

# MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas  
Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
February 24, 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 Grimes, Councilman Spurgers, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Hawks. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Denise Hurd, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby were not present.

**Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry**

**Roll Call: Denise Hurd, City Clerk**

**Minutes: February 10, 2026**

Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> as submitted. Councilman Spurgers seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

**Monthly Financial Report: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and January 31, 2026**

Tyler Wunningham addressed the Council stating that for December, we just missed the budgeted amount for sales tax, but not to an amount that was severely detrimental. He added that we exceeded budgeted numbers on property tax, turnback, beverage tax, franchise fees, and parks revenue, with the actual over budget revenue number at \$561,000 for the year. He stated that some of the departments appeared to have overspent their budget, but he explained in detail the circumstances that created that appearance, including several coding errors. He said that overall, our results were favorable for the year with 12.7 million in operating cash at the end of the year, and the true reserve has maintained its 2 million dollar balance. Mr. Wunningham stated that the Street Fund came in over budget in revenues by \$411,000, but there was some adjusting to do because of the grant money for the Connect Conway project. He added that the Street Fund balance at the end of the year was 5.9 million dollars in operating cash, which was able to build back up since the purchase of the Conway Corp property. He said that the Sanitation's budget results were favorable for the year as well, with 111% of the budget in revenues and 79% of the budget spent. He went over some of the details of the Sanitation budget with the Council stating that the Sanitation fund ended the year with 15.7 million in operating cash. Mr. Wunningham reported to the Council that the Airport had the highest fuel sales ever in 2025 and ended the year with \$407,000 in operating cash. In reporting on January 2026, he stated that compared to the budget numbers in the report compared to the budget that was passed, there were some differences, due to the revenue section of the passed budget having a \$600,000 fund balance appropriation for operations at the Community Center which is not reflected in the January budget report. Also, in the expenditure section, he said that there are purchases every year at the end of the year, but the invoices are not received and paid until January and sometimes February. He said that these factors caused the change in the expenditure budget. He reported that January sales tax was up 3.8%. He said that the bottom line would look better except that there were three payrolls in January. He added that the Transportation Department purchased a new street sweeper which affected the numbers in the Street fund. He said that the Sanitation and Airport funds were off to a typical start. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to approve the Financial Report and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The motion carried 5-0.

**Report of Standing Committees:**

- A. Community Development Committee (Airport, Community Development, Code Enforcement, Permits & Inspections, Transportation, & Planning & Development.**

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1. **Consideration to approve waiving all three readings for the ordinances on the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, City Council agenda.**

No action taken.

2. **Resolution setting a public hearing to discuss vacating a portion of Bruce Street for the University of Central Arkansas.**

### R-26-06

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A2 to the Council, setting the public hearing for March 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm. Councilman Ledbetter made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 5-0.

3. **Ordinance to approve the updated 2026 Permit Fee Schedule for the Permits & Inspections Department.**

Mayor Castleberry asked that this item be held in committee until the March 10, 2026 City Council meeting. Councilman Grimes made a motion to hold in committee, and Councilwoman Mehl seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

4. **Resolution to approve the bid and enter into an agreement for the Oak St & East German Lane Intersection Improvement project for the Conway Transportation Department.**

### R-26-07

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A4 to the Council. Kurt Jones addressed the Council stating that this is one of the projects that came from the Oak Street Ahead Study. He said that a dedicated right turn lane in both northbound and southbound E German Lane would be constructed, including all new signal equipment. He said that the City has acquired all of the rights-of-way needed and utility relocations have been completed. He stated that according to the Oak Street Ahead Study this action will improve that intersection by 70% and is the first step to relieving some of the traffic congestion in that area. Councilman Grimes asked what the timeline was for project and Mr. Jones said that it is estimated to take about 150 days. He told the Council there were two bidders, with the low bidder being HardRock Construction in the amount of \$928,391.40. He added that the engineer's estimate was 1.3 million, so this bid was well under that estimate. He asked the Council to approve awarding the bid to HardRock Construction for the project. Councilman Spurgers made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called and the Resolution passed 5-0.

5. **Consideration to approve a conditional use permit request to allow up to twelve (12) dwelling units per acre in the R-2 zone for property located at 3 Susan Lane.**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A5 to the Council. Anne Tucker told the Council that it wasn't clear exactly how many units would fit on the property after site development review, which is why it is stated "up to" 12 units per acre which is allowed in an R-2 zone with a conditional use permit. Councilman Grimes made a motion to approve the conditional use permit and Councilman Hawks seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 5-1, with Councilman Ledbetter voting "No", and Mayor Castleberry voting in favor of the Resolution.

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

1. **Resolution approving the submittal of a grant to AARP for the Parks & Recreation Department.**

No action taken.

### C. Finance:

1. **Consideration to destroy obsolete records for the Finance Department.**

No action taken.

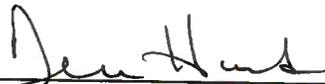
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Bart Castleberry

  
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City Clerk, Denise Hurd