

March 12, 2018  
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, March 12, 2018, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Honorable Acting Mayor Linda Robinson.

The roll having been called and the following Council Members answered to their names: DEBI ROSS, BETH WHITE, MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, and RON HARRIS (6/0). Council Members MURRY WITCHER and CHARLIE HIGHT were absent. City Clerk Diane Whitbey, Deputy City Clerk/Revenue Officer Shannon Carroll, and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were led by Council Member Baxter.

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Taylor and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting held on Monday, February 26, 2018, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (6/0).

On the blanket motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, communications #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, were not read, but were accepted and filed (6/0).

1. Glinda Craigmyle, Mayor's Office, memorandum re: *Grocery Store Wine – NEW Permit* for MAPCO Express, Inc. #7519, 3300 Springhill Drive, by Paul J. Titley.
2. Glinda Craigmyle, Mayor's Office, memorandum re: *Retail Beer on Premises – NEW* for La Poblanita Mexican Buffet, 3400 East Broadway Street, by Margarita Rodriguez.
3. Andrew Collins, III, Chairman North Cedar Street Municipal Improvement District No. 32 – Annual Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2017.
4. Robert Hardin, for Eugene M. Pfeifer, III, Chairman Young Road Multi-Purpose Municipal Improvement District No. 33 – Annual Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2017.
5. Karen Scott, Finance Director/Chairman Energy Risk Management Committee re: ECR Adjustment Factor for March, 2018 (.0032 [positive]).
6. Robert Hardin, for Bruce Engstrom, Treasurer Argenta Downtown Central Business Improvement District No. 31 – Annual Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2017.

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Taylor, communication #7 was read, accepted and filed (6/0).

7. Mayor Joe A. Smith, letter to City Clerk Diane Whitbey and City Council members re: attending

National League of Cities 2018 Congressional Cities Conference March 11-14, 2018. Council Member Linda Robinson will preside over City Council meeting in my absence.

Acting Mayor Robinson convened a scheduled public hearing on O-18-17. Without objection, the ordinance was called.

O-18-17 (ORDINANCE NO. 8991 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING NET METERING AND DISTRIBUTED GENERATION RULES FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read one time February 12, 2018. A public hearing was held this date. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Harris, the rules were suspended and the ordinance was placed on its third and final reading (6/0). The ordinance was read a third and final time. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter.

*Note: Council Member Hight entered the Council Chambers at 6:05 p.m.*

Council Member Ross asked if Mr. C. Jason Carter, North Little Rock Electric Department Attorney could speak regarding the topic. Mr. Carter said a lot of work has been done on Net Metering Generation Rules within the department. The city currently has Net Metering Rules, however, they are not in conformance with state law as amended. These rules would replace existing rules and incorporate Distributed Generation Rules. Net Metering can apply to different types of renewable energy resources. However, at this time solar panels are the topic. Residential installments can go up to 25 kilowatts. Commercial or industrial installations can go up to 300 kilowatts. Net Metering effectively rolls the meter back--instead of paying for the energy used, the solar generated power would offset what had been used. An example would be the department buying the energy back at the retail kilowatt per hour rate. Mr. Carter said the application fee covers the city's engineers (and other staff) reviewing the paperwork to ensure that the request can be accommodated with our current infrastructure. Prior to interconnection, someone (from the department) will inspect (the equipment). Safety inspections are critical to the safety of our employees. A Periodical Inspection would be performed every three (3) years. The Aggregation Fee applies to customers with more than one location who want to tie them together to share the load. This would offset generation to two locations instead of one. Most people installing solar power are doing so because of their environmental commitment. Council Member Harris asked if Mr. Carter had information for residents considering adding solar panels to their homes. Mr. Carter said costs vary across the country. Council Member White asked if an entity produced more electricity than required could they store it in batteries. Mr. Carter said there is no battery requirement at this time. He then spoke about draft regulations for over-generation, etc. Council Member Baxter said this will appeal to some residents. He reminded the public of current building codes. Mr. Carter said these rules are geared toward safety and financial

arrangements and do not waive any zoning or building code requirements. On the previous motion, 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).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

R-18-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO SELL CERTAIN VACANT PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ALONG THE NORTH BANK OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER BETWEEN THE RIVER AND ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY 165 IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was held by Acting Mayor Robinson, for the sponsor, Mayor Smith.

O-18-17 – *see above*.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*None filed.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

R-18-54 (RESOLUTION NO. 9391 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND 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 Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Acting Mayor Robinson 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).

R-18-55 (RESOLUTION NO. 9392 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO SELL CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE PROPOSED DOWNTOWN PLAZA (ARGENTA PLAZA) IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO FIRST ORION CORP; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

O-18-21 (ORDINANCE NO. 8992 – MAYOR SMITH)

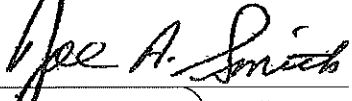
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018 QUOTA ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 8980) FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC, FINANCE, FIRE, POLICE AND UTILITIES ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member

Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (7/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Taylor. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was amended as follows:: *substitute copy provided this date (7/0)*. Council Member Ross said the amendment increases the number of captains from 42 to 45; firefighters from 57 to 60; and Lieutenants from 43 to 49. This is an increase of 15 full-time permanent positions. On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Ross, and the roll having been called, and all members present, having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted as amended (7/0). Emergency clause adopted (7/0).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jimmy Ard doesn't have a problem with kids playing basketball in the street. However, when the goals are sticking out into the street, people can hit them with their vehicles. There needs to be an ordinance that they have to be in the yard, not hanging over the street. Mr. Ard said there is a lady who won't go by the ordinances. He said he hopes the new Code Officer can catch her. She has been turned in to the Ethics Committee, but they won't do anything. Council Member Ross said basketball goals are not allowed over the street and Code Enforcement needs to be contacted. Ms. Barbara Brown-Smith said she is a new resident of North Little Rock. Her purpose for speaking was to "meet and greet" her council members. She said she hoped traffic would not delay her in the future. Council Member Ross congratulated the North Little Rock High School Boys and Girls Basketball Teams. Both are State Champions. Council Member Hight said this is the first time a high school has won the football championship and both basketball championships in their classification. Council Member Ross added they had also won the Chess Tournament.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m. (7/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, March 26, 2018, 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