

## MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas  
Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
November 11, 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 Hawks, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Denise Hurd, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilman Ledbetter was absent.

**Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry**

**Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk**

**Minutes: October 28, 2025**

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**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 waiving all three readings for the ordinances on the November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 City Council Agenda.**

Councilman Hawkins made a motion to waive all three readings for the ordinances on the November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 agenda and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

*(Ordinance O-25-93 and O-25-94 were read out of order)*

**2. Ordinance to approve and extend the franchise of Conway Corporation to operate an Electrical Plant for the City of Conway.**

**O-25-94**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D2 to the Council. Brett Carroll told the Council this was a 10 year extension due to projects such as the combine cycle natural gas plant to be built and converting HFC to fiber throughout the City. Councilman Hawkins 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 Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

**3. Ordinance to approve and extend the lease of the Conway Corporation to operate the Electrical Plant for the City of Conway.**

**O-25-93**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D3 to the Council. 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 Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

4. **Ordinance to approve and extend the franchise of Conway Corporation to operate and maintain the Telecommunication Plant for the City of Conway.**

**O-25-95**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D4 to the Council. 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 Grimes, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Spurgers. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

5. **Ordinance to approve and extend the lease of Conway Corporation to operate the Telecommunication Plant for the City of Conway.**

**O-26-96**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D5 to the Council. 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 Hawks, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

**B. Community Development Committee (Airport, Community Development, Code Enforcement, Permits & Inspections, Transportation, & Planning & Development.**

1. **Ordinance to approve the establishment of an Entertainment District in The Village at Hendrix.**

**O-25-97**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B1 to the Council, noting that the matter was discussed at the previous Committee meeting. There was a question of law enforcement coverage to which Mr. Finkenbinder stated that if there was an incident in the Entertainment District, the City is protected by state law against negligence lawsuits. Councilman Jones inquired as to whether additional City police coverage would be required in the Hendrix Entertainment District. Hendrix President Peterson stated that the Mayor's office and the CPD would be notified if there were an event scheduled for the District. CPD Chief Harris stated that if an incident occurred outside of a scheduled event, 911 would be called as in any other situation of that type. There was discussion among the Council as to extra police officer presence and how that would be established. There was also discussion as to when the Ordinance would go into effect and if an emergency clause was needed. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to suspend the rules to add the emergency clause and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. There was additional discussion as to whether an emergency clause was needed. It was determined that the District would not be prepared to begin within the next 30 days. A vote was called to add the emergency clause which failed unanimously. 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 Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. **Ordinance to approve a private club permit location of 1050 Ellis Avenue for Roost & Tap, LLC dba: Roost & Tap Kitchen.**

**O-25-98**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B2 to the Council. Charles Frost was present to address the Council. He told the Council about the food offerings and that he expected the restaurant to open in February. 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 Grimes, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

- 3. Resolution to approve the lowest bid and enter into an agreement for the McNutt Rd. sidewalk addition for the Transportation Department.**

**R-25-45**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council. Jacob Reynolds told the Council that they were finishing up pedestrian improvement at the Dave Ward and Hogan intersection. lowest bid from JTI in the amount of \$365,160.60. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

- 4. Resolution to approve applying for funding for the Arkansas Historic and Preservation for the Planning & Development Department.**

**R-25-46**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council. Robbie Alberson told the Council that there was an opportunity to apply for the State Department of Parks and Tourism's Certified Government Program. He said that the application for this round would be for staff training and outreach such as brochures for residents in the Historic District. Mayor Castleberry added that this was a no-match grant. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

- 5. Ordinance to amend the zoning code for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) for compliance with ACT 313 of 2025 for the Planning & Development Department.**

**O-25-99**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that recent legislation had been passed regarding accessory dwelling units and this Ordinance and change in the zoning code would bring the City into compliance with that legislation in ACT 313. 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 Hawkins, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Spurgers, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

- 6. Ordinance O-25-87 amending the Conway Zoning Code (ARTICLE III) for the purposes of building and lot coverage for the Planning & Development Department – *SECOND READING ONLY***

- 7. Ordinance O-25-88 amending the Conway Zoning Code for the purposes of eliminating conflicts between Article IV and Article X; providing flexibility in parking requirements, simplification of language for the Planning & Development Department. – *SECOND READING ONLY***

- 8. Ordinance O-25-89 amending the Conway Zoning Code (ARTICLE X), clarifying site development review scope, process, and fee schedule for the Planning & Development Department. – *SECOND READING ONLY***

9. **Ordinance O-25-90 amending the Conway Zoning Code (XIII) as amended for the purpose of defining or redefining terms for the Planning & Development Department. – *SECOND READING ONLY***

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

1. **Resolution to accept grant funds from the United States Tennis Association for the Parks & Recreation Department.**

**R-25-47**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Andrew Thames asked the Council to approve the Resolution to accept the grant in the amount of \$3,000 to go toward purchasing some new equipment for the Tennis Center. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

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

1. **Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-25-100**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that these funds were mostly from extra duty services. 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 Spurgers, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. **Ordinance appropriating funds for Operation Shop Secure for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-25-101**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D2 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that this ordinance would provide funds for officer presence at local shopping centers during the holiday shopping season. There was discussion as to whether an emergency clause was needed due to the timing of the program. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to suspend the rules to add an emergency clause to the Ordinance, and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with an emergency clause and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

3. **Ordinance appropriating funds for fuel for the Conway Police Department.**

**O-25-102**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D3 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that fuel prices fluctuate, which affects the rate at which the CPD fuel budget is depleted. He added that they averaged around \$25,000 a month and would need additional funds for December. 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,

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Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

### **E. New Business:**

#### **1. Ordinance to appropriate funding for the Employee Appreciation Bonus.**

##### **O-25-103**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E1. Tyler Winningham explained to the Council that the bonus would be \$1,000 for all full-time employees and \$500 for all part-time employees. He told the Council that the bonuses would be funded by interest income on the Rescue Fund account. He added that the rules do not require the City to spend interest income on Rescue Fund projects. 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 Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

#### **2. Ordinance to add longevity pay to the pay scales for City Employees.**

##### **O-25-104**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E2. Mayor Castleberry stated that CPD already has longevity pay added to their salaries, and he would like to include all City employees in this benefit. Tyler Winningham told the Council that \$132,000 is estimated for the Fire Department, \$55,000 for all other non-uniformed employees. Councilman Grimes clarified that longevity pay begins after 10 years of service, and that it becomes part of the ongoing budget. Mr. Winningham stated that the funds for the first year would come from Rescue Plan funds that were allocated for drainage projects. He added that the drainage projects have been completed so the unused funds will be used for the longevity pay for the first year. 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 Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance Passed 7-0.

#### **3. Ordinance to appropriate funding for the Conway Emergency Shelter.**

##### **O-25-105**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E3. Felicia Rogers asked the Council to approve the appropriation of the interest on the Rescue Plan account in the amount of \$25,000 to ensure the Emergency Shelter would be able to operate during extreme cold weather months. Councilwoman Mehl 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 Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

**Adjournment-----**

***PASSED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025***

**APPROVED:**

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***Mayor, Bart Castleberry***

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***City Clerk, Denise Hurd***