

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

Conway, Arkansas
Tuesday, 6:30 pm
September 8, 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 online and acting: Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Jones, Councilwoman Isby and Councilman Ledbetter. Also, present and acting: Mayor Bart Castleberry, City Clerk Michael Garrett and City Attorney Chuck Clawson. Councilman Pruitt was not in attendance.

Call to Order: Mayor Bart Castleberry

Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett, City Clerk

Minutes: August 25, 2020

Councilwoman Isby motioned to approve the **August 25, 2020** minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

Report of Standing Committees:

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

1. Ordinance accepting funding from the CARES ACT 2020 for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

O-20-48

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A1 to the Council. Kiera Oluokun addressed the Council and gave an update on the emergency shelter that was purchased in 2019. She said that on Friday, September 11, RFQ would be published, seeking architects to design the structure. She reported that the City has received \$269,734 from the CARES ACT funding which is to combat financial burden due to COVID-19. She reported that \$169,000 would be used for small business emergency grants and the remaining \$100,000 would be used for rental and utility assistance. She added that the applications for the small business grants were published on September 11 and will open until October 9, and the rental and utility assistance will run until the funds are depleted. 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 Councilwoman Mehl seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Jones, Councilman Grimes and Councilman Ledbetter. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

2. Ordinance accepting funding for the Program Year 2020 for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

O-20-49

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A2 to the Council. Kiera Oluokun told the Council that this is the annual funding received from HUD. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilman Jones seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Ledbetter and Councilwoman Smith. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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3. Resolution approving entering into an agreement with Historic Research Associates for an African American history context study.

R-20-68

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A3 to the Council. James Walden addressed the Council stating that this project is made possible through the annual grant from Arkansas Historic Preservation Program/National Park Service. He said that RFQs were published for an Architectural Historian to conduct a context survey for African American history in the community. Two responses were received and in reviewing them the committee felt that Historic Research Associates was the best fit. He added that the funding for this project would not require any City matching but would be totally funded by the grant from AHPP. Councilman Hawkins asked Mr. Walden what the cost of the program would be. Mr. Walden stated that the grant funds available was \$7500. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The Resolution passed 7-0.

4. Ordinance accepting the annexation of certain lands comprised of +/- 30 acres located west of Harbelle Drive.

O-20-50

Councilman Hawkins presented Item A4 to the Council stating that this was reviewed by the Planning Commission in July and voted 8-0 to forward to City Council with a recommendation for approval. He added that the owner of the property was seeking to develop 15 single family homes. 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 Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Hawkins, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Isby, Councilman Ledbetter, and Councilman Jones. The Ordinance passed 7-0.

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

1. Ordinance authorizing additional positions within the Conway Parks & Recreation Department.

O-20-51

Mayor Castleberry presented Item B1 to the Council. Steve Ibbotson, Director of Parks and Recreation addressed the Council stating that the Department was seeking to move several part-time positions into full time Groundskeepers and a Monitor positions. He added that this would not create an increase in the budget for the Department this year. Councilwoman Isby made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Smith seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilman Hawkins asked Mr. Ibbotson if his Department has received good response at the ball fields. Mr. Ibbotson replied that there has been good response since the Health Department had allowed activity at the fields. He added that the Expo Center is still having events even though there have been one or two cancellations. Mayor Castleberry added that the State Health Department has been helpful in working with the City in order to have these events. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The Clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Councilman Ledbetter, Councilman Grimes, Councilwoman Mehl, Councilwoman Smith, Councilman Jones, Councilman Hawkins, Councilwoman Isby.

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. Consideration to dispose of certain properties/inventory for the Conway Police Department.

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C1 to the Council. Chief Tapley addressed the Council requesting disposal of inventory items no longer used by the Department. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to approve the request and Councilman Ledbetter seconded it. The motion to approve passed 7-0.

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2. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds for the Conway Animal Welfare Unit.

O-20-52

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C2 to the Council. Chief Tapley told the Council that these are funds that were received when the awning in front of the building was damaged. He said the damage was paid for up front and was reimbursed by Air Methods Insurance company in the amount of \$4080. Councilwoman Smith made a motion to waive the three readings and Councilwoman Isby seconded it. The motion carried 7-0. Councilman Jones made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilman Ledbetter 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 passed 7-0.

3. Ordinance appropriating reimbursement funds from various entities for the Conway Police Department.

O-20-53

Mayor Castleberry presented Item C3 to the Council. Chief Tapley told the Council that these are funds such as extra duty and insurance proceeds. He added that there were donations included from Arkansas Community Foundation, Nabholtz, Walmart and Walgreens that were used for Police initiatives such as the fan drive, Coats and Cops and the Child Safety Fair. 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 Councilwoman Isby 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.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment-----

PASSED this 8th day of September 2020

APPROVED:

Mayor Bart Castleberry

City Clerk Michael O. Garrett