

December 14, 2015  
Six o'clock P.M.  
North Little Rock City Hall Council Chambers  
300 Main Street  
North Little Rock, Arkansas

The regular meeting of the North Little Rock City Council scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor Joe A. Smith.

The roll having been called and the following Aldermen answered to their names: DEBI ROSS, BETH WHITE, MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, BRUCE FOUTCH, CHARLIE HIGHT and MURRY WITCHER (8/0). City Clerk Diane Whitbey and City Attorney C. Jason Carter were also present.

The prayer (moment of reflection) and pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Tommy Diaz of the Baha'i Faith.

On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council held on Monday, November 23, 2015, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (8/0).

Alderwoman Ross introduced retired Arkansas National Guard Major General Don C. Morrow. General Morrow and others from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) were present to present the Department of Defense Patriot Award to Mayor Smith in recognition of extraordinary support of North Little Rock employees serving in the Guard and Reserve. North Little Rock city employee Isaac Henry who is a First Lieutenant and member of the 90<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, United States Army Reserve nominated Mayor Smith for the award. Mayor Smith was surprised by the award and appreciative. He accepted the award on behalf of the council members and city and said the city wants to help our veterans and military families. General Morrow then pinned a Patriot Pin to Mayor Smith's lapel.

On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, communications #1, 2, 3, and 4, were accepted and filed (8/0).

1. Karen Scott, Chairman Energy Risk Management Committee/Finance Director memorandum to City Clerk Diane Whitbey re: ECR Adjustment Factor December, 2015 (\$.0069) Credit.
2. Glinda Craigmyle, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Restaurant Beer & Wine – NEW* for Littlefield's Café, 6929 John F. Kennedy, Suite 33, by Alan Littlefield.
3. Graham W. Rich, P. E., CEO, Central Arkansas Water letter to Mayor Smith re: Proposed Adjustments to Basic Water Rate Schedule.

4. Charles Levesque, President/Executive Director Depaul USA, Report Regarding Status of Jericho Way Center for the Homeless.

Mayor Smith reconvened public hearings regarding: R-15-166, Adopting a Budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year (for the City of North Little Rock) and R-15-167, Adopting a Budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year for the North Little Rock Electric Department. Mr. James Ard thanked the city for taking care of people who are less fortunate. He also said the Mayor, City Clerk and City Attorney deserved raises. However, he did not feel that way about council members. Mrs. Karen Scott, Finance Director referenced sheets distributed to the council regarding the General Fund and Street Fund. Previous salary increase figures were from a couple of months ago. The current list contains the most up-to-date information available for all departments. There being no one else wishing to be heard, the public hearings were adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Mayor Smith asked Mr. Marc Wilkins, Director North Little Rock Waste Water to come forward. Mr. Wilkins said the Waste Water Utility entered into a Consolidation Agreement with Central Arkansas Water and Maumelle Water Management to consolidate waste water services for the City of Maumelle, with the North Little Rock Waste Water Utility System. Two provisions included conducting a study of the economic and financial impact and providing the North Little Rock City Council final say regarding the same. Mr. Dan Jackson, Vice President Willdan Financial Services (fka) Economists.com advised they have been the city's Waste Water Rate Consultants since 1999. Mr. Jackson said consolidations are not uncommon in this industry. Better quality of service can be provided by working together. Mr. Jackson then provided a PowerPoint Presentation (Analysis). With the consolidation, the Maumelle Treatment location will be closed and sewage will be diverted to one of North Little Rock's Waste Water treatment plants. North Little Rock Waste Water currently has 32,000 customer accounts. Maumelle has 7,421. The addition of the Maumelle accounts will increase the total customers by 23 percent. Mr. Jackson referred to charts illustrating the difference in charges between the Maumelle system and North Little Rock. North Little Rock charges based on Cubic Feet of Service Provided with a minimum charge of \$15.88. The first 400 cubic feet are included. The charge over 400 is an additional (approximately) \$3.97 per 100 additional cubic feet. Maumelle charges per 1,000 gallons with a minimum charge of \$7.20 for the first 1,000 gallons. (100 cubic feet equals about 748 gallons). Most customers use between 3,000 and 5,000 gallons. Currently Maumelle customers pay less. Under the consolidation proposal Maumelle and North Little Rock would pay the same rates. Maumelle rates are (too) low and not covering costs. Without consolidation, a series of rate adjustments would be inevitable in the coming years (for Maumelle residents). Mr. Jackson then reviewed operating costs, including additional personnel and costs related to the same. There will also be additional capital costs including paying off the Waste Water portion of Maumelle's debt. Alderwoman Ross asked if closing the Maumelle Treatment Plant could be done sooner than three (3) years. Mr. Wilkins didn't think so. Alderwoman Ross asked about using reserve funds to pay off the (Maumelle) debt. Mr. Bruce Engstrom, Accountant said he reviewed the analysis and reserves and was very confident with both. Alderman Foutch asked if there were any infrastructure issues (in

Maumelle) that would require expenditures. Mr. Wilkins said the collection system is newer and in better shape than ours (North Little Rock). The Treatment Plant is in need of some capital improvements which raised the question of rehabilitating the plant or diverting water to the White Oak Bayou Treatment Plant. The short-term plan is to divert water to the White Oak Plant which was modified in recent years. Alderman Foutch asked if there were any holding tank issues at Maumelle. Mr. Wilkins said the reference may be to bio-solids. To convert to a full equalization basin, the solids would have to be removed. North Little Rock funds solids as an expense each year in a separate fund. Maumelle customers will be charged for the cleanout. Mr. Sylvester Smith is the Vice Chair of the North Little Rock Waste Water Committee. He said the committee has been looking at this for some time. There are very few options to increase the customer base. This consolidation will allow that. Customer growth will help reduce future rate increases. Mr. Smith thanked the council for their continued support of the system. Alderman Witcher asked how many more customers the system could handle. Mr. Wilkins intends to utilize the Maumelle plant which has an average daily flow of 2 to 2.4 million gallons. The plant is an 8.5 million gallon (capacity) per day plant. Current usage is 3.5 to 4 million gallons per day. Alderwoman Ross asked about the adjustment period for Maumelle customers. Mr. Wilkins said if (the consolidation) is approved, the closing date will be March 1, 2016. This would mean Maumelle customers would see North Little Rock rates on their first bill in April.

Without objection, R-15-183 was called.

R-15-183 (RESOLUTION NO. 8895 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONSOLIDATION AND INCORPORATION OF THE MAUMELLE WASTEWATER SYSTEM INTO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK WASTEWATER SYSTEM; CONSENTING TO A WASTEWATER CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CENTRAL ARKANSAS WATER, NORTH LITTLE ROCK WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE AND MAUMELLE WATER MANAGEMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

Mayor Smith announced citizen public comment on legislation. Those who signed in spoke previously.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-15-164

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS A.F.L.-C.I.O., LOCAL NO. 35; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and held by the sponsor, Mayor Smith.

R-15-166 (RESOLUTION NO. 8895 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2016 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight. On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Witcher, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows:: *attach Budget Exhibits provided this date (8/0)*. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows:: *Administration Department - + \$15,240.11; and City Clerk Department - + \$2,582.00 (8/0)*. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Foutch, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0).

R-15-167 (RESOLUTION NO. 8896 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2016 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight. On the motion of Alderman Foutch and seconded by Alderman Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution as amended as follows:: *attach Exhibit provided this date (8/0)*. On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Witcher, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0).

### CONSENT AGENDA

*None filed.*

### NEW BUSINESS

R-15-171 (RESOLUTION NO. 8897 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALDERMAN MAURICE TAYLOR TO SERVE ON THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderwoman Ross. On the motion of Alderman Baxter and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows:: *attach Personal Information Sheet (8/0)*. On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Witcher, and by consent of all members present, with the exception of Alderman Taylor who passed, the resolution was adopted as amended (7/1). Mayor Smith thanked Alderman Taylor for his service. He also thanked Alderwoman Robinson who previously served on the commission.

R-15-172 (RESOLUTION NO. 8898 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MIKE ABELE TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-173 (RESOLUTION NO. 8899 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ANDY HIGHT TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-174 (RESOLUTION NO. 8900 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING STEVE SPARR TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-175 (RESOLUTION NO. 8901 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TOMMY CUPPLES TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK HOUSING & BUILDING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS (SIGN BOARD); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-176 (RESOLUTION NO. 8902 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BRAD HUGHES TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK HOUSING & BUILDING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT & APPEALS (SIGN BOARD); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-177 (RESOLUTION NO. 8903 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE LOW BIDS OF CRAFT, VEACH & CO. TO PROVIDE AUDIT SERVICES FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND RELATED FUNDS, ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT, AND UTILITIES ACCOUNTING FUND FOR THE YEARS 2015, 2016 AND 2017; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Taylor. Alderman Foutch asked how many bids were received. Mrs. Scott advised there were six (6) and recommended this firm. The firm is currently auditing the Utilities Accounting Department. In the past the city used three (3) different audit firms. Alderman Foutch asked how often the city rotates auditors. Mrs. Scott said (it is recommended) every three (3) years. This will be the first change to the General Fund in several years. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-178 (RESOLUTION NO. 8904 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BONUS PAYMENTS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SIGNIFICANT ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT PROJECTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was

read. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-179 (RESOLUTION NO. 8905 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 8888 TO INCLUDE THE SALARY SCHEDULE IN THE STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, JOHN E. CHARLES LODGE NO. 5; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Foutch, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-180 (RESOLUTION NO. 8906 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 8890 AND ADOPTING REVISED PAY SCHEDULES FOR GRADE/STEP NON-UNIFORM EMPLOYEES IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-181 (RESOLUTION NO. 8907 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SALARY INCREASES TO CERTAIN FULL TIME SALARIED EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING ELECTED OFFICIALS), BATTALION FIRE CHIEFS, ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF, FIRE CHIEF, ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF, POLICE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-15-182 (RESOLUTION NO. 8908 – ALDERMEN WITCHER AND FOUTCH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SALARY INCREASES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Foutch. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Foutch, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows: *substitute legislation provided this date* (8/0). Alderwoman Ross said members looked at a Salary Survey provided by the Arkansas Municipal League and realized the Mayor's salary was below average for the state. The City Clerk's salary was also below average. Alderman Foutch said there have been comments about raises for council members. It has been 14 years since the council was given a raise. Council members do a lot more than attend council meetings, they also attend neighborhood association meetings and take telephone calls seven (7) days a week. The raise (for council members) would equal approximately \$25 per month. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0).

R-15-184 (RESOLUTION NO. 8909 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND CERTIFYING AMOUNTS OF LIENS TO BE FILED WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR AGAINST CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS AS A RESULT OF GRASS CUTTING EXPENSES AND ABATEMENT OF OTHER NUISANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Hight. Mayor Smith convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-15-91 (ORDINANCE NO. 8779 – ALDERMEN WITCHER AND HIGHT)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REQUEST TO WAIVE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE MASTER STREET PLAN FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS, AND SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE ON SPRINGVALE ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Witcher, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight. Alderwoman Ross asked why the waivers were being made on a private street but the city was not accepting the street. Mr. Carter said when a plat goes through (Planning) Subdivision, the city has requirements. If the street does not meet those requirements, the city cannot accept it until the council waives the requirements. This ordinance does not accept the street but does set the stage for the street to be accepted. Alderwoman Ross asked why the street sign was green when private streets are supposed to have blue signage. She also asked if the Subdivision committee requires a letter from the City Engineer stating that the street is acceptable. Mayor Smith said former City Engineer Mike Smith and City Engineer Chris Wilbourn have both looked at this street. Alderwoman Ross asked Planning Director Shawn Spencer if the Street Department or City Engineer also provide input. Mr. Spencer said the Planning Commission will give permission to sign the plat. The developer will then work with the City Engineer on proposing a plan for the city to accept the street. The Planning Commission felt there were too many waivers for their consideration and referred it to the council. On the previous motion, and the roll having been called, and all members present, having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*requested by John R. Pownall*)

O-15-92 (ORDINANCE NO. 8780 – ALDERMAN TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW A PARKING LOT IN A C-6 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF WEST 9<sup>TH</sup> AND MAPLE STREETS IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Foutch, and by consent of all members present, the

readings were suspended (8/0). Alderman Baxter asked about Section 2 (a) and said 32 months seemed like a long time. Alderman Taylor agreed. They do not intend to take that long for the expansion, however, it could. Alderwoman Ross asked who would be responsible for keeping gravel off of the city streets. Alderman Taylor said it should be the responsibility of the land owner. Mayor Smith asked if Alderman Taylor would oppose reducing the time from 32 months to 12. Alderman Taylor agreed with the suggestion. Alderman Hight asked when construction would begin on the parking lot. Ms. Kathleen Lambert, Senior Transit Planner for Rock Region Metro said they are working on a Facilities Master Plan for the entire area. Rock City Metro is located at the end of Maple Street and boxed in. They are considering acquiring additional property in the area which could result in shifting the parking area to a different location. They would like to have screening between them and an apartment building that is soon to be under construction in the area. Alderman Foutch asked the estimated start date on the facility. Ms. Lambert said the temporary parking lot would be in the spring. She did not have a specific start date. Alderman Baxter said he visited the location and there were cars parked on the property. Ms. Lambert said those (vehicles) belonged to the neighbor's construction workers. Alderman Taylor said after hearing from the applicant, the city should work with them. A motion to amend was made by Alderman Baxter and seconded by Alderwoman Ross to amend the legislation as follows: *Section 2 (a) strike through September 2018 and insert JANUARY 1, 2017 and new subsection (h) APPLICANT WILL ENSURE PARKING LOT GRAVEL IS KEPT OFF PUBLIC STREETS NEIGHBORING THE PROPERTY*; and, the following members having voted yes: Ross, Robinson and Baxter; and the following members having voted no: White, Taylor, Foutch, Hight and Witcher, the motion failed (3/5). Alderman Witcher asked if the city already had something in place regarding keeping gravel off public streets. Mr. Spencer said there was something in the Municipal Code regarding gravel and requiring a concrete driveway which helps keep gravel on (private) property. Alderman Foutch said if this was a car lot, they would not be allowed three (3) years to resolve the gravel issue. On the motion of Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Baxter, and by consent of all members present, with the exception of Alderman Taylor, who voted no, the resolution was amended as follows: *Section 2 (a) strike through September 2018 and insert JUNE 30, 2017, and new subsection (h) APPLICANT WILL ENSURE PARKING LOT GRAVEL IS KEPT OFF PUBLIC STREETS NEIGHBORING THE PROPERTY (7/1)*. On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Witcher, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-15-93 (ORDINANCE NO. 8781 – ALDERMAN TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2001 HIGHWAY 161 IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM R-1 TO R-4, TO RECOGNIZE AN EXISTING MULTI-FAMILY USE BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 7697; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Foutch, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Foutch.

Alderwoman Robinson said some residents of Prothro Manor Apartments have contacted her and advised they support the legislation and are happy with the new owner. Prior to this there was a lot of foot traffic in the area. Under the new owner, the residents in the area feel safer. She has received a complaint from a business owner near the Interstate in the area saying they have more foot traffic. On the previous motion, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: Steve Jenkins*)

O-15-94 (ORDINANCE NO. 8782 – ALDERMAN TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW SIX (6) RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN AN R-4 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2001 HIGHWAY 161 IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Witcher, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Taylor. Alderwoman White said she was familiar with the area. The apartments and motel look fantastic. She asked about the underpinning on the recreational vehicles. Treated timber is being used. The location is visible from the road. She asked why a different material wasn't used. Alderman Taylor said the property was horrible before. The applicant, Mr. Steve Jenkins has done a great job on the project and completely transformed the property. Mr. Jenkins said they considered several different options for underpinning the trailers, including plastic or aluminum. They liked the look of the natural material, which is treated privacy fence pickets. There would be upkeep with any material. Alderwoman White was concerned with the condition in two (2) years. Mr. Jenkins said he has received a lot of compliments on the use of the wooden pickets. Alderman Foutch said when a mobile or manufactured home is set up, the tires are removed. He asked Mr. Jenkins if there was structural support in the event the tires rotted. Mr. Jenkins said they removed the tires and each unit is fully blocked on concrete blocks. Alderman Taylor said he does not favor mobile homes or trailers, however, Mr. Jenkins has done a great job of transforming his property. Alderman Baxter asked about the canopies. Mr. Jenkins said they have removed most of them and have a few to go. On the previous motion, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: Steve Jenkins*)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. John Douglas Richards, XI, spoke regarding the Richards Cemetery. They continue to have a problem with the road. He has been to numerous council meetings trying to get this item on the council agenda. He said five (5) years ago under Mayor (Patrick Henry) Hays, the road was closed. He said some of the council members who were present at the time said they were not aware there was a cemetery in the area. The council recently reversed a condemnation on a building. He requested a reversal on the road closure. He has been in contact with the Historical Society and intends to prove that there are slaves buried in the area. He thanked Mr. Ard for his support but said Mr. Ard was not a

family member. Mr. Richards said it was his birthday. Mr. Ard said people need closure when they lose a loved one. There are things that can be done to correct (the cemetery) issue. Alderwoman White advised she had a plumbing issue last week and they had to move out of their home and stay in a hotel overnight. She is a Service Line Warranty customer. The Service Line Warranty program took care of everything quickly and said she was grateful that residents have the opportunity (to participate in the program). Mayor Smith said Alderman Taylor was responsible for making the program available to North Little Rock residents. Alderman Foutch said a celebration was held on December 7, 2015, in honor of Pearl Harbor Day and to welcome the USS Hoga (tug boat) to North Little Rock. He was impressed with city support staff, the band, etc. Alderman Foutch is retired from the Navy and said the ceremony was great and meant a lot. Alderman Hight said his wife's father served on the West Virginia in Pearl Harbor and that she was deeply moved by the ceremony. Ms. Whitbey reminded everyone that city offices will be closed December 24 and 25, 2015, in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Garbage and trash routes will run on Thursday. Friday's pickup will be on Saturday, December 26. Mayor Smith said he has been working on development in and around the area of the proposed plaza on Main Street. Developers interested in building in the area. When he attended the Mayor's Institute on Community Design he brought up the issue. It was suggested that a temporary wall be constructed to illustrate where the building would sit. Instead of a wall, the city has requested the use of school buses while school is out for holidays. Monday, December 21, 2015, architects will mark the corners of the proposed building(s) location and buses will be parked in the area to provide a visual. Mayor Smith suggested council members come down on Tuesday to walk through the area.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Witcher, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be held on Monday, December 28, 2015, at six o'clock p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 300 Main Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR JOE A. SMITH

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIANE WHITBEY, CITY CLERK