

April 27, 2020
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, April 27, 2020, was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor Joe A. Smith.

The roll having been called and the following Council Members answered to their names: DEBI ROSS, BETH WHITE, MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, JANE GINN and CHARLIE HIGHT (8/0). City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

Note: Council Members participated in the meeting electronically. Mayor Smith, City Clerk Whitbey and City Attorney Fields were present in the council chambers.

The prayer was led by Council Member Robinson.

On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, communication #1 was accepted and filed (8/0).

1. Ember Strange, Finance Director/Chairman Energy Risk Management Committee memorandum re: Power Cost Adjustment Rate (PCA) for May, 2020 (.0014/kwh) negative.

On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Ross and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meetings scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020, and Monday, April 13, 2020, and held on Monday, April 13, 2020, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (8/0).

Note: those wishing to speak during public comment were allowed to call into the meeting and placed in a call-waiting room. They will be called upon as or if needed as legislation is called.

Mayor Smith announced a Special Call meeting.

April 23, 2020

Special Meeting of the North Little Rock City Council

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 6:05 p.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020, at City Hall Council Chambers, North Little Rock, Arkansas. The following will be on the agenda:

O-20-45 – Amending Ordinance No. 9222 which granted a Conditional Use for a Food Truck Court in a C-PH zone for certain real property located at 3623 John F. Kennedy Boulevard in the City of North Little Rock; declaring an emergency. Sponsor: Council Member Beth White.

Pursuant to North Little Rock Ordinance No. 9079, 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.

Amy Beckman Fields
City Attorney

SPECIAL CALL (O-20-45 – ORDINANCE NO. 9242 – COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9222 WHICH GRANTED A CONDITIONAL USE FOR A FOOD TRUCK COURT IN A C-PH ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3623 JOHN F. KENNEDY BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 (8/0). Council Member White asked Planning Director Shawn Spencer to comment. Mr. Spencer said the council previously approved a Food Truck Court at this location. There was an unknown issue related to parking spaces. An engineer (Thomas Engineering) determined the total number allowed would be 10. The previous ordinance allowed 12. On the motion of Council Member White and seconded by Council Member Taylor, 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).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None.

NEW BUSINESS

R-20-59 (RESOLUTION NO. 9848 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ERIN PARKER TO THE ROCK REGION METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On

the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-20-60 (RESOLUTION NO. 9849 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING NICOLE HART TO THE ROCK REGION METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-20-41 (ORDINANCE NO. 9243 – COUNCIL MEMBERS HARRIS AND BAXTER)

AN ORDINANCE RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9701 WHITE OAK CROSSING IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM I-2 ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO THE O-1 ZONING CLASSIFICATION BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 7697; ADOPTING AN AMENDED LAND USE PLAN FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Without objection, Council Member Baxter was added as a co-sponsor. Mr. (Oscar) Martinez asked if the board (City Council) had a picture of the proposal. Mr. Martinez said there will be a building which is basically a sports complex. The location is behind his home which he built two years ago. There will be bright lights which will affect his quality of life. On the motion of Council Member Harris and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Harris and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Council Member Ross said members were provided a copy of the site plan. She asked Mr. Spencer to comment on Mr. Martinez's statements. Mr. Spencer said the school did a lighting study which indicated the ambient lighting will not overflow onto Mr. Martinez's property. He also provided him with a copy of the study. Council Member White asked about trees that were discussed at the Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Spencer said there will be an undisturbed buffer to the north side of the property. Fast growing evergreen trees, which were selected by a landscape architect, will also be planted in the area provide additional buffer. Council Member Taylor asked about Mr. Martinez's comment regarding a sports complex. Mr. Spencer said a high school with a soccer field, track and practice field will be on the property. The buffer for this property will be more than that of the existing baseball fields (on adjacent property). 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). (*applicant: Minton Engineering*)

O-20-42 (ORDINANCE NO. 9244 – COUNCIL MEMBERS TAYLOR AND ROBINSON)

AN ORDINANCE RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5800 ALPHA STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM C-1 ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO THE O-1 ZONING CLASSIFICATION BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 7697; ADOPTING AN AMENDED LAND USE PLAN FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of

Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Council Member Hight asked if this was also a school. Mayor Smith said it was. 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) (*applicant: Arch Ford*)

O-20-43 (ORDINANCE NO. 9245 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROSS)

AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW A DAYCARE IN AN R-3 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2015 MAIN STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council member Ross and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Council Member Ross said this location had previously been a daycare, however, the children had to be taken across the street to a playground. She said the applicant, Ms. Laura Sieler, will have the playground completed before planning will sign off (on the permit(s)). 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). (*applicant: Lighthouse Academies*)

O-20-44 (ORDINANCE NO. 9246 – COUNCIL MEMBERS HIGHT AND GINN)

AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW AN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IN A C-4 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4316 LANDERS ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Without objection, Council Member Ginn was added as a co-sponsor. On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). Council Member Hight asked Mr. Spencer to provide a brief explanation of the request. Mr. Spencer said the request is for an After School Program. The (State) Department of Human Services (DHS) is involved, therefore, a Special Use is required. It will not affect current operations. The location is in the gymnasium behind the church. 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 unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: Northside Sports Corporation*). Ms. Whitbey asked if the business (Northside Sports Corporation) was part of the church for licensing purposes. Mr. Spencer advised it was not.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Whitbey read the following public comments: Ms. Pat Brewer asked why the Mayor has not been visible during the pandemic. There are a lot of senior citizens who do not have access to the Internet or other electronic media. Mayor Smith asked Ms. Brewer call him tomorrow (April 28, 2020).

Mr. Allen Coleman lives on Bradburn Road. He continues to have issues with parking in the cul-de-sac. Vehicles parked in the cul-de-sac are parked there all the time and do not have current (license) plates. Debris has collected under them. Mr. Coleman has talked to the Mayor, Council Members, Code Enforcement and North Little Rock Police Department regarding the issues. Council Member Taylor said there is an issue. Mayor Smith asked if he Council Member Taylor could meet him at the location so they can address the issues first hand. Other comments: Council Member White said she appreciated the Mayor's weekly (video) updates (regarding COVID-19) and the people he has included (interviewed). The messages have been informative and helpful. Council Member Baxter asked if the next meeting will be electronic (via Zoom). Council Member Ginn asked to (again) include the Pledge of Allegiance in future meetings.

Mayor Smith said the city is trying to locate N-95 masks as inventory is getting low. 3-M is beginning production. The city would like to order a total number that will cost around \$38,000.00. Therefore, he asked for a voice vote of the city council to waive competitive bidding for approval to order the masks. By consent of all members through a unanimous voice vote, the purchase was approved (8/0). Ms. Fields will provide legislation at the next scheduled council meeting. Mayor Smith said the majority of the masks will go to the Police Department.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, May 11, 2020, 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