tree Board.**

O-25-47

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A5 to the Council. 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 Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

6. **Ordinance to rezone property located a 1 Laura Lane from R-1 to R-2.**

O-25-48

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A6 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that this item was presented at the May 19th Planning Commission meeting where it passed unanimously with minimal discussion. Elke Brissell, representing the applicant addressed the Council stating that the structure on the property was in danger and the rezoning would allow it to be refurbished as a duplex. She added that most of the surrounding properties contain duplex housing. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Jones seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

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

1. **Ordinance approving rates and the fee structure for the Conway Community Center.**

O-25-49

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council, also announcing the opening date of the Conway Community Center to be July 17, 2025. Jamie Brice told the Council that the fee structure had been set including rental fees for courts, party rooms, etc. Mayor Castleberry reiterated that the number one goal was to make the fees affordable for everyone. Councilman Grimes asked for clarification as to the qualifications for the Youth and Senior rates. Ms. Brice said that the Youth rate was for children up to 18 years of age, and the Senior rate began at age 60. She added that the family rate included up to two adults, and four

minors. She told the Council that the fee rates began with a study in 2017 and those rate suggestions were taken along with what other cities with similar facilities were charging. She added that Conway's Community Center rates were lower than many of the other cities'. Councilwoman Mehl confirmed that the presented budget was based on these rates. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawks, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

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

1. Resolution to support the recognition of public safety telecommunicators as first responders at the state and federal level.

R-25-17

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council stating that our Telecommunicators are the first line of defense for our responders, calling them lifesavers, and caregivers to persons they come in contact with over the phone. Sean Canady, Director of the CEOC was joined by some of his staff of telecommunicators at the podium, where he read the Resolution of Recognition. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution was passed 8-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating funds for the Conway Fire Department.

O-25-50

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Chief Wiedower told the Council that the Department had received \$109 from the sale of scrap metal generated from the use of an Ammo Burner and asked for approval to be appropriated. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Spurgers seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

3. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds for the Conway Fire Department.

O-25-51

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C3 to the Council. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

4. Ordinance approving a trailer donation for the Conway Fire Department.

O-25-52

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C4 to the Council. Chief Wiedower told the Council that the Hazmat trailer was donated by the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. Councilman Spurgers 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 Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Spurgers, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

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D. New Business

1. Consideration to change the upcoming City Council meeting schedule.

Mayor Castleberry asked the Council to approve the summer schedule for City Council meetings to one meeting per month, the fourth Tuesday of each month in June, July and August. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to change the schedule, and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion carried 8-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 27th day of May 2025

APPROVED:

Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd