

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
July 22, 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: June 24, 2025

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on June 24, 2025, as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion 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 July 22, 2025 City Council Agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive all three readings for the ordinances on the July 22, 2025 agenda and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

2. Resolution to approve a public hearing to close a drainage easement at 1500 South Amity Rd.

R-25-27

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. Planning Director Anne Tucker explained to the Council the location of the easement and said that all utilities have signed off on the request. Mayor Castleberry told the Council that the regular schedule of meetings would resume and that the next City Council meeting would take place on August 12. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution was passed 8-0.

3. Ordinance to appropriate funding for tornado siren replacement and repair for the Transportation Department.

O-25-56

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. Jacob Reynolds told the Council that a lightning strike had destroyed the tornado siren behind the fire station on Salem Road, and they had American Signal Company assess the damage and determined that it would have to be replaced. He said that the cost for the new siren was about \$30,000 and the appropriation included funds to upgrade and repair other sirens. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

4. Consideration to approve a conditional use permit to allow School Facilities in the I-3 zone for property located at 225 Tilk Rd.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council. Anne Tucker said that the Planning Commission approved the request unanimously and voted to forward to the City Council. She explained that the applicant, Compass Academy, to construct 16 classrooms with room for expansion. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to approve the consideration, and Councilman Hawkins seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 8-0.

Judge Chuck Clawson addressed the Council regarding the Faulkner County Drug Court and their efforts to battle addiction in our community.

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

1. Resolution to approve applying for funding for the Summerlee Sustainable Solutions Grant Program from the United Spay Alliance for Conway Animal Services.

R-25-28

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Spencer Clawson, Director of Public Works, told the Council that this grant would be for between \$4,000 and \$8,000 and would provide some peer learning and mentorship. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Spurgers seconded the motion. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

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

This item was pulled from the agenda at the request of Spencer Clawson.

3. Resolution to approve applying for the Arkansas Community Assistance Grant funds for the Parks & Recreation Department.

R-25-29

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B4 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council that this grant was specifically for the Rodeo Arena. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 8-0.

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

1. Ordinance appropriating donation funds for the Conway Fire Department.

O-25-57

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Chief Winter asked the Council to approve the appropriation of a grant from Centennial Bank for fire prevention materials. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. 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.

2. Ordinance appropriating asset forfeiture funds for the replacement of the HVAC unit and generator for the Conway Police Department.

O-25-58

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that the air conditioning unit has failed on the Field Force Bus and is not repairable. He said that the

appropriation included funds for the new unit and a generator for the unit. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Jones 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. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

3. Ordinance appropriating funds for the purchase of computer equipment for the Conway Police Department.

O-25-59

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C3 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that the department had 19 vehicles to update computer equipment in. He added that it was necessary to upgrade the rocket modems as well. 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 Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Hawks. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

4. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds for the Conway Police Department.

O-25-60

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C4 to the Council. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Jones seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

D. Finance

1. Ordinance to appropriate funds for salary adjustments for the Conway Fire Department.

O-25-61

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D1 to the Council. Councilman Grimes went over the salary scales that were presented at the last meeting reminding them that they were presented with four options and Option #4 was chosen, which is what is outlined in the Ordinance. He stated that at time the Council adopted the new structure, added two new positions and provided that all positions except Firefighter Basic and Firefighter General received a 2% increase. The incentives for education, certificates and language were adopted but not longevity. He told them that the total for those increases came to about \$320,000, to be made effective mid-year with the actual date being June 28 which is the beginning of a pay cycle. He added that half a year is \$160,000 which is reflected in this Ordinance to amend the general fund budget. He added that with this Ordinance, 63 personnel received 3% or more increase, 21 personnel received 6% or more, and the highest increase is 8.4%. Councilman Jones 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, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawks, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 8-0.

2. Ordinance to authorize a change for bilingual incentive for the Conway Police Department.

O-25-62

Mayor Castleberry presented Item D2 to the Council. Councilman Grimes made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk

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called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Spurgers. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 8-0.

Councilman Grimes presented the Council with information from the Salary Committee regarding the future goals for adjustments within the Fire Department, and comparisons to the City of North Little Rock.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 22nd day of July 2025

APPROVED:

Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd