

January 14, 2013
Seven 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, January 14, 2013, was called to order at 7:00 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), a quorum was declared. City Clerk Diane Whitbey and City Attorney C. Jason Carter were also present.

The invocation was given by Brother Paul Holderfield, Friendly Chapel Church of the Nazarene, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was also led by Brother Holderfield.

On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight and by consent of all members present, the minutes of a regular council meeting scheduled for Monday, December 24, 2012, and held on Thursday, December 27, 2012, were corrected as follows:: *Page 4 re: Resolution No. 8230 change \$16,800.00 to \$116,800.00.* The minutes were then approved, accepted and filed (as corrected) and prepared by the City Clerk (8/0).

On the blanket motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, communications #4 and 5 were not read, but accepted and filed (8/0).

4. Mayor Mark Stodola, City of Little Rock and Mayor Patrick Henry Hays, City of North Little Rock, letter to Pulaski County Judge Buddy Villines re: "America's Bridge" and comments regarding the same.
5. Mayor Smith letter to City Council re: resignation from the North Little Rock Public Building Authority.

On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, communication #1 was read by title only, accepted and filed (8/0).

1. Tony Hill, Chief, Emergency Management Office, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District email to Mayor Hays re: thank you for work of North Little Rock Electric Department team and information and communication provided via Facebook and Twitter during Christmas 2012 ice and snow storm.

Alderwoman White said Mr. Hill visits disaster sites around the country. A letter from him is meaningful.

On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, communication #2 was read by title only, accepted and filed (8/0).

2. Bob Sisson, Finance Director and Chairman Energy Risk Management Committee memorandum to City Clerk Diane Whitbey re: Energy Cost Recovery (ECR) Rider adjustment factor for bills rendered during the month of January 2013. (.72¢/kwh or \$.0072/kwh). Alderman Witcher asked if this was an increase. Mr. Sisson said it was.

On the motion of Alderman Baxter and seconded by Alderman Foutch, and by consent of all members present, communication #3 was read, accepted and filed (8/0).

3. Email to Alderman Baxter from Paula Lively, President, Amboy Neighborhood Association re: Amboy Neighborhood Association Highlights for the year 2012.

Alderman Baxter commended the group for their efforts.

Mayor Smith invited Mrs. Margaret Powell, Director of Community Relations to come forward. Mrs. Powell along with Ms. Eunsook Yoon, Uiwang City, South Korea Correspondent introduced Korean Youth who are in North Little Rock participating in a Winter Youth Program (Lee, Su-young, Hawang, In-ho, Kim, Hyun-jun, Song, Joo-yeon, Park, Soo-Hyun, Cho, Su-min, and Jo, Kye-young). The Winter Program is focused on English speaking. Local host families were also introduced (Kenneth and Kendra Leirer, Ban and Hong Nguyen, Deborah Bliss, Gil and Laurie Chung, Gary and Angela Harrington, Eddie and Kathy Rogers, and John and Marilyn Riley). Ms. Yoon read a letter to Mayor Smith from the Mayor of Uiwang City. Mayor Smith welcomed the students and thanked the host families for opening their homes to our visitors. Miss Alex Ann Pitts was involved in the Youth Exchange and now lives in South Korea. Miss Pitts thanked the City of North Little Rock and North Little Rock School District for their involvement and support. Miss Pitts graduated from North Little Rock High School in 2007. She went to college at Baylor University and pursued study of the Korean language. Her love for Asia began in North Little Rock. Last summer she was an Intern for the Mayor of Seoul. She is the Vice President of all International Students in the Seoul area and has worked on public policy. She thanked the City of North Little Rock for providing this opportunity to youth.

Mayor Smith asked Alderman Foutch to introduce the next presenter. Mr. Randy Naylor is the President of Keep North Little Rock Beautiful (KNLRB). Mr. Naylor recapped 2012 accomplishments and reviewed upcoming projects and events for 2013. A Neighborhood Cleanup was held in the Holt Addition from 15th Street and Allen to Pershing and led by Ornet Grind. The Great North Little Rock Cleanup was held on May 19, 2012. This event engaged neighborhood groups to work together and resulted in 90 bags of trash being collected. A cleanup with United Methodist Church had 50 volunteers who cleaned up the river front and Burns Park areas of the city. In two days they picked up 60 bags of trash. The Great Arkansas River Cleanup was held on October 6, 2012, with 50 volunteers who picked up 1,000 pounds of trash in two hours. North Little Rock Teen Court participants also helped. Eight hours of continuing education was received as required by Keep America Beautiful. A city wide survey was completed December 1, 2012. KNLRB is working with North Little Rock District Court Judge Jim Hamilton's office which provided volunteers to work off fines and cleanup areas of the city. The first cleanup in 2013 will be January 19, at Pike Avenue and Railroad Avenue

beginning at 8:00 a.m. Fit 2 Live and KNLRB will work on a Martin Luther King Day of Service Project on January 26, 2013. They will be cleaning in Emerald Park. The Annual Great North Little Rock Cleanup will be Saturday, May 18, 2013. The Arkansas River Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013. KNLRB will continue to work with neighborhood groups willing to help with their mission. Alderman Foutch said KNLRB's 472 volunteers have given 3,486 hours of their time. The financial value to the city is equivalent to \$76,348.32.

Mayor Smith asked City Attorney Carter, acting Interim General Manager of the North Little Rock Electric Department to come forward. Mr. Carter provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding power outages as a result of the ice and snow storm last month. The event was challenging. Weather predictions were for snow. The first circuits tripped at 2:22 p.m. Christmas Day. Major circuits were restored within 36 hours (approximately 85%). It took another 84 hours to restore the majority of North Little Rock Electric Customers. Over half of our customers (18,750) experienced an outage. One hundred percent of the outages were caused by ice and snow laden trees. The city has had a good tree trimming program over the last few years, which helped reduce the number of outages and the length of an outage. The outage center received 23,000 calls to report an outage. Of that number 53% of the telephone numbers were matched to customer numbers on file. This means that 47% of the calls received came in from numbers other than the number listed on the account. Web-based trouble tickets were new (414 reports were received). Mr. Carter said a lot of street lights are still out. The department has had two after action review sessions. In summary, an employee commitment to the organization and customers ranked high. Employees worked in sleet and snow, with live electricity and downed lines around the clock. Lineman Chris Ray stepped up and into a leadership role by taking charge of a crew. His leadership and ability was impressive. Lineman Brandon Wilson was injured rolling up wire and received a contact burn. He stayed with his crew to finish the job. There was only one injury and one vehicle windshield broken during the event. Notification via social media (Facebook) was new. Improvements need to be made to outage data quality. A better understanding of who has power and who doesn't is needed. The solution is Smart Meters. If a customer has a Smart Meter and is away during an event, the meter will relay outage information to the department. Support functions need to be improved. Rehearsal events will be held in the future. The department also needs to focus on inner departmental coordination. Mayor Smith asked if customers should call in to make sure they have up-to-date telephone (or cell phone) numbers in the system. Alderman Foutch said if people were without power, their home telephones (cordless) wouldn't work. (Customers with a landline would still be able to make calls). He asked if customers should call in and leave a cell number instead. Mr. Carter said when cell numbers were entered into the data base, they didn't include area codes. Now cell phone providers have caller ID with area codes. Mr. Carter said customers should use the most reliable number they have. Alderman Baxter asked if the number of Facebook friends for the Electric Department went up during the outage and by how much. Mr. Carter said the increase was significant. Records indicated approximately 9,000 visits daily (during the event) to the department's site. Mayor Smith invited Mr. Ray and Mr. Wilson to come forward. He said he has spent time over the years watching the electric crews work during outages and they do a great job.

He went on to thank all City employees for their efforts. On behalf of the city, Mayor Smith presented an Outstanding Service Award to the North Little Rock Electric Department and asked Mr. Ray and Mr. Wilson to share it with their coworkers. Alderwoman Ross said other departments may need to look at after action discussions. A couple of fire stations were without power and could have used a generator.

Mayor Smith announced citizen comment on legislation. Mr. James Ard asked about R-13-04 and if anyone could purchase the vehicle.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None – new agenda – first meeting of new council for 2013.

NEW BUSINESS

R-13-01 (RESOLUTION NO. 8238 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AMOUNTS OF LIENS TO BE CERTIFIED TO 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 Foutch. 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).

R-13-02 (RESOLUTION NO. 8239 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$73,747.43 FOR PAYMENT OF EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 6, 2012 GENERAL ELECTION AND NOVEMBER 27, 2012 RUN-OFF ELECTION; 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-13-03 (RESOLUTION NO. 8240 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO HIRE A GENERAL MANAGER FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT AT A SALARY IN EXCESS OF THAT PAID TO THE MAYOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Foutch. Alderwoman Ross said an amount was not included in the legislation. Mayor Smith said it is his intent to bring legislation (re: salary) back to the council. Mr. Carter said the council would generally authorize the mayor to negotiate hiring a General Manager. The exhibit includes guidelines. Mr. Carter said this is not something that is being codified. This resolution expresses the will of the council at this time. Alderman Baxter asked how this would affect the applicant pool. Mayor Smith said a cap could have limitations. Advertising should start this

week with the salary being negotiable. Alderman Foutch said the annual salary would be part of the budget process. Alderman Hight said there is a possibility that the range could be lower than what the council could establish. On the previous motion, and all members present, having voted in the affirmative, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-13-04 (RESOLUTION NO. 8241 – ALDERMAN HIGHT)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF A 2006 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN VEHICLE OWNED BY THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Taylor. Mayor Smith said the vehicle is the one he drove as Director of Commerce and Governmental Affairs. The vehicle is already equipped with radio equipment, etc. This would save the city money by not having to install equipment on a new vehicle. Alderman Hight visited three local Dealerships and asked them to provide an appraisal by completing a form and putting it into an envelope that they sealed. The results were attached. The highest bid was for \$13,000.00. Alderman Baxter asked if the radio equipment should be identified as city property. Alderman Taylor said the radio equipment belongs to the city. On the motion of Alderman Baxter and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, with the exception of Aldermen Taylor and Witcher, who passed, the resolution was amended as follows:: *Section 1: at the end of the sentence add* TWO-WAY RADIOS AND EMERGENCY LIGHTS SHALL REMAIN PROPERTY OF THE CITY (6/2). On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0).

R-13-05 (RESOLUTION NO. 8242 – ALDERMEN TAYLOR, HIGHT, ROSS, WHITE, AND FOUTCH)

A RESOLUTION INCREASING THE MONTHLY CAR ALLOWANCE FOR FULLTIME STAFF ATTORNEYS IN THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Foutch, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-13-06 (RESOLUTION NO. 8243 – ALDERMEN TAYLOR, HIGHT, ROSS, WHITE, FOUTCH, AND BAXTER)

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Foutch. Alderman Taylor said the intent of the legislation is to provide the City Clerk (and/or staff) with transportation or reimbursement for transportation while performing the duties of the office. This would help them be more efficient and credible. Mr. Carter said the Mayor controls city funds and city vehicles. If a vehicle is assigned to the City Clerk, then a car allowance would not be allowed. Alderwoman Ross asked if the legislation should be amended to reflect one or the other. Alderwoman White asked what the needs were of the office. Ms. Whitbey said they attend various meetings, and

with the reorganization of the Revenue Department, her office will be more involved with site visits to businesses in the city, filings, etc. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-13-07 (RESOLUTION NO. 8244 – ALDERMAN ROSS)

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NONPROFIT ENTITIES PROVIDING SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderwoman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Taylor. Alderwoman Robinson said this applies to groups that receive funding (or monies) from the city. Alderwoman Ross said \$10,000.00 was included as a starting point. Community Gardens and smaller groups have contracts, but the intent was not to put an undue burden on those. Mr. Carter referred to Section 2 which clarifies the intent. Alderman Baxter said anyone receiving funds from the city should have some requirement (accountability). Mr. Carter said Agreements and Contracts are tailored to particular transactions. On the motion of Alderman Baxter and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows:: *Section 1: insert i)* THE CONTRACTOR SHALL SUBMIT A BUDGET TO DEMONSTRATE THE PROJECTED USE OF CITY FUNDS (8/0). Alderman Witcher made a motion to adopt as amended. Alderwoman Ross referenced brackets in subsection f). Mr. Carter said those are optional and represent a date to be tailored depending on the type of Agreement or Contract. Alderwoman Ross asked where said contracts or agreements were filed. Mr. Carter said signed contracts (agreements, etc) are filed with the City Clerk. On the previous motion, which was seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0).

R-13-08

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR ELECTRIC CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE WITH CENTRAL ARKANSAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Taylor. Alderman Baxter asked how the city would know if the requirements included were fulfilled pertaining to administering energy efficient improvements. Mayor Smith said the group works with most utilities in central Arkansas. Alderwoman White said the criteria may change from year-to-year. She provided a telephone number (603-0909) for residents to set up an appointment. Alderwoman Robinson said proof of income and other requirements must be submitted to receive assistance. Mayor Smith said the city offers free Energy Audits. Alderwoman Ross said people need help with their utility bills, and need to show that they are making an effort to curtail utility use. This is where the North Little Rock Electric Department's Home Energy Audit comes in. Mayor Smith will have someone at the next meeting to review the Energy Audit Program related to this program. Alderwoman Robinson recalled when the city began using this program, it was cheaper to have the Central Arkansas Development Council oversee this program than to have it in house. Mayor Smith then held the legislation.

O-13-01 (ORDINANCE NO. 8495 – MAYOR SMITH, ALDERMEN ROSS, WHITE, TAYLOR, ROBINSON, BAXTER, FOUTCH, HIGHT AND WITCHER)
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 8137 TO RETURN CERTAIN COMBINED REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS TO THEIR ORIGINAL STATUS AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 8138 TO REVOKE THE PROJECT PLAN FOR THE COMBINED DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT NO. 8 OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, all readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight. Mayor Smith referenced members of the North Little Rock School Board including Scott Teague, Board President, and Superintendant Ken Kirspel who were present. The city and the district want to work together. About \$100,000.00 is in an Escrow Account for the city, the county, and the school district. 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).

O-13-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 rules were suspended and the ordinance was placed on its second reading (8/0). On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the rules were again suspended and the ordinance was placed on its third and final reading (8/0). On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was amended as follows:: *Sec. 2-80 Public Comment* add PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS WILL BE OFFERED PRIOR TO OLD BUSINESS. PUBLIC COMMENT ON OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO THE CITY WILL BE OFFERED AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF ALL CITY BUSINESS. THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE ABILITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ONE OR MORE TOPICS AND TO RECEIVE SUCH PUBLIC COMMENT AS THE COUNCIL MAY DEEM APPROPRIATE (8/0). Alderman Baxter made a motion which was seconded by Alderman Foutch to amend *Sec. 2-79 (a) and (b)* by changing the word *may* to WILL. Alderman Witcher said there has been a lot of litigation regarding prayer. Alderman Foutch asked about the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Carter did not recall anyone successfully challenging the pledge. On the previous motion and the following members having voted no, Ross, Taylor, Robinson, Hight, and Witcher, and Alderman White having passed, and Aldermen Baxter and Foutch having voted yes, the motion failed (2/5/1). Alderwoman Robinson said changing the time council meetings convene from 7:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. will be a hardship for her and some members of the public who work, etc. Alderwoman White said Department Heads and others have been at work all day and the change to 6:00 p.m. would benefit them. Alderwoman Robinson said council meetings are part of being a

Department Head. Alderwoman Ross said not all Department Heads should have to attend every council meeting. Council members can call them before the meeting to get their questions answered. Alderwoman Ross suggested 6:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m., but preferred 7:00 p.m. Mayor Smith then held the legislation.

O-13-03 (ORDINANCE NO. 8596 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES FOR EACH DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK FOR THE YEAR 2013 (aka 2013 Quota Ordinance); DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the rules were suspended and the ordinance was placed on its second reading (8/0). On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the rules were again suspended and the ordinance was placed on its third and final reading (8/0). The ordinance was read a third and final time. Alderwoman Ross said more Code Enforcement Officers are needed. Alderwoman Robinson agreed. Mayor Smith said that is under consideration along with stricter (code) regulations. Alderman Taylor recommended hiring a Director of Youth Services. Mayor Smith would like to see a successful program in another city and visit it. Alderman Hight commended the mayor and city departments on the low monetary effect the proposed changes had on the budget. He said moving inspectors (building, plumbing, etc.) to the Planning Department was a good move. 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).

O-13-04 (ORDINANCE NO. 8497 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NAME OF BROTHER PAUL DRIVE TO DOROTHY RODHAM WAY IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; 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, all readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight. Alderwoman Ross asked Brother Paul if he supported this change. He said his father (Brother Paul, Sr.) spent the last years of his life giving away everything he owned. This is his opportunity to continue giving 15 years after his death. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-13-05 (ORDINANCE NO. 8498 – ALDERWOMAN ROSS)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW A SELF-SERVE ICE VENDING UNIT IN A C-3 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1900 PIKE AVENUE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 rules were suspended and

the ordinance was placed on its second reading (8/0). On the motion of Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the rules were again suspended and the ordinance was placed on its third and final reading (8/0). The ordinance was read a third and final time. Alderwoman Ross asked the applicant, Mr. David Gatzke if the unit will be the same as the one on Broadway. He said it would. Alderwoman White asked if a trash bin would be provided at the site. Mr. Gatzke said he has cleaned up the area. On the motion of Alderwoman White and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent all members present, the ordinance was amended as follows::
Secton 2: add r) TRASH RECEPTACLE WILL BE LOCATED ON SITE AND EMPTIED
REGULARLY (8/0). On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Taylor, 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). (*applicant: David Gatzke*)

O-13-06 (ORDINANCE NO. 8499 – ALDERMAN TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REQUEST TO WAIVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MASTER STREET PLAN FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 12506

HIGHWAY 165 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 Alderwoman Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the rules were suspended and the ordinance was placed on its second reading (8/0). On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the rules were again suspended and the ordinance was placed on its third and final reading (8/0). The ordinance was read a third and final time. Alderman Taylor attended the Planning Commission meeting when this request was considered. He has visited the site and talked to the Pastor. The church wants to build an additional building. Across the street are several hundred acres of land. The roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, with the exception of Alderman Hight who passed, the ordinance was adopted (7/1). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: New Life Pentecostal Church*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Smith introduced Miss Julie Fisher, who works in the Mayor's Office. Alderman Hight said on March 11, 2013, six council members and the Mayor will be out of town attending the National League of Cities Conference and suggested moving that meeting to Thursday, March 14, 2013. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, a Voice Vote was taken, and by consent of all members present, the City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2013, was rescheduled to Thursday, March 14, 2013 (8/0). Alderman Witcher serves on a committee for the National League of Cities (NLC). Last week, he traveled with the NLC Leadership to Washington, D.C. for a White House briefing. He brought back information regarding the same. Topics included transportation, immigration, gun violence and technology innovations in cities. NLC has asked the federal government to adopt a strong and

consistent national immigration policy that balances national security needs with renewed efforts to grow the nation's workforce, stimulate economy recovery, and remain competitive in the 21st century global marketplace. NLC is asking the federal government to enact legislation to level the playing-field between e-commerce and brick-and-mortar retailers by giving state and local governments the authority to collect sales taxes on remote sales. The League has asked the federal government not to limit in any way the income tax exemption for municipal bonds. Local government financing needs for infrastructure are increasing. Tax exempt bonds are how local governments finance infrastructure projects—they have been around for more than 100 years and they provide essential funding for localities. Alderman Foutch has received several calls regarding the cost of repairs (price gouging) homeowners are paying to have their electric box/meter reattached to their homes. He has contacted the Attorney General's Office regarding this. Residents are encouraged to contact the Attorney General's Office, Consumer Complaint Division at 501-682-2007 or fill out an online complaint on their website. Mayor Smith said brush pickup is behind due to the large amount of storm related debris (trees, limbs, etc). He spoke with Sanitation Director Harold Ford who said they should be caught up within the next two weeks. Mayor Smith commended Mr. Ford's staff and the Street Department employees for their efforts. Alderwoman Robinson said the main drainage ditch in the Glenview Community was full. Debris and brush were blocking the opening. She asked that the Street Department go out to the area on Emily Street and clean out the ditch. This request was previously made in October. South Woodland and Muldrow both flooded. Alderman Taylor noted the council had bottled water and asked if the bottles would be recycled. Mayor Smith said they would. Alderwoman White referenced Bicycle Safety bumper stickers. The law (State) is that motorists allow at least three feet when passing a cyclist. Mr. Ard commended Mayor Smith on his first council meeting. He asked the council to look at the Dixie area of the city. The Redwood Tunnel needs attention. Mr. Ard also volunteered to provide audio for the Mayor for the Race for the Cure. Captain Mark Warford, North Little Rock Fire Department Local #35 thanked everyone for their contributions and support of the Bikes for Kids Program. Fifty children received bicycles for Christmas. North Little Rock Fit 2 Live provided each child with a helmet.

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 9:01 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting which has been rescheduled to Monday, January 28, 2013, 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 JOE A. SMITH

ATTEST: _____
DIANE WHITBEY, CITY CLERK