

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
March 10, 2026

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, 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 Spurgers and Councilman Ledbetter were not present.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: February 24th, 2026

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on February 24th as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

A. Public Hearing

1. Discussion of an Ordinance to close a portion of Bruce Street between Farris Street and Western Avenue.

Mayor Castleberry opened the Public Hearing. There was no one present to speak for or against the matter. Mayor Castleberry declared the public hearing closed.

Report of Standing Committees:

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 March 10th, 2026 City Council agenda.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B1. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 6-0.

2. Ordinance to approve closing a portion of Bruce Street between Farris Street and Western Avenue for the University of Central Arkansas.

O-26-12

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B2 to the Council. Mayor Castleberry read the following statement to the Council: *The proposed route for the Connect Conway project follows the Bruce Street corridor between Donaghey Avenue and Farris Road. This route was selected early in the project before the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) announced plans for a new multi-purpose sports arena in the area. The proposed facility would require the closure of a section of Bruce Street.*

Due to the planned location of the new arena and the anticipated construction sequencing, it is advantageous to postpone the final design and construction of the trail segment located within the footprint of the proposed facility. UCA has agreed to collaborate with the City of Conway during the development of the site plan for the arena and surrounding area to incorporate the final connection of the Connect Conway Trail along the corridor into the center's overall site design. He added that after meeting with Chief Winter and UCA, both were interested in the possibility of moving Fire Station #4 to this new facility. Amy Whitehead with UCA confirmed that the earliest the street would be closed would be January of 2027. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye":

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Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

3. Ordinance to approve the updated 2026 Permit Fee Schedule for Permits and Inspections Department. (Previously held in committee on February 24th, 2026)

O-26-13

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council. Cecil Corning addressed the Council going over the changes to the fee schedule, stating that new construction, additions, remodeling and accessory structures for both residential and commercial will remain the same. The MEP’s (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) will change. He added that currently, the sub permits are based on a percentage of the building permit fee. 47% of the residential building permit fee and 35% of the commercial building permit fee. He said that with this change, the fee schedule will be based on square footage.

- Residential MEP’s 0.054 per square foot.
- Commercial MEP’s 0.0687 per square foot.

Councilman Jones 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 Grimes, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Hawks, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

4. Consideration to remove a vehicle from inventory for the City Attorney’s Office.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B4 to the Council. City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder confirmed that the vehicle is a 2009 Ford Escape. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the removal and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 6-0.

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

1. Ordinance accepting and appropriating grant funding from the Best Friends Animal Society for the Conway Animal Services.

O-26-14

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Spencer Clawson told the Council that this \$5,000 is the last draw on the \$20,000 grant from the Best Friends Animal Society. He said that this grant money had helped to establish the Department’s community cat and kitten intake diversion program, which has been very successful. 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 Hawks, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 6-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 10th day of March, 2026

APPROVED:

Mayor, Bart Castleberry

City Clerk, Denise Hurd