

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
December 9, 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: November 25, 2025

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on November 25th as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion 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 December 9th, 2025 City Council Agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve waiving the three readings for the ordinances on the December 9th, 2025 agenda and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 8-0.

Councilman Grimes joined the meeting.

2. Ordinance accepting and appropriating grant funds related to the Community Forestry Plan.

O-25-110

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that the City was awarded \$250,000 by the Forestry Commission to do some arbor studies. She said the first installment had been received but just today had received the second installment in the amount of \$19,472.50 which would bring the total amount to \$52,127.50 and asked that amount to be added to the total. She added that this is a full reimbursement grant with no matching funds. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to amend the Ordinance to reflect the total amount, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 8-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Spurgers seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

3. Consideration to approve the annual boards and commissions for the City of Conway.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council and read the names of the nominees.

Airport Advisory Committee – 4-year term

o John Ed Webb (Pilot Position) Term expires December 31, 2029

o Joanna Ramlom (Member at Large) Term expires December 31, 2029

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board – 3-year term

- o Thomas Cain Term expires December 31, 2028
- o Kevin Lentz Term expires December 31, 2028
- o Ryan Webb Term expires December 31, 2028

Conway Tree Board – 3-year term

- o Clayton Cooper Term expires December 31, 2028
- o Jonathan Marshall Term expires December 31, 2028

Diversity Advisory Council – 4-year term

- o JaColby Easter Term expires December 31, 2029
- o Sonja Brassell (Partial Term) Term expires December 31, 2026

Historic District Commission – 3-year term

- o Ali Dyer (Conway Commercial Historic District) Term expires December 31, 2028
- o Junior Dixon (Architect or Design Professional) Term expires December 31, 2028

Oak Grove Cemetery – 5-year term

- o Andrea Andrews Term expires December 31, 2030
- o Shelia Myers (Partial) Term expires December 31, 2026

Planning Commission – 5-year term

- o Lori Quinn Term expires December 31, 2030
- o Grace Rains Term expires December 31, 2030
- o Keena Haygood (Partial Term) Term expires December 31, 2028

Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the annual boards and commissions, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

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

1. Ordinance appropriating funds for the lighting installation at Pompe Park for the Parks & Recreation Department.

O-25-111

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council that this is an appropriation of A&P funds in the amount of \$27,765.00 for lighting that Conway Corp did along Morningside Drive and the parking lot. 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 Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

C. Finance

1. Ordinance approving the FY2026 Budget for the City of Conway

O-25-112

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1. He told the Council that in 2025 the City has given employees a \$1,000 Christmas bonus, longevity pay to all City employees, incentive raises to the Fire Department as well as a 2% raise. He added that insurance premiums for employees will not

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

increase in 2026, and a 1% COLA raise has been budgeted. He said that Fire Department staff have been increased by 6, as well as 5 additional staff in other departments. He told there that a 3% growth in revenues has been projected in order to balance the budget. Tyler Winningham addressed the Council with an overview stating that the budget this year was challenging due to a number of reasons. He said that earlier in the year the City took out a loan to purchase a fire truck and upgrades to the 911 radio system. He added that the debt was divided between CFD and CEOC accordingly. He said that this is the first year for the 911 center to be the lone PSAP in Faulkner County which is a burden on the budget. He told them that the Community Center is still an unknown as it is not known what an entire year of operations looks like. He explained how these budget items were figured into the budget. He reminded them that another challenge this year has been slow sales tax growth. There was discussion among the Council about the new sales tax for public safety and streets and drainage which will begin adding revenue in April of 2026. There was discussion among the Council as to how the loan for the fire truck and 911 radio system could be paid off more quickly. It was confirmed that debt service on five year financing has to be paid for from the general fund. There was further discussion regarding budgeted numbers for City departments as well as future projects, sales tax and debt repayment. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilman Ledbetter seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Spurges, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 8-0.

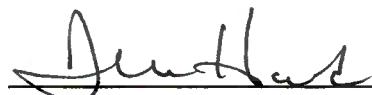
Mayor Castleberry confirmed that this meeting would be the final for 2025. The December 23 meeting is cancelled.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 9th day of December, 2025

APPROVED:



Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd