

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
August 26, 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 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. Councilman Hawkins was absent.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: August 12, 2025

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on August 12, 2025, as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Monthly Financial Report ending July 31, 2025

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 August 26, 2025 City Council Agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive all three readings for the ordinances on the August 26, 2025 agenda and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

2. Resolution to approve the reimbursement of costs and expenses associated with an electric generation facility for Conway Corporation.

R-25-34

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A2 to the Council. Gordon Wilbourn was present to answer questions. He told the Council that the purpose of the Resolution is that it is a federal tax requirement so that if eventually the City's share of the expenses for this project are paid with tax-exempt bond proceeds, the City must state its intention ahead of time. Brett Carroll clarified that the "City expenses" were actually Conway Corp expenses. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Jones seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

3. Resolution to request the Faulkner County Tax Collector place a lien against property at 2125 Poplar St in the amount of \$158.33 for expenses incurred by the City.

R-25-35

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A2 to the Council. Spencer Clawson told the Council that there was some trash to be hauled off and grass cutting. There was no one present to represent the property. Councilman Ledbetter made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

4. Ordinance to rezone property located at 1979 Blackberry Ln from R-1 to A-1.

O-25-66

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A4 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that Mr. Ken Mullins has requested the rezoning in order to put a barn on his property. She added that the matter was reviewed by the Planning Commission and was voted 8-0 to forward to the City Council with a recommendation for approval. Ken Mullins addressed the Council and told them that the barn was necessary to house his horses and equipment. 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 Spurgers, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

5. Ordinance to rezone property located at 603 Polk Street from R-2A to R-2.

The applicant for this item was not present. Councilman Ledbetter made a motion to hold this item until the next City Council meeting, and Councilman Jones seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

6. Ordinance to rezone property located at 959 Farris Rd from R-1 to O-1.

O-25-67

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A6 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that this is a parcel of land the City has purchased in order to provide cross access for several developments on Prince Street. She added that the matter was reviewed by the Planning Commission and was voted 8-0 to forward to the City Council with a recommendation for approval. Troy Rice told the Council that Braums, who will be breaking ground in November, has purchased a small piece of this property from the City in order to increase their water detention area, so the rezoning is to match the property that they already own. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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

1. Ordinance accepting and appropriating grant funds for Conway Animal Services.

O-25-68

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Spencer Clawson told the Council that this is the second draw on the \$20,000 grant from Best Friends Animal Society. 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 Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks and Councilman Spurgers. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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

1. Consideration to approve the donation and disposal of inventory for the Conway Police Dept.

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that he had 24 outdated tasers with batteries, etc. that they would like to donate to the Stuttgart Police Department. He added that they also had 43 non-working tasers to be disposed of.

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Councilman Ledbetter asked how the Stuttgart Department was chosen to receive the items, and Chief Harris said that the training department inquires of smaller agencies to determine where the items could best be used. Councilman Ledbetter said he would like to see Faulkner County agencies given first consideration. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the consideration and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and motion carried 7-0.

2. Consideration to approve entering into an agreement for School Resource Officers with Conway Public Schools.

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Chief Harris asked the Council to approve the agreement for the 2025-2026 school year. He said that the agreement was the same as in the past, except there had been added \$25,000 for uniforms and expenditures. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the agreement, and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Castleberry asked the Council to suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda. Councilman Spurgers moved to suspend the rules and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0.

An Ordinance to reclassify a position for the Conway Police Department.

O-25-69

Chief Harris told the Council that the head fleet mechanic has had health issues which has created a burden for the remaining fleet mechanic. He said that the department has a records clerk position that has been vacant since the beginning of the year, and he asked that that position be reclassified to another fleet maintenance technician. He added that there would be no budget adjustment. Councilman Jones made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance along with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawks, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 26th day of August, 2025

APPROVED:

Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd