

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
September 23, 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: September 9, 2025

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on September 9th, 2025, as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

Monthly Financial Report ending August 31, 2025

Tyler Winningham reported to the Council that August was the third consecutive month that we showed positive growth over the previous year. He told them that on September 8th, the Mayor lifted the spending freeze that had been in effect. He said that August is 2/3 of the way through the year and that the financial report shows that the City has spent 2/3 of the budget, although there were several departments that are under the 67% expenditure mark. He credited this to the spending freeze and careful consideration of purchases. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. 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 September 23, 2025 City Council Agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive all three readings for the ordinances on the September 23rd, 2025 agenda and Councilman Jones seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating funding for Culture In The Park event held by the Diversity Advisory Council.

O-25-73

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. Shawanna Rodgers told the Council that this was the third annual event and that sponsorships had been received in the amount of \$3,250. 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, Council man Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

3. Consideration to approve a conditional use permit to allow a Mobile Food Vendor use in the O-1 zone for property located at 2285 Moix Blvd.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that the applicant agreed to 14 conditions for this permit. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the conditional use permit, and Councilman Jones seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion to approve carried 8-0.

**4. Ordinance to rezone property located at 124, 130, 136 Conway Blvd from S-1 to R-2A.
O-25-74**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that the Planning Commission approved this request at their meeting. She added that two citizens attended the meeting to gather information about the project. She added that the rezoning would allow up to 12 units, but that the project still had to go through site development review and she wasn't sure that 12 units was feasible. But she said that the request was for up to 12 units. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to approve the rezoning, and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. 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.

5. Consideration to approve a conditional use permit to allow a density of up to 12 units/acre in the R2-A zone for properties located at 124, 130, and 136 Conway Blvd.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A5 to the Council. Anne Tucker reminded the Council that the request was for up to 12 units, but that amount might not be feasible. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to approve the conditional use permit and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. A vote was called, and the motion carried 8-0.

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

**1. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds for the Conway Police Department.
O-25-75**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that his department had received reimbursed funds to be appropriated to their respective accounts. 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 Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, and Councilman Hawkins.

Mayor Castleberry asked the Council to suspend the rules to discuss a matter concerning health insurance coverage for City employees. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to suspend the rules, and Councilman Spurgers seconded it. The motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Castleberry told the Council that he had received many phone calls from employees stating that they were very happy with the present health insurance coverage. In regard to the discussion at a previous committee meeting about the City using self-funded insurance in 2026, he said that he does believe that self-funding is the future for the City, but he felt that the City should stay with our current carrier one more year, since they have stated that there would be no increase in premiums for coverage for medical, dental or vision for 2026 and there would be no impact to the budget as a result. He said that if the Council felt that it was prudent to stay with the present carrier, than beginning January 1st efforts would be made to prepare for a change in the way the City's insurance is handled. There was discussion among the Council as to the future of health insurance coverage. There was a consensus that it was late in the year to be requesting bids for coverage and to make such a change without in-

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depth research, although there was a general agreement that examining self-funding insurance would be a practical approach for the immediate future.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 23rd day of September, 2025

APPROVED:

Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd