

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
October 14, 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

Mayor Castleberry asked Council to suspend the rules to discuss a matter for the Council. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to suspend the rules and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 8-0. Chief Harris asked the Council to approve the retirement of Canine Officer Leo, to be removed from the City's inventory and released to his handler. Councilman Ledbetter made a motion to approve the removal of Canine Officer Leo and Councilman Spurgers seconded it. A vote was called and the motion to approve carried 8-0.

Minutes: September 23, 2025

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on September 23rd as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

A. Economic Development Committee (Conway Area Chamber of Commerce, Conway Development Corporation, Conway Downtown Partnership, & Conway Corporation)

1. Consideration to approve entering into an agreement with NativState LLC for the City of Conway (Conway Corporation)

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A1 to the Council. Brett Carroll introduced Andy Cameron of Nativstate who spoke to the Council about the project and how the calculations of carbon credits are done. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to approve entering into the agreement with Nativstate and Councilman Hawkins seconded the motion. A vote was called, and the approval was unanimous.

2. Resolution approving Conway Corporation's intent to use the proceeds of the tax exempt bonds for reimbursement for telecommunication project related expenses.

R-25-37

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A2 to the Council. Brett Carroll of Conway Corporation presented the Resolution to the Council. He told the Council that there were telecommunication infrastructure improvements needed and asked for approval of the Resolution for this purpose. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

B. 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 October 14th, 2025 City Council Agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive all three readings for the ordinances on the October 14th, 2025 agenda and Councilman Jones seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating funds received from the Department of Housing & Urban Development for the Community Development Department.

O-25-76

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B2 to the Council. Shawanna Rodgers told the Council that the CDBG Department had received its 2026 Federal funding. She said that the grant agreement has been approved as well, allowing them to proceed with the subrecipient funding. She told the Council they were looking at two new subrecipients, CARTI which helps low to moderate income individuals with healthcare, and The Dream Foundation, which helps high school seniors with scholarships. She added that there is a total of seven recipients this year. She said that in addition, they were looking to do some upgrades at Airport Park. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 8-0. 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. Ordinance appropriating donation funds for the Conway Tree Board.

O-25-77

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council. Anne Tucker of the Planning Department told the Council that the Tree Board had received a donation in the amount of \$500. Councilman Spurgers 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.

4. Ordinance appropriating insurance funds for the Planning & Development Department.

O-25-78

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B4 to the Council. Anne Tucker of the Planning Department told the Council that these insurance reimbursements were for damages to a vehicle that occurred in May. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. 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.

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

Councilman Jones left the meeting.

1. Ordinance accepting and appropriating grant funds from the Best Friends Animal Society for the Animal Welfare Services.

O-25-79

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Spencer Clawson told the Council that this was the second draw of \$4,000 on the \$20,000 grant. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawks, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Spurgers, and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Ordinance to approve entering into an agreement with Burton Pools and Spas for the Conway Community Center.

O-25-80

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Jamie Brice told the Council that the Community Center pool equipment requires Pulsar chemicals and Burton is the most efficient and the closest vendor to supply them. There was discussion among the Council as to the necessity of using the specific chemical feeders and the fact that Burton Pools and Spas were the only vendor that could supply the chemicals needed. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

3. Ordinance appropriating funds for building maintenance for the Parks and Recreation Department.

O-25-81

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C3 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council that they were requesting funds to be appropriated from the A&P account in the amount of \$72,200 to fund replacement of some of the Parks AC units that are very old and beyond repair. Councilwoman Mehl confirmed that capital purchases for recreation are allowed from the City's portion of A&P funds. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

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

1. Ordinance authorizing a personnel reclassification for the Conway Emergency Operations Center.

O-25-82

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council. Sean Canady asked the Council to approve the reclassification of a telecommunicator position. He said the new position would be highly specialized primarily to focus on the radio system and the programming of the radios that go with the system. This person would also take care of everyday issues on the floor as they arise. He added that he didn't expect to hire the position until the beginning of next year, or late this year. He clarified that this would be reclassifying the last telecommunicator position to the Technician position. Councilman Ledbetter stated that he would be voting against the matter and that he will not vote in favor of any position pay increases until the firefighter pay is up to where they should be. 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, Councilman Hawkins,

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Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Spurgers, and Councilman Ledbetter voting "No". The Ordinance passed 6-1.

E. New Business:

Consideration to approve the annual millage rates for the City of Conway.

Mayor Castleberry reminded the Council that the millage rates presented are to be collected in 2026, and that the amounts of not changed from last year.

R-25-38

1. **Resolution of a voluntary levy of two-tenth's (.2) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for an Animal Shelter for the City of Conway.**

Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

R-25-39

2. **Resolution of a voluntary levy of four-tenth's (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for a recreation assessment raising special revenue for the sole and exclusive purpose of providing additional funds for the purpose of construction, equipping, operating and maintaining the public recreation and playgrounds of City of Conway.**

Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

R-25-40

3. **Resolution of a voluntary levy of four-tenths (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising special revenue, the exclusive purpose of operating and maintaining the cemeteries for the City of Conway.**

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

R-25-41

4. **Resolution of a levy of four-tenths (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising special revenue for the Pension and Relief Fund for a Policeman's Pension and Relief Fund.**

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Spurgers seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

R-25-42

5. **Resolution of a levy of four-tenths (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising special revenue for the Pension and Relief Fund for a Fireman's Pension and Relief Fund.**

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

R-25-43

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6. Resolution of a levy of four-tenths (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising special revenue for the Pension and Relief Fund for paid Non-uniformed employees.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

R-25-44

7. Resolution of a levy of three (3.0) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising General Fund Revenues.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 14th day of October, 2025

APPROVED:

Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd