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MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS

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Conway, Arkansas  
Tuesday 6:30 pm  
October 11, 2016

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: Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderman Pruitt, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Jones, and Alderwoman Isby. Also, present and acting: Mayor Townsell, City Clerk Michael Garrett, and City Attorney Chuck Clawson. Alderwoman Mehl was not in attendance.

**Call to Order: Mayor Tab Townsell**

**Roll Call: Michael O. Garrett**

**Minutes: September 27, 2016 City Council Meeting**

Alderwoman Smith motioned to approve the September 27, 2016 minutes as submitted. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

**1. Report of Standing Committees:**

**A. Community Development Committee (Airport, Planning & Development, Street & Engineering, Permits & Inspections, Code Enforcement, & Community Development)**

**1. Resolutions requesting the Faulkner County Tax Collector place certified liens on certain properties as a result of incurred expenses by the City.**

**R-16-41**

Alderman Hawkins stated the address is 2116 Prince Street and the cost of cleanup was \$163.64 (\$121.49 + Penalty \$12.15 + filing fee \$30.00). There was no one present to speak to this issue. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

**R-16-42**

Alderman Hawkins stated the address is 4 Gwen Lane and the cost of cleanup was \$180.44 (\$136.77 + Penalty \$13.67 + filing fee \$30.00). There was no one present to speak to this issue. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

**R-16-43**

Alderman Hawkins stated the address is 516 First Ave. and the cost of cleanup was \$180.44 (\$136.77 + Penalty \$13.67 + filing fee \$30.00). There was no one present to speak to this issue. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

**2. Consideration to approve the bid for Siebenmorgen Half Road Improvements for the Community Development Department.**

Scott Grummer, Planning Dept., stated this bid is part of an ongoing project which includes constructing a sidewalk that will run the on the south side of Siebenmorgen from Ingram to Harkrider and, to construct culverts between the blocks of Hamilton to Lincoln. Mr. Grummer stated the low bidder has come in approximately \$30,000.00 under budget and recommended council approve the low bid from Craig Custom Construction in the amount of \$361,272.00. Alderwoman Smith motioned to approve the low bidder. Alderman Jones seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

**3. Consideration to bid the 2016 and 2017 overlay projects for the Street & Engineering Department.**

Finley Vinson, City Engineer, stated organizing two separate contractors to both paving and the overlay was difficult, but it was worth it because they were able to mill more quickly than we can; the street superintendent has suggested we continue this process, but if we do bid this out we presumed that the contractor that does the overly would be the low bidder for the milling, but this did not prove to be the case, which is why the scheduling was so difficult. Mr. Vinson proposed that we wait until next year for the majority of the overlay projects we have scheduled for this year and bid all the 2016 and 2017 projects very early next year. Mr. Vinson stated he cannot guarantee that the work will be done early next year, but we can go ahead and bid it and allow the contractors to do it as soon as they can. Mr. Vinson stated the advantages of lumping all the projects together is we will hopefully get a better price. After some discussion Alderwoman Smith motioned to approve combining the asphalt overlay and the milling into the same bid package combining for the 2016 and 2017 projects (once selected). Alderman Hawkins seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

**4. Resolution authorizing a five year extension of the inter-local agreement for ambulance services provided by MEMS.**

**R-16-44**

John Swanson, Executive Director MEMS, stated through inter-local agreements we serve 2,100 square miles of central Arkansas, which is approximately one-sixth of Arkansas' population and we transport approximately 190 people daily. Mr. Swanson we have had an inter-local agreement with Conway since 2004 and due to an increase in volume we have added 1 ambulance and a BLS unit which has no paramedic, but handles the transfer load between nursing homes and hospitals for bed bound patients which allows to free up the paramedic units for 9/11 responsibilities. Mr. Swanson explained we also have an inter-local agreement with the county which provides 2 additional ambulances in Faulkner County; 1 near Greenbrier and 1 at Liberty Volunteer Fire Station. Mr. Swanson stated we continue to meet our response time commitments which means we are on scene 90% of the time in under 9 minutes, which has improved slightly from last year. Mr. Swanson stated since 2005 our call volume has doubled which helps generate the revenue, which also means this is the third year we will not need to ask the city for a subsidy. Mr. Swanson gave a synopsis of projects which includes a change in their cardiac arrest protocol and explained

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they will stay on scene up to 30 minutes, before transporting certain cardiac arrest patients; this also includes offering free CPR classes to groups of 10 -30 people. Mr. Swanson stated we have also been preparing ourselves for “active shooters” and have partnered with the Police and Fire departments to get victims sooner, in order to save lives. Mr. Swanson stated the Law Enforcement First Responder (LEFR) program allows us to train Police officers how to use tourniquets, blood clotting bandages, and chest seals to save victims of various traumas; since 2015 we have trained 115 Conway Police officers in the LEFR program. Alderwoman Smith asked since we now have 2 hospitals, how do you determine which hospital a patient is taken to. Mr. Swanson stated it will be patient preference and we are updated regularly by the hospitals of any changes in services offered; if no preference has been expressed and capability is not an issue, we will go to the closest. Alderwoman Smith motioned to authorize the 5 year extension. Alderman Jones seconded the motion.

5. **Resolution stating the City’s intention of removing recently added parking spaces and restoring drive through at downtown corner building at the request of the owner/lease.**

**R-16-45**

Mayor Townsell stated this resolution is in regards to 802 Front St. which is a drive-thru structure and explained this will be some type of outdoor activity supplier, which will consist of an outdoor display area after the election is over and the current occupant has moved out. Mayor Townsell stated they are going to close off, to a degree the drive-thru area and the sub-leasee requested additional parking and we went ahead and added the parking spaces, but we failed to check with building owner or the original leasee, which has a long term lease on the property. Mayor Townsell stated they have requested the city to guarantee them that when this sub-leasee is gone we restore the drive-thru back to its original condition. Mayor Townsell stated if this is ever needed as a drive through again we will remove the concrete tire stops and remove the painting and restore the drive-thru. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 7-0.

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

1. **Ordinance appropriating funds for the moving and restoration of the Springfield/DesArc Bridge for the Parks & Recreation Department.**

**O-16-115**

Mayor Townsell stated council voted last time to approve transferring the grant monies from the Springfield/DesArc Bridge project, which required a 20% match by the city, over to the Dave Ward Drive pedestrian bridge project in order to free it from certain regulations that the federal government imposed on those monies. Mayor Townsell stated we were unable to meet the deadline of the impending change of seasons so we moved the funds over and added that grant money to the Dave Ward Drive pedestrian bridge project, which we were going to over-match and the grant money was not going to get us to the 80% funding for the Dave Ward Drive project. Mayor Townsell stated we are moving the grant monies from the Springfield/DesArc Bridge to the Dave Ward Drive project and vice versa. Mayor Townsell stated this ordinance is appropriating up to \$350,000.00 from the Parks

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A&P fund balance. Alderwoman Smith motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderman Pruitt, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Jones, and Alderwoman Isby. The motion passed 7-0.

**C. Public Safety Committee (Police, Animal Welfare, CEOC, Fire Dept., District Court, Information Technology, and City Attorney)**

- 1. Ordinance appropriating funds for the travel of District Court DWI Team and acceptance of reimbursement from the Arkansas State Police Highway Safety Program Grant.**

**O-16-116**

Mayor Townsell stated we have done this in years past and we are accepting grant funds for travel reimbursements. Alderwoman Smith motioned to waive the readings of the ordinance. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt the ordinance. Alderman Hawkins seconded the motion. Alderwoman Isby asked how many people are on this DWI Team. Chuck Clawson, City Attorney, stated for the first few years his office was part of the prosecuting team for that and if you include the counselors, probation officers, judge, and defense attorneys there are probably 9 members. There was no further discussion. The clerk called the roll with the following voting "Aye": Alderman Hawkins, Alderman Grimes, Alderman Pruitt, Alderman Ledbetter, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Jones, and Alderwoman Isby. The motion passed 7-0.

**D. New Business**

- 1. Resolution of a voluntary levy of two-tenth's (.2) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for an Animal Shelter for the City of Conway.**

**R-16-46**

Mayor Townsell read the titles of all the resolutions (Agenda Items D1 - D-7) aloud. Alderwoman Smith motioned to adopt resolutions R-16-48 through R-16-52. Alderwoman Isby seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mayor Townsell stated again these are not new, they are a reiteration for 2017.

- 2. Resolution of a voluntary levy of four-tenth's (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for a recreation assessment raising special revenue for the sole and exclusive purpose of providing additional funds for the purpose of construction, equipping, operating and maintaining the public recreation and playgrounds of City of Conway.**

**R-16-47**

This resolution was passed with Item D1.

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3. Resolution of a voluntary levy of four-tenth's (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising special revenue the exclusive purpose of operating and maintaining the cemeteries for the City of Conway.

R-16-48

This resolution was passed with Item D1.

4. Resolution of a voluntary levy of four-tenth's (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising special revenue for the Pension and Relief Fund for a Policeman's Pension and Relief Fund.

R-16-49

This resolution was passed with Item D1.

5. Resolution of a levy of four-tenth's (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising special revenue for the Pension and Relief Fund for a Firemen's pension and Relief Fund.

R-16-50

This resolution was passed with Item D1.

6. Resolution of a levy of four-tenths (.4) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising special revenue for the Pension and Relief Fund for paid Non-uniformed employees.

R-16-51

This resolution was passed with Item D1.

7. Resolution of a levy of three (3.0) mill on the dollar be made upon the assessed valuation of all taxable real estate and personal property tax for raising General Fund Revenues.

R-16-52

This resolution was passed with Item D1.

Mayor Townsell asked for feedback regarding the possibility of a 20 bike, bike share program and we wanted to look at what kind of sponsorships are available etc. to help offset the costs, before we went forward with a sponsorship program; we wanted to make sure the sponsorship program was shaped the way council would like. Mayor Townsell stated we thought it would be better to sell sponsorships station by station and we have imagined 20 of our bicycles scattered over 5 locations with 4 bicycles per station and suggested to council that before we seek out sponsorships we could sell sponsorship of the individual stations consisting of 4 bicycles each, for \$3500.00 per station, and if the sponsors wants the

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bicycles, that would be another \$1,500.00 totaling \$5,000.00 per station. Mayor Townsell stated if people do not want the bicycles then we can sell those sponsorships separately, but probably in groups of 4; there will be logo opportunities on the stations and the bicycles, but if we do that and sell 5 stations worth, which is \$25,000.00 the cost of the program, we would make sure that the sponsors know it is a 3 year commitment, so \$5,000.00 or \$3,500.00 per year, per station and if we have the 20 bicycles that is \$36,000.00 and this program would be designed to carve \$25,000.00 of that and pay for cost with sponsorships and we would only pick up \$11,000.00 annual cost for the program, and asked if council found that to be satisfactory. Alderman Pruitt asked if there are only 4 open slots at each station. Mayor Townsell stated no, we would have more, and probably double that and then each day you would have to re-balance the number of bicycles. Mayor Townsell stated the beauty of these bicycles is, if a station is full they have a mid-trip locking device and it could be locked to the nearest guy wire or street pole, but it would be better to have it locked into our station. Alderwoman Smith asked if we have identified the locations for the stations. Mayor Townsell stated we have not finalized the locations but we are thinking of 2 locations on the bike trail, Laurel Park, and possibly 2 points downtown, might be a good initial placement because we think that people in downtown, extending an evening etc., would be the highest chance of users and depending upon its success, we could proceed on. Mayor Townsell stated he did not mention that the \$11,000.00 cost to the city per year does not count program revenues every time someone rents a bicycle, so it could be less. Mayor Townsell asked if this is the type of sponsorship program you wanted to see. Council concurred.

**Adjournment**

**PASSED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2016**

**APPROVED:**

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*Mayor Tab Townsell*

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*City Clerk Michael O. Garrett*