

May 11, 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, May 11, 2020, was called to order at 6:02 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 Baxter.

On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, communications #1, 2, 3, and 4 were accepted and filed (8/0).

1. Wesley Simpson, Plant Manager, Tyson Foods, 3800 Progress Street re: Steps taken to support team members during COVID outbreak.
2. C. Tad Bohannon, CEO Central Arkansas Water letter to Mayor Joe A. Smith re: Public Hearing – Issuance of Water Revenue Bonds – May 13, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at 221 East Capitol Avenue, 3rd Floor Board Room, Little Rock, Arkansas.
3. C. Tad Bohannon, CEO Central Arkansas Water letter to Mayor Joe A. Smith re: Public Hearing – Water Rate Schedule – May 13, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. at 221 East Capitol Avenue, 3rd Floor Board Room, Little Rock, Arkansas.
4. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Change of Manager* for Tobacco Superstore #42, 4604 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 10, North Little Rock, Arkansas, by Deedra Nalls.

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 27, 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by voice vote and all members present having voted “aye”, consent items R-20-61, R-20-62, R-20-63, and R-20-64, were adopted (8/0).

R-20-61 (RESOLUTION NO. 9850 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARK BENTLEY TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK AIRPORT COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-62 (RESOLUTION NO. 9851 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BRAD HUGHES TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK AIRPORT COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-63 (RESOLUTION NO. 9852 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JIM JULIAN TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK AIRPORT COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-64 (RESOLUTION NO. 9853 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ADRIENNE SMITH TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK AIRPORT COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

Mayor Smith thanked all of the above reappointed Commissioners for their continued volunteer service on the North Little Rock Airport Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

R-20-65 (RESOLUTION NO. 9854 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 4700 BOYER STREET 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 read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Mayor Smith convened a public hearing. There being no one present, or who had called in to speak regarding the same, the public hearing was adjourned. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: MFB Investments*)

R-20-66 (RESOLUTION NO. 9855 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 720 WATER STREET 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 read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Mayor Smith convened a public hearing. There being no one present, or who had called in to speak regarding the same, the public hearing was adjourned. Council Member Hight asked if anyone had called in with comments for or against this property. Ms. Whitbey advised no one had. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Viola Hampton*)

R-20-67 (RESOLUTION NO. 9856 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 6605 WINDHILL 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 read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter. There being no one present, or who had called in to speak regarding the same, the public hearing was adjourned. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Deborah Dancy*)

R-20-68 (RESOLUTION NO. 9857 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 610 GORDON STREET 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 read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor. There being no one present, or who had called in to speak regarding the same, the public hearing was adjourned. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Floyd Williams*)

O-20-46 (ORDINANCE NO. 9247 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN MINIMUM EMERGENCY FUND BALANCE RESERVES FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; 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 Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross. Council Member Ross asked Finance Director Ember Strange to explain this legislation. Mayor Smith said Chief of Staff Danny Bradley and Mrs. Strange had been working on this legislation for the past

six (6) months. Mayor Smith commended the City Council for setting aside and creating a reserve fund. The intent was to help the city make it through a recession or depression. Mrs. Strange said this formal policy states the city shall maintain an (unappropriated, unreserved, and unrestricted balance known as the) Emergency Reserve equal to or exceeding 25% of the operating and maintenance budget for the immediately preceding budget year. She then referenced the 2018 Audit and unassigned balances. Mrs. Strange referenced O-20-47 which is more complicated as it had to be written in compliance with Bonds. She referenced Item III. in Exhibit "A" – Distribution of Funds from the Revenue Fund and included items (2), (3), (4), and (5). Mayor Smith said this is a large company the city manages (i.e. North Little Rock Electric Department). Council Member Ross commended everyone for their efforts. On the previous motion, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-20-47 (ORDINANCE NO. 9248 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT REVENUE DISTRIBUTION AND FUND/RESERVE BALANCE POLICY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 readings were suspended (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, 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-20-48 (ORDINANCE NO. 9249 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF 3M N95 MASKS FROM STRACK, INC., A SOLE SOURCE VENDOR; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Council Member Ginn asked how many and which kind of masks were being ordered as there are four (4) different types of N95 masks. Mayor Smith said the order is for 250 cases (80 per case) for a total of 20,000. The price per mask is under \$2.00. These are the masks Doctors use. Council Member Hight asked if the city would purchase masks for residents in the future. Mayor Smith said not at this time. 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). (\$38,275.00 + tax)

O-20-49 (ORDINANCE NO. 9250 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO GENE SUMMERS CONSTRUCTION FOR THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF A WATERLINE AND PARKING LOT AT DICKEY STEPHENS BALLPARK; DECLARING AN

EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. 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). On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Council Member Hight asked if this was separate from the issues in the ball field area. Mayor Smith said the location is in the back loading area behind the stadium. Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (\$22,500.00)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Smith said no one called in to speak during public comment. Council Member White said the Community Garden Program is thriving with some great new additions. There are additional part-time employees who are also doing a great job with the program. A report will be provided soon to update the council on the progress. Mayor Smith said the next (scheduled) City Council meeting will be on Monday, May 25, 2020, which is the Memorial Day Holiday. Without objection, the meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will also be an electronic meeting (via Zoom).

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member White, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on *Tuesday*, May 26, 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