
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:00 pm
March 9, 2021

On this date the City Council of the City of Conway, Arkansas met in regular session. ***Due to restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Council meeting was held via Facebook Live on the City of Conway, Arkansas Facebook page, and the City of Conway YouTube channel.*** The following members being a quorum were present and acting: Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Pruitt, and Councilwoman Smith. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett, City Clerk

Minutes: February 23, 2021

Councilwoman Isby motioned to approve the **February 23, 2021** minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 8-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

A. Community Development Committee (Airport, Community Development, Planning & Development, Permits & Inspection (Code Enforcement), Historic District, Transportation)

1. Resolution to modify the professional service agreement for the Markham Square Water Quality Demonstration Project for the Transportation Department.

R-21-13

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A1 to the Council. Finley Vinson told the Council that the original agreement was for engineering services for the park only, but did not include playground equipment, decks, etc. He said that the funds for this modification to include those items is in the budget and this Resolution allows the department to go forward with that work. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the Resolution and Councilman Pruitt seconded it. The Resolution was passed 8-0.

2. Resolution to approve professional engineering services for improvements to Mayor Lane for the Transportation Department.

R-21-14

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. Finley Vinson told the Council that this is an agreement for the surveying and hydrologic study and preliminary engineering for this project. Mayor Castleberry added that there is a company that is possibly coming to Conway and will build on property at Lewis Crossing which will require that Mayor lane be re-routed. Councilwoman Isby moved to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The Resolution passed 8-0.

3. Resolutions authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreements to acquire various properties for the Salem and Tyler Roundabout Project for the Transportation Department.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. Charles Finkenbinder read the Resolution items to the Council.

R-21-15

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to acquire property at 1700 Royal Drive in the amount of \$29,000 for the Salem and Tyler Roundabout Project for the Transportation Dept. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Resolution passed 8-0.

R-21-16

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to acquire property at 1705 Drury Lane for the Salem and Tyler Roundabout Project for the Transportation Dept. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Resolution passed 8-0.

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R-21-17

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to acquire property at 1560 Haley Lane in the amount of \$19,633 for the Salem and Tyler Roundabout Project for the Transportation Dept. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Resolution passed 8-0.

R-21-18

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to acquire property at 2905 Baxter Lane in the amount of \$4,800 for the Salem and Tyler Roundabout Project for the Transportation Dept. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Resolution passed 8-0.

Mayor Castleberry asked the Council to suspend the rules to add to the agenda a Resolution approving and authorizing condemnation proceedings regarding Tract 4, Salem and Tyler Roundabout Project if necessary. Councilwoman Smith moved to suspend the rules and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 8-0.

R-21-19

Resolution authorizing the City Attorney to seek condemnation by eminent domain proceedings, if necessary, for property at 2905 Baxter Lane for the Salem and Tyler Roundabout Project for the Transportation Dept. City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder added that this action could be necessary due to the deadlines involved with the Transportation Department and Conway Corporation. Councilwoman Smith moved to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Resolution passed 8-0.

R-21-20

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to acquire property at 8 Valley Cove in the amount of \$7,500 for the Salem and Tyler Roundabout Project for the Transportation Dept. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The Resolution passed 8-0.

B. Public Safety Committee (District Court, Department of Information Systems & Technology, Animal Welfare, CEOC (Communication Emergency Operations Center), Police, Fire, and Office of the City Attorney)

1. Ordinance appropriating funds for the purchase of firefighter protective clothing for the Fire Department.

O-21-30

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Chief Mike Winter addressed the Council asking for acceptance of a donation from Walmart Corporation. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 8-0. 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, Councilman Pruitt, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 8-0.

2. Consideration to approve the retirement of K9 Chip for the Police Department.

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Chief Tapley addressed the Council stating that K9 Chip has been with the department since 2014, predominantly as a school dog at Conway Junior High. He said he is starting to have some performance and health issues that necessitate his retirement from the force. Councilman Grimes asked if K9 Chip would be replaced and Chief Tapley stated that they were working with an organization to secure a donation for a replacement in the future. Councilwoman Smith moved to approve the consideration and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The consideration to approve passed 8-0.

3. Ordinance authorizing the restructuring and the addition, revision or classification of certain titles and salaries for the Conway Police Department Emergency Operations Center.

O-21-31

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Chief Tapley said that there has been issues over staffing and he felt that this restructuring would help retain employees and recruit new employees,

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making Conway a safer City for citizens. Mayor Castleberry and several Council Members commended the staff of the CEOC for their dedication and hard work. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 8-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Pruitt. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0 (Councilwoman Smith not present)

C. New Business

1. Consideration to approve the strategic plan for the City of Conway.

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council stating that this a road map for the City of Conway and was guided by citizen and department input. It lays out the necessary path of the City for the next five years. It includes addressing the areas of focus that were identified in our citizen survey, and it centered on four key areas: vibrant community, infrastructure, public safety, and organizational excellence. He said that key findings revealed that 83% feel they have a high quality of life in Conway, 72% think we are heading in the right direction, 74% feel safe in Conway, and 71% say that we have good customer service. He added that the primary areas of concern for improvement were storm drainage and street repair. He touched on highlights of the survey areas of focus. Councilwoman Mehl stated that she was pleased with the survey and suggested that the Council come together more frequently to work on these areas of focus. Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Pruitt and Councilman Jones agreed that Council should meet to discuss and work on these topics. Mayor Castleberry added that these would be public meetings and would be advertised to the public. Councilwoman Mehl made a motion to approve the strategic plan as written and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. (Councilwoman Smith not present).

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 9th day of March 2021

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett