
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:30 pm
July 28, 2020

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, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Grimes and Councilwoman Smith. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett and Deputy City Attorney Chuck Clawson. Councilman Pruitt was not present.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett, City Clerk

Minutes: July 14, 2020

Councilwoman Isby motioned to approve the **July 14, 2020** minutes as submitted. Councilman Hawkins seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the monthly financial report ending June 30, 2020

Councilwoman Isby made a motion to approve the monthly financials submitted by Tyler Winningham, Chief Financial Officer, and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The motion to approve carried 7-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

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

1. Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of wastewater revenue refunding bonds for Conway Corporation.

O-20-38

Mayor Castleberry presented Item A1 to the Council. Gordon Wilbourn, with Kutak Rock, Brett Carroll, Conway Corporation, and Leigh Ann Biernat, with Stephens were present to address the Council. Mr. Carroll explained that the refunding will save Conway Corp and its customers over \$368,000 over the life of the bonds. He added that they have had many successful transactions with Stephens, and Kutak Rock working as bond counsel. Ms. Biernat stated that she understands the strains on the wastewater system and the need to save money, adding that over the last eleven weeks inflows in the municipal bond market. She said that the approach on this transaction was in the form of a private placement with invitation to bid extended to over 17 banks, 14 of those with presence in Conway, with five responses received. The winning bid (lowest yields) was Regions Equipment Finance Corporation. Gordon Wilbourn added that the interest rate was 1.69% and goes out to October 2029. There was no further discussion. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance with the emergency clause and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Ledbetter and Councilwoman Isby. The Ordinance with the emergency clause passed 7-0.

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

1. Consideration to approve the nomination of Claire Carter Smithson to the Conway Tree Board.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B1 to the Council and motioned to approve the nomination. Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The motion carried 7-0.

2. Consideration to approve the nomination of Danny Patel to the Advertising & Promotion Commission.

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B6 explaining that Mr. Patel has been on the Commission for several years and that this was a nomination for second term. He motioned to approve the nomination. Councilwoman Isby seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried 7-0.

3. Ordinance to rezone property located at 1165 Bob Courtway Drive from R-1 to O-1.

O-20-39

Councilman Hawkins presented Item B3 to the Council stating that this item was reviewed by the Planning Commission at their meeting on July 20, and was voted 10-0 to forward to the City Council with the recommendation for approval. He made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. James Walden addressed the Council stating that this property is located behind and south of properties that are already zoned O-1. He added that the developer intended to build an office building on the property. He said that the Planning Commission did receive some concerns from adjacent property owners but those concerns were addressed by the Commission. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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

1. Ordinance appropriating asset forfeiture funds to purchase equipment for the Conway Police Department.

O-20-40

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Major Chris Harris was present to address the Council. He told the Council the Department was seeking to purchase body camera mounts for their present body cameras that are stronger than what they have now. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Mehl and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Ordinance appropriating funds to purchase fire safety promotional equipment for the Conway Fire Department.

O-20-41

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Chief Winter addressed the Council asking for acceptance of a \$5000 check from Centennial Bank to purchase annual Fire Prevention materials. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Ledbetter and Councilman Hawkins. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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3. Ordinance waiving the competitive bid process to purchase equipment for the Conway Fire Department.

O-20-42

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C3 to the Council. Chief Winter addressed the Council stating that to complete their Federal grant from 2019 they are asking to purchase Scott paks with face pieces and 4500 psi carbon cylinders, and to waive the competitive requirement to purchase these items from EVS as they are the sole source vendor for the items. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Smith and Councilwoman Mehl. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 28th day of July, 2020

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett