
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:30 pm
November 13, 2018

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: Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderman Pruitt, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderwoman Isby, Alderman Jones and Alderwoman Smith. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett and City Attorney Chuck Clawson. Alderman Ledbetter was absent.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett

Minutes: October 23, 2018

Alderwoman Smith motioned to approve the **October 23, 2018** minutes as submitted. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

1. Report of Standing Committees:

A. Community Development Committee (Planning, Zoning, Permits, Community Development, Historic District, Streets, Engineering & Airport)

1. Ordinance to approve bid and appropriate funds for the construction of a splash pad in Fifth Avenue Park.

O-18-105

Alderman Hawkins presented Item B1 to the Council. Kiera Oluokun addressed the Council explaining that they were being asked to approve the proposal in the amount of \$365,000 from RJR Enterprise for the construction of a 5,500 square foot splash pad. The remainder of funds are to be appropriated from the Parks & Recreation Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$175,000. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Alderwoman Isby seconded. The motion carried 7-0. It was noted that the account name on the Ordinance; Parks & Recreation A&P Fund Balance should be amended to Parks & Recreation Impact Fee Fund. Alderwoman Isby moved to adopt the Ordinance as amended and Alderwoman Smith seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderwoman Smith, Alderwoman Isby, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes and Alderman Pruitt. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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

1. Consideration to pay off an equipment loan for the Conway Sanitation Department.

Tyler Winningham, CFO, addressed the Council stating that not all of the scheduled draw-downs took place, therefore the balance of the escrow could be applied to the balance in order to pay off the loan, saving future interest costs. Alderwoman Smith moved to approve the payoff of the Sanitation loan and Alderwoman Isby seconded. The motion to approve passed 7-0.

C. Public Safety Committee (Police, Fire, District Court, Animal Welfare Unit, Emergency Operations Center, Information Technology & City Attorney)

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

O-18-106

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Police Chief Spradlin addressed the Council asking for approval of \$50,000 of overtime funds for officers to increase presence in all shopping areas throughout the City. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Alderwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Alderwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Alderwoman Smith seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the

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following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Mehl, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Pruitt, Alderwoman Isby and Alderman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

D. Personnel

- 1. Consideration to approve the renewal of dental benefits from BlueCross BlueShield for the FY2019.**
Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council. Lisa Mabry-Williams, Human Resources Director addressed the Council stating that on October 22 there was published an RFP for dental benefits, after which the employee benefit committee met to review and complete a weighted evaluation on each of the proposals. The Committee recommends BlueCross BlueShield's Option 2A and 2B, which is a PPO dental plan which will ultimately lower premiums by 6%. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve this consideration and Alderwoman Isby seconded. The motion carried 7-0.
- 2. Consideration to approve the renewal of life insurance benefits from USABLE for the FY2019.**
Mayor Castleberry presented Item D2 to the Council. Mrs. Mabry-Williams explained that in 2014 the City received a two-year rate guarantee which was renewed again in 2016, and have extended the zero increase renewal for one more year at a rate hold. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve this consideration and Alderwoman Isby seconded. The motion carried 7-0.
- 3. Consideration to approve the renewal of voluntary supplemental benefits from Benefit Partners/Flexco for the FY2019.**
Mayor Castleberry presented Item D3 to the Council. Mrs. Mabry-Williams explained to the Council that the current provider of voluntary supplemental benefits advised that there would be no increase in premiums from American Heritage, American Fidelity, United Teachers Associates/Loyal American, Legal Shield and Fidelity-Key Gap for the 2019 Plan Year. She requested approval of the renewal of these providers of voluntary supplemental benefits. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve this consideration and Alderwoman Isby seconded. The motion carried 7-0.
- 4. Consideration to approve the fitness facility proposal for the FY2019.**
Mayor Castleberry presented Item D4 to the Council. Mrs. Mabry-Williams addressed the Council stating that RFP's were sent out on October 21st for fitness facility proposals to which three bids were received. She requested approval of the lowest bidder, Sync Fitness for the City of Conway Fitness Facility Membership. Alderwoman Mehl made reference to an email she had received that was sent to City Council from a Fire Department employee stating concerns about the Sync Fitness membership. It stated that there were no "Boot Camps" offered, and that they were charged for replacement membership cards, etc. Mrs. Mabry-Williams said that there were two fire-fighters on the employee benefit committee and that no one had voiced these concerns and that she was not aware of the email. Alderman Grimes asked if we had tracking as to how many employees are using the facility. He suggested that it would be good information to review. It was agreed that the concerns expressed by the firefighters be looked into. Alderwoman Smith made a motion to approve this consideration and Alderwoman Isby seconded. The motion carried 7-0.
- 5. Consideration to approve the medical benefit proposal for the FY2019**
Mayor Castleberry presented Item D5 to the Council. Mrs. Mabry-Williams that the RFP was published on the City's website and in the newspaper to which one bid was received from the Arkansas Municipal Health Benefit Fund. She stated that a representative from Health Advantage, the City's former medical provider issued a statement that the underwriters declined to submit because they were not able to provide a competitive quote, due to the City's loss-ratio, driven by the costs of prescription drug claims. Two Scenarios were presented with Scenario #1 being the premium increase being shared between the City and employees, and Scenario #2 being the City solely absorbing the increase. There was discussion among the Council of the two possible scenarios. Alderwoman Isby made a motion to approve Scenario #1 and Alderwoman Smith seconded it. There was no further discussion. The motion to approve passed 7-0.

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There was no further discussion. The meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 13th day of November, 2018

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett