

**Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
September 2, 2025**

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

On this date the City Council of the City of Conway, Arkansas met in special session. The following members being a quorum were present and acting: Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, and City Clerk Denise Hurd. Councilman Grimes was absent.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

A. New Business

O-25-70

AN ORDINANCE CALLING AND SETTING A DATE FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE ISSUANCE BY THE CITY OF SALES AND USE TAX CAPITAL IMPROVE-MENT BONDS FOR VARIOUS SPECIFIED PURPOSES AND LEVYING LOCAL SALES AND USE TAXES FOR VARIOUS SPECIFIED PURPOSES; LEVYING A LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX AT THE RATE OF THREE-EIGHTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.375%) FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIRING SUCH BONDS; LEVYING A ONE-QUARTER OF ONE PERCENT (0.250%) LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX FOR PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; LEVYING A ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PERCENT (0.125%) LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX FOR STREETS AND DRAINAGE AND RELATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Castleberry addressed the Council and opened the meeting. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive the three readings of the Ordinance. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Castleberry allowed a 10-minute pause to allow everyone present to read through the Ordinance. Copies were provided to all in attendance.

Councilman Jones made a comment that at the last meeting of the Council it had been discussed that the order of the questions in the ordinance and on the ballot be listed with the Public Safety and Streets and Drainage questions ahead of the special projects. There was discussion among the Council, and it was agreed that they desired the questions to be re-ordered in that manner. Gordon Wilbourn, bond counsel, made the changes to the Ordinance as stated. Councilwoman Mehl asked if any of the bonded projects came in over the not-to-exceed dollar amounts stated in the Ordinance, what would happen, and could the City at that point choose not to continue the project. Mr. Wilbourn answered that this action is only authorizing the bonds, there is no obligation to issue them. Councilman Spurgers confirmed that the figures stated were based on careful research and not just estimates. Councilman Hawkins asked who verified the numbers for construction of the projects. Jamie Gates explained that the projects have many phases, and that construction figures were provided by the engineers and design firms. He said that normal procedure is to establish scope and having a not-to-exceed number, you

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build to the dollar amount. He added that there have been conversations with partner agencies regarding funding, etc. He added that if the scope of a project exceeds the dollar amount, we would build to that amount and go years and phases into the future. He said that there have been designs and soft bids on some of the projects already and confidence in the projected numbers is high. He said that all of the projects would also go through public procurement processes. There was further discussion regarding how the cost amounts were arrived at, such as comparing similar projects, and talking to prospective third-party providers, etc. Councilwoman Mehl confirmed that the figures also included all bond-related costs. Mr. Wilbourn stated that the bonds issued would mature and be paid off in 25 years. Councilman Hawkins confirmed that the Public Safety and Streets and Drainage tax were perpetual. Bond counsel clarified that the maturity would actually be 30 years, but the payoff would be less based on the surplus tax. He added that all the surplus tax goes to pay off the debt so if the tax grows, it is paid off faster, and if the tax slows it will take longer.

Councilman Hawkins read the Ordinance title.

Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion.

Councilman Hawkins read the Ordinance by title a second time. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it.

Councilman Hawkins read the Ordinance by title a third time. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilman Hawkins seconded the motion. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 2nd day of September, 2025

APPROVED: _____
Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd