

May 23, 2016
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, May 23, 2016, was called to order at 6:02 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, and MURRY WITCHER (7/0). Alderman CHARLIE HIGHT was absent. Assistant City Clerk Linda Marshall, Deputy City Clerk Katelyn Thomas and City Attorney C. Jason Carter were also present.

The prayer was led by North Little Rock Police Chief Mike Davis. The pledge of allegiance was led by Alderwoman White.

On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting and a Special Call meeting held on Monday, May 9, 2016, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (7/0).

On the blanket motion of Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Foutch, and by consent of all members present, communication #1 was accepted and filed (7/0).

1. Karen Scott, Finance Director, 2014 Independent Auditor's Report from Wilcox & Bivings, P. C. for the City of North Little Rock.

On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Baxter, and by consent of all members present, communication #2 was read by title only, accepted and filed (7/0).

2. C. Jason Carter, City Attorney memorandum to City Council members re: Recommendations from Investment Advisory Board: 1. Refinance 2011 bonds for better interest rates; 2. Redeem 2012 C bonds with excess revenues.

Mr. Carter reviewed the recommendations. \$1.5 million would go into reserves.

Mayor Smith announced a Special Call meeting scheduled this date.

May 20, 2016

Special Meeting of the North Little Rock City Council, Monday, May 23, 2016.

Honorable Members of the North Little Rock City Council:

The purpose of this e-mail is to advise you that Mayor Smith has called a special meeting of the North Little Rock City Council at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 23, 2016, at City Hall Council Chambers, North Little Rock, Arkansas. The following will be on the agenda:

R-16-95 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO SELL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 216 WEST 4TH STREET (MANEES HOUSE PROPERTY) IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO ALLEN ENGSTROM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Sponsor: Mayor Joe A. Smith

O-16-34 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 7888, THE “BUSINESS LICENSE FEE SCHEDULE”; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Sponsor: Mayor Joe A. Smith and Alderman Debi Ross

Pursuant to Sec. 2-48(2) of the North Little Rock Municipal Code, you are entitled to 72 hours’ *electronic* notice of this meeting. Please acknowledge receipt of this email as soon as possible by replying to the same. A copy of your reply will automatically be sent to City Clerk Diane Whitbey.

C. Jason Carter
City Attorney

Mayor Smith asked that those who wished to speak on R-16-95 come forward. Ms. Sharonda Lipscomb is President Elect Junior League of North Little Rock (JLNLR) shared remarks from President Kelly Phillips. The JLNLR’s focus is to train volunteers, leaders and change the lives of women and children. JLNLR members are saddened by the proposed sale of the Manees House. However, they do understand the reason for the sale. Members look forward to finding a solution for the organization. The JLNLR will continue to be a resource to the community. Mayor Smith has meet with members several times and commended Ms. Lipscomb and Ms. Phillips for their professionalism and leadership. Mr. Allen Engstrom was born and raised in North Little Rock. He is committed to continuing to operate and grown his business in North Little Rock and appreciates the history of the Manees House. Mr. Gene Pfeifer said his family business was at 600 Main Street for 91 years. Mr. Pfeifer complimented the city on the development. Mr. Pfeifer then referenced the North Shore Business Park, and the number of businesses and number of employees in the area. \$100 million has been invested in the property. A second entrance is needed. He asked the city to consider the future potential of the business park. Ms. Vanessa Gilmore, Past President JLNLR, provided a brief history of the Manees House and the JLNLR. Several renovations have occurred to enhance the historical beauty of the home. The house has been the perfect setting for multiple events over the years.

R-16-95 (RESOLUTION NO 8993 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO SELL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 216 WEST 4TH STREET (MANEES HOUSE PROPERTY) IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO ALLEN ENGSTROM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read.

A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Foutch. Alderwoman Ross said some people were concerned with the speed of the sale. There was also some concern regarding the expense of the upkeep of the property. Mayor Smith said the property has been a financial issue for the league for some time. The city does not have the money for the repairs and upkeep needed. Alderwoman Robinson asked about the lease. Mayor Smith said the lease expired in 2010. \$36,000.00 will be appropriated (from the sale of the property) to assist the JLNLR with relocating, storage and rental of a location for two meetings monthly. Alderwoman White spoke with Sandra Taylor-Smith (North Little Rock History Commission) regarding the historical relevance of the building and referenced a letter Mrs. Smith provided to Mayor Smith. Alderman Foutch asked what the proceeds from the sale would be used for. Mayor Smith said they would go in the Special Projects Fund and may be used towards the new Plaza at 6th and Main. Mr. Carter said Section 4 of the legislation includes that closing will not occur before December 15, 2016. Alderman Taylor said league members present seemed concerned and asked about the monthly expenses. JLNLR representatives said those expenses (approximately \$1,600.00 per month) were accurate. The JLNLR raises funds to operate the house and support the community. The league is identified by the Manees House. Mayor Smith said the lease referenced earlier began in 1989. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0). (\$430,000.00)

O-16-34 (ORDINANCE NO. 8814 – MAYOR SMITH AND ALDERMAN ROSS)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 7888, THE “BUSINESS LICENSE FEE SCHEDULE”; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 readings were suspended (7/0). On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted (7/0). Emergency clause adopted (7/0). Alderwoman Ross said this legislation sets the fee only for this category.

All those who signed in to speak during public comment on legislation spoke previously (see above).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

On the motion of Alderman Foutch and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by voice vote, and all members present having voted “aye”, consent items R-16-80, R-16-81, R-16-82, R-16-83, R-16-84, R-16-85, R-16-86, R-16-87 and R-16-88 were adopted (7/0).

R-16-80 (RESOLUTION NO. 8994 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LISA MEYER TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-16-81 (RESOLUTION NO. 8995 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TERRY HARTWICK TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-16-82 (RESOLUTION NO. 8996 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TODD LARSON TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-16-83 (RESOLUTION NO. 8997 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING WILLIAM GRUBER TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-16-84 (RESOLUTION NO. 8998 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CHARLES FOSTER TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-16-85 (RESOLUTION NO 8999 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CLAY PARTRIDGE TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-16-86 (RESOLUTION NO. 9000 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN CITY-OWNED ITEMS AND OTHER PROPERTY AS SURPLUS; PROVIDING FOR AUCTION THEREOF; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-16-87 (RESOLUTION NO. 9001 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT AWARDED TO THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK THROUGH THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE LEVY SPUR MULTI-USE TRAIL PHASE 3 AS AN ARKANSAS

RECREATIONAL TRAILS NON-MOTORIZED PROGRAM PROJECT; APPROPRIATING \$67,924.00 IN MATCHING FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-16-88 (RESOLUTION NO. 9002 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT AWARDED TO THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK THROUGH THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT’S “SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM”; APPROPRIATING \$37,627.00 IN MATCHING FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

NEW BUSINESS

R-16-89 (RESOLUTION NO. 9003- MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE STATE GRANT FUNDS FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACILITIES LOCATED AT 2800 WILLOW STREET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Baxter. Mrs. Carey Woods, North Little Rock Health Department Director said the grant would allow the department to expand services from two to six exam rooms and remodeling of the front area. This would allow moving inspectors back to the building (saving \$500.00 per month in rent). This would be the first major remodel of the building since it was built in 1963. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

R-16-90 (RESOLUTION NO. 9004 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SETTLEMENT IN THE CONDEMNATION CASE OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK VS. JOHN L. PRIDE, ET AL; APPROPRIATING FUNDS (\$170,000.00); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Foutch. Mr. Carter referenced the parcel and funds provided through MetroPlan grant funds. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

R-16-91 (RESOLUTION NO. 9005 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1604 SCHAER STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderwoman Ross. 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 adopted (7/0). (*owner: Dannie R. Mitchell*)

R-16-92 (RESOLUTION NO. 9006 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 119 E. 14TH STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNERS TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Baxter. 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 as adopted (7/0). (owners: *Jonas and Christopher Smith*)

R-16-93 (RESOLUTION NO. 9007 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 6501 HOLT ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson. 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 adopted (7/0). (owner: *Jerry Griffin c/o Claudia Griffin*)

R-16-94 (RESOLUTION NO. 9008 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE 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 Alderman Baxter and seconded by Alderman Foutch. Mayor Smith convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. Alderwoman Ross said some of these properties are listed repeatedly. Mr. Carter said there are several ways to collect, including through the county tax collector and at the time of sale. Mayor Smith said there have been discussions regarding a land bank. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

O-16-33 (ORDINANCE NO. 8815 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HEDGE PLAN FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

was read. On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (7/0). Mr. Carter said the Risk Management Committee submits a quarterly report. He then discussed power and the amendment, including management of funds. Alderman Foutch asked if there was a financial promise associated with the same. Mr. Carter said there was not. Financial exchanges do not occur until a contract is in place.

The city purchases small contracts keeping prices down. On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and the roll having been called and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted (7/0). Emergency clause adopted (7/0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James Ard said Mrs. Marshall will be retiring from the City Clerk’s Office. A reception will be held in her honor June 10, 2016. Mr. Ard said there is a house at the corner of the 400 block of West 19th a house has been under remodel for over two years. It is an eyesore. Mr. Ard said across from the old Kroger store at the corner of Pike and Pershing things are piling up and smells bad. Mayor Smith asked Mr. Spencer to check on a house at McCain and Hickory. Alderwoman Ross said the property Mr. Ard referenced is a landscaping business and is properly zoned. Mr. Bobby Taylor referenced a problem property code enforcement is working on and that the courts have given extensions. Mayor Smith said he has no authority over the Judges. Mr. Taylor said his neighbor is in bad health and lives next to a house that recently burned. Mayor Smith asked Code Enforcement Director Tom Wadley and Fire Chief James Murphy to check on the issue. Alderman Foutch said Chief Davis was on the radio representing the Police Department and City by providing a positive image of both.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. (7/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be held on Monday, June 13, 2016, 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