

July 26, 2012
Five thirty o'clock P.M.
North Little Rock City Hall Council Chambers
300 Main Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas

A Special Call meeting of the North Little Rock City Council scheduled for Thursday, July 26, 2012, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the honorable Mayor PATRICK HENRY HAYS. The roll having been called and the following Aldermen answered to their names: MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, BRUCE FOUTCH, CHARLIE HIGHT and MURRY WITCHER (5/0), a quorum was declared. Aldermen DEBI ROSS, BETH WHITE and STEVE BAXTER were absent . City Clerk Diane Whitbey and City Attorney C. Jason Carter were also present.

Mayor Hays announced a Special Call scheduled for this date.

July 23, 2012 (via email)

Subject: Special Call for Monday, July 23, 2012

Honorable Members of the North Little Rock City Council:

The purpose of this e-mail is to advise you that Mayor Hays has called a special meeting of the North Little Rock City Council at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, 2012, at City Hall Council Chambers, North Little Rock, Arkansas. The following will be on the agenda:

- 1) R-12-135 – SELECTING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE LOCATION FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK McCAIN BOULEVARD GRADE SEPARATON PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Sponsor: Mayor Hays

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 e-mail as soon as possible by replying to the same. A copy of your reply will automatically be sent to City Clerk Diane Whitbey.

Respectfully,
C. Jason Carter
City Attorney

Special Call 1) R-12-135 (RESOLUTION NO. 8120 – MAYOR HAYS)
A RESOLUTION SELECTING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE LOCATION FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MCCAIN BOULEVARD GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT; AND

FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Alderman Witcher made a motion to adopt which was seconded by Alderwoman Robinson. At the request of Mayor Hays, the Synopsis (Report) provided by Mr. Mike Marlar, Marlar Engineers was made a part of the record. Mr. Marlar advised a public hearing was held on July 10, 2012, at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church. Residents were given the opportunity to view the four (4) alternatives. #1 - the north route – runs along the west side of the railroad along McCain and shifts towards the north and runs just south of Flowers Drive. #2 - basically maintains the current route where the current crossing is along McCain and Fairfax. #3 – the south route – runs along Faulkner Road, and then Rosemary connects south to the current intersection with Fairfax and Highway 161. #4 is the same as #2 but shifts about 50 feet (50’) south of Fairfax. A number of people (108) attended the public hearing. Comment forms were distributed and 106 were returned. Of the 106, 70 participants preferred Alternative #2. The least expensive alternative is #2 which maintains the current route. Mr. Carter read an email from Alderwoman Ross who preferred Alternative #2. Both Aldermen White and Baxter advised Mayor Hays that they preferred the same. A motion to amend was made by Alderwoman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Witcher. Alderman Foutch asked about contradictory comments regarding Alternative #2: 1- would impact the most homeowners and affect land and home values negatively; and 2- would be the best for traffic flow and most economical way to travel, which seem to be counterintuitive. Mr. Marlar said the comments represent a summary of various comments. Alderman Foutch referenced the illustration of #2 “has potential for environmental justice and community impact”. Mr. Marlar said this means that some things in the area will have to be relocated. Alderman Taylor referenced residential relocation and buildings to be removed. Alderman Hight was contacted by one business owner. Mr. Marlar has met with representatives of Salmon Brothers regarding the same. He added the majority of area residents turned in forms indicating a preference for Alternative #2. The project should be under construction within a year. Alderwoman Robinson asked about the cost. Mr. Marlar said a total cost estimate is \$9.7 million. The city’s match would be 20 percent. Right-of-way acquisition will cost between \$2.5 to \$4 million. The city’s match would again be 20 percent. Alderman Foutch asked about detours. Mr. Marlar said the first stage of construction will be to widen a section of Roundtop. While the bridge is under construction, traffic can be rerouted in the area of McCain and Roundtop. On the previous motion to amend, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows:: *Section 1: insert 2 in the blank (5/0)*. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted as amended (5/0).

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Alderwoman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m. (5/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, August 13, 2012, at seven o’clock p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 300 Main Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR PATRICK HENRY HAYS

ATTEST: _____
DIANE WHITBEY, CITY CLERK