

December 8, 2014
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 8, 2014, 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). Assistant City Clerk Linda Marshall and Assistant City Attorney Matt Fleming were also present.

The invocation and pledge of allegiance were led by Alderwoman White.

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 meeting scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2014, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (8/0).

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

1. Karen Scott, Finance Director, memorandum to City Council members re: Revised Budget Request.

Mayor Smith invited Mr. David Sink and Mr. Bill Busbee to join him at the podium where he presented Certificates of Graduation to the following: Lisa Armstrong, Shantel Bolden, Pamela Butler, Eartha Caps, Margie Evans, Dennis Fisk, Michael Hansberry, Fred Henderson, Anita Henderson, Cornida James, Lee Jeffries, Kathleen Johnson, Eatha Rameir, Peggy Romes, Richard Simpson and Wilma Summons. Mr. Dan Scott, Neighborhood Service Director participants represented seven North Little Rock Neighborhood Groups, two from the City of Little Rock and one from the unincorporated area of Pulaski County. The intent is to help neighborhoods grow. Mr. Sink and Mr. Busbee thanked Mr. Scott and Shirley Abel for their efforts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-14-171

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 2225 FENDLEY DRIVE 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 called and held by the sponsor, Mayor Smith. (owner: Rafael Guarionex DeCastro) Note: sixth time on agenda - item removed by City Clerk.

R-14-172

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 2800 JOHN ASHLEY DRIVE 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 called and held by the sponsor, Mayor Smith. (owner: Rafael Guarionex DeCastro) Note: sixth time on agenda - item removed by City Clerk.

R-14-240

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING A FIVE YEAR CAPITAL AND RESERVE PLAN FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and held by the sponsor, Mayor Smith. Mr. C. Jason Carter, Interim General Manager North Little Rock Electric Department said they try to forecast their capital plan based on cash flows over a five year period.

CONSENT AGENDA

None filed.

NEW BUSINESS

R-14-245 (RESOLUTION NO. 8708 - MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; 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).

R-14-246 (RESOLUTION NO. 8709 - MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES BY THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT TO THE PULASKI COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Baxter. Alderman Foutch said item 1. Indicates animals will be received from the county on an unlimited basis and asked if the Shelter had the space. Mayor Smith said the shelter does reach maximum capacity at times. The contract has increased to \$100,000.00. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-14-247 (RESOLUTION NO. 8710 - MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR ACCESS ACROSS LAND LOCATED ON FAULKNER LAKE ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, USE, AND TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL UTILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderwoman Robinson and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-14-248 (RESOLUTION NO. 8711 - MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2015 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. Alderwoman Ross referenced (Special Appropriations) 6022 Center for Homeless and advised she was not able to located an actual agreement that the council voted on. Alderwoman Robinson had concerns regarding reducing the amount appropriated. Mayor Smith said he thought the understanding between the Little Rock Board of Directors and the City Council was to split the fee three-ways. Alderman Foutch said the city is being forced into a corner on a never-ending program. Mayor Smith said Little Rock has Request for Proposals out that would put the Homeless Center under private management. A fixed amount should be in place by this time next year. On the motion of Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and the following members having voted yes: Ross, Taylor, Baxter, Foutch and Witcher, and the following members having voted no: White, Robinson and Hight, the resolution was amended as follows:: *reduce (Special Appropriations) item 6022 Center for Homeless by \$51,941.00 to \$125,000.00 (5/3)*. Alderwoman Ross said our employees are not getting raises. Therefore, she asked to reduce the amount to CATA - Funding JAR Grant by \$61,522.00. Alderwoman White asked if services would be reduced. Mayor Smith said they would. Reductions could be seen in night busing schedules or Sunday routes. Alderwoman Ross said the city has made reductions throughout the year and did not have to reduce services. Alderwoman Robinson said a lot of people would be affected by a reduction in services. Alderman Foutch said CATA has not increased fares in six years. Alderman Hight asked if this appropriation could be tabled. Mayor Smith said the budget needs to be approved in its entirety. Mayor Smith said he served on the CATA Board and that they have a tight budget. Alderman Hight said CATA is the only Mass Transit System in the county. A lot of people benefit from the service. Alderman Witcher said employees of businesses in his ward use CATA for transportation to and from work. This would affect a lot of people. On the motion of Alderwoman Ross and seconded by Alderwoman White, and the following members having voted yes: Ross, Baxter and Foutch, and the following members having voted no: White, Taylor, Robinson, Hight and Witcher (3/5), the motion to amend as follows:: *reduce (Special Appropriations) item ???? CATA-Funding JARC Grant by \$61,522.00 failed (3/5)*. Alderwoman Ross referenced item 3361 Ark Regional Innovation Hub and requested something in writing that would ensure that \$85,000.00 would go to the Art Connection. Mayor Smith asked Mrs. Scott not to issue a check to the Innovation Hub until the requested information was provided to the City Council. Alderwoman White said there were

discussions during the budget meetings, but no minutes. Mayor Smith said future budget discussions could be recorded. Mrs. Scott said she had notes from the budget meetings. Alderwoman Ross asked if AIMM could accelerate their funding/marketing. Mayor Smith said the submarine belongs to the city. Alderwoman Ross commended Mayor Smith for his efforts on the budget this year. Mayor Smith commended the city's department heads and employees. On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Witcher, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0).

R-14-249

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2015 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and held at the request of the sponsor, Mayor Smith. Mayor Smith said the budget will go down and will be available to council members this week.

R-14-250 (RESOLUTION NO. 8712 - MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE AND REMODEL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 615 WEST 29TH STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS FOR USE BY THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderwoman White and seconded by Alderman Taylor. Mayor Smith said the building currently used by the North Little Rock Police Department Detectives Division used to be a tire store. It is poorly constructed and not insulated. The monthly electric bill is \$6,000.00. This property is about two blocks from the Police Department on Pershing. Monthly savings may cover the loan payments. The property appraised at \$420,000.00. Plans include demolishing the current investigations building. North Little Rock Police Chief Mike Davis said an additional 2,000 square feet of parking will be available with the demolition of the investigations building. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-14-251 (RESOLUTION NO. 8713 - 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 Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Witcher. 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-14-107

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2 OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 6 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) REGARDING TAXES AND FEES ASSESSED FOR SALE OF ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called. The legislation was then held by

the sponsor, Mayor Smith. Mayor Smith spoke with Mr. Dwayne Jones, Riverboat had requested that the dues dates be the same. Alderwoman Ross asked for clear language regarding weekends and holidays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alderwoman White thanked everyone for their hard work on the North Little Rock Sertoma Club Christmas Parade and Northern Lights Festival which were held yesterday. Mayor Smith said there were a lot of spectators along the parade route. At one time there were 500-600 people at the Festival. He spoke with Ms. Sherry Bruno about starting the parade later to coincide with the lighting ceremony. He also extended his condolences to Ms. Bruno on the loss of her mother. Alderwoman White said the North Little Rock History Commission had a wonderful Christmas display at their building. Mayor Smith said Suzanne Jackson, the other commissioners and the History Commission staff is doing a great job. Alderman Foutch thanked North Little Rock Police and Fire Fighters who participated in Shop With A Cop. Officer Tommy Norman did a stellar job. The second event will be held next Sunday, December 14, 2014, at 7:30 a.m. at Wal-Mart on East McCain. Alderman Hight said the road leading through Lakewood Village to McCain Mall reopened today. Alderman Witcher said a number of street lights are out on Main Street. Mr. Carter said the department is aware. The problem is the kind of lights along Main Street are no longer made. He is working with a contractor on resolving the issue. They are also working on the lights in Park Hill. Alderman Hight asked for an update on the Leaf Vacs. Mr. Harold Ford, Sanitation Director said the vacuums are in the northern portion of Area 1 (between Crestwood and Bunker Hill). The weather has put them behind and the leaves really came down in the last week or so. Crews are working extended hours and Saturdays. Alderman Witcher asked when the vacuums would be in Overbrook and Indian Hills. Mr. Ford said Overbrook by the end of the week, Indian Hills by the middle of next week.

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 6:45 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be held on Monday, December 22, 2014, 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