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

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Conway, Arkansas  
Tuesday, 6:00 pm  
March 26, 2024

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, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Webb, Councilman Jones, and Councilwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Charles Finkenbinder. Councilman Cummins was absent.

**Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry**

**Roll Call: Michael Garrett, City Clerk**

**Minutes: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, City Council Meeting**

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 7-0.

**Monthly Financial Report ending February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Tyler Winningham addressed the Council stating that sales tax revenue in February was up 9%. He added that revenues are steady, and spending was relatively low with the spending freeze still in effect in February. He said that there was a new line item for street cuts in the Street Fund which was not budgeted because it is a new revenue item. He explained that there was a change in the way the turnback funds were presented in January which made the January numbers appear low. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financials and councilwoman Webb seconded it. A vote was called and the motion to approve carried 7-0.

**Report of Standing Committees:**

**A. 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 26, 2024, City Council agenda.**

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the consideration to waive all three readings for all ordinances on the March 26, 2024, agenda and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the motion carried 7-0.

**2. Consideration to approve the nomination of Ateca Foreman to the Conway Housing Authority Board.**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council stating that she will fill a vacancy on the Board with her term expiring April 2028. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the nomination and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The motion carried 7-0.

**3. Resolution to approve a vehicle purchase for the Permits & Inspections Department.**

**R-24-15**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. Mayor Castleberry told the Council that the purchase had been approved in the budget but that the Department was purchasing the vehicle outside of state contract. Cecil Corning told the Council he was requesting approval for disposal of a 2017 Jeep Renegade with the funds being used to offset the purchase of a new vehicle for the Permits & Inspections Department. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Webb seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

**4. Resolution to approve consulting and engineering services for the Court Street Alley Improvement project for the Transportation Department.**

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**R-24-16**

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council. Jacob Reynolds of the Transportation Department told the Council that the building had been taken down in preparation for the project, which would include turf grass, canopy for shade and sitting areas. He added that the project would begin after the drainage project is complete. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. A vote was called, and the Resolution passed 7-0.

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

**1. Ordinance appropriating donation funds for the Conway Fire Department.**

**O-24-22**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Chief Mike Winter told the Council that they had received a \$250 donation check to purchase a saw blade for a vent saw. 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 Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Webb, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Grimes. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

**2. Ordinance appropriating grant funds for the Homeland Security Grant Program for the Conway Fire Department.**

**O-24-23**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B2 to the Council. Chief Winter told the Council they had received two grants for just over \$378,000 that were 100% reimbursable and asked to waive the competitive bid process to go with the sole provider to use \$30,000 to upgrade the ammo burner. 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 Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Webb, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

**3. Ordinance appropriating funds for the finance agreement of a rescue pumper unit for the Conway Fire Department.**

**O-24-24**

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B3 to the Council. Chief Winter asked the Council for appropriation of \$128,525 to complete payment for the two engines that are on order. Mayor Castleberry explained that while the purchases were budgeted there was a slight oversight, and this is an accounting ordinance to correct that. 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": Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, and Councilwoman Webb. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

**Adjournment-----**

*PASSED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024*

**APPROVED:**

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**Mayor Bart Castleberry**

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**City Clerk Michael O. Garrett**