

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
April 14, 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, 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 not present.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk

Minutes: March 24th, 2026

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on March 24th as submitted. Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

A. Public Hearing

1. Public hearing on the 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan & 2026 Action Plan for the Community Development Department.

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. Economic Development Committee: (Conway Area Chamber of Commerce, Conway Development Corporation, Conway Downtown Partnership, & Conway Corporation)

1. Resolution authorizing the execution of agreements in conjunction with the replacement of Independence Steam Electric for Conway Corporation.

R-26-11

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Jason Carter, Attorney with the Municipal League, reminded the Council of the meetings and discussions regarding this matter last year, and said that there is now an opportunity to expand our interest from 4% to 4.095%, adding that the agreement is efficient and affordable. City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder clarified that in the agreement, Oceola remains responsible for the old plant. Mr. Carter confirmed that all rights and obligations with the existing coal plant remain with Oceola, which includes both the cost of demolition and environmental remediation. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

C. 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 April 14th, 2026 City Council agenda.

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

2. Consideration to approve the nominations to the Conway Civil Service Commission.

Councilman Hawkins presented the nominations of Mark Vaught and Susan Wilson to serve a six-year term on the Conway Civil Service Commission and made a motion to approve the nominations. Councilman Spurgers seconded the motion to approve. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

3. Resolution setting a public hearing to discuss the vacating of the right-of-way for the unimproved street to the west of Sherwood Lane.

R-26-12

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C3 to the Council. Anne Tucker showed the Council a plan of the lots that Mr. Hal Crafton has purchased that included an unimproved street that he would like to have closed in order to create access to the property elsewhere. Councilman Hawkins stated that the public hearing would take place on April 28th, at 6:00 pm. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution was adopted 7-0.

4. Resolution to approve the submittal of the 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan & Action Plan for the Community Development Department.

R-26-13

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C4 to the Council. Shawanna Rodgers said that the plans would be submitted to HUD after the 30 comment period. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution was adopted 7-0.

5. Resolution approving the Conway Housing Rehabilitation and Small Business Grants programs for the Community Development Department.

R-26-14

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C5 to the Council. Shawanna Rodgers told the Council this Resolution would approve and allow those programs to begin on July 1, 2026. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution was adopted 7-0.

6. Ordinance approving the private club permit location for RallyX Hospitality, LLC, dba: Crush Yard at 565 Front Street.

O-26-22

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C6 to the Council. The applicant Zach Saxion was present to represent Crush Yard. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Hawks seconded the motion. 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.

7. Ordinance approving the private club permit location for RCC Conway, LLC, dba: Rotolo's Craft & Crust at 2555 Prince Street.

O-26-23

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C7 to the Council. Matthew Brown was present to represent the applicant. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Spurgers 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.

8. Resolution to approve the low bid and enter into an agreement for the Court Street Alleyway Project.

R-26-15

Councilman Hawkins presented Item C8 to the Council. Kurt Jones told the Council that this is the alleyway that runs between Main and Oak Streets, and between Court and Chestnut Streets. He said that the plan is to create park-like amenities in the area with vehicle as well as pedestrian access. He added that one of the improvements is a plan to consolidate trash services in the alleyway with a trash compactor for use by the businesses that share the space. He told the Council that the low bidder on the project was Fureigh Heavy Construction at \$1,690,042.27. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the low bid from Fureigh Heavy Construction and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

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

1. Consideration to remove and dispose of inventory (boat and vehicle) for Conway Parks & Recreation.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item D1 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council that the items were no longer in use and asked that they be removed from inventory. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the removal of the items and Councilman Hawks seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

2. Resolution to approve the submission of the TAP/RTP grant for Conway Parks & Recreation.

R-26-16

Councilman Hawkins presented Item D2 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council that the grant is for Laurel Park to improve the trail around the park that is crushed gravel and replace it with a 10' paved path around the park. He added that this is an 80/20% match with an investment of \$25,000 by the City, which would come from A&P revenue. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 7-0.

3. Resolution to approve the City to enter into an agreement for the Don Owens Sports Complex Renovation Project for Conway Parks & Recreation.

R-26-17

Councilman Hawkins presented Item D3 to the Council. Andrew Thames told the Council that there was an RFP sent out which drew a lot of interest in the project. He added that H&N Architects had been selected and asked for approval for the agreement with them, to produce drawings and plans for the concession stands, restrooms, storage areas, dugouts and all of the main complex, excluding the fields. He said that they expected the design phase to move quickly and construction to begin in the fall. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving entering into an agreement with H&N Architects and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

E. Public Safety Committee (Police, Fire, CEOC, District Court, & Information Technology)

1. Ordinance to appropriate funding for office furniture for District Court.

O-26-24

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E1 to the Council. He told the Council that the City Attorney's Office had relocated to the new Transportation Department building, and the space was offered to the District Court Judges. Judge David Hogue addressed the Council asking for \$25,000 to be

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approved for furnishings for the offices. 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 Hawks, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Consideration to remove from inventory (computers) for the Conway Police Department

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E2 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that the computers were obsolete or broken. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the consideration for removal and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

3. Consideration to remove inventory (K9 Chase) for the Conway Police Department.

Mayor Castleberry presented Item E3 to the Council. Chief Harris told the Council that K9 Chase was nine years old and has had some health issues and recommended that he be removed to live out his years with his handler. Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve the consideration to retire K9 Officer Chase and Councilman Hawks seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion carried 7-0.

4. Ordinance authorizing personnel changes within the Conway Fire Department.

O-26-25


Mayor Castleberry presented Item E4 to the Council. Chief Weidower addressed the Council saying that there was a need to reclassify the Captain's position to a Battalion Chief to add another level of promotion. He added that there would be no impact to this year's budget. 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 Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawks, Councilman Spurgers, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 14th day of April, 2026



City Clerk, Denise Hurd

APPROVED:


Mayor, Bart Castleberry