

July 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, July 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: the majority of Council Members participated in the meeting electronically. Mayor Smith, City Clerk Whitbey, City Attorney Fields and City Council Member Jane Ginn were present in the council chambers. City Council Member Ginn entered the council chambers following communications below.

The prayer was led by Council Member Ginn.

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

1. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *New Retail Beer Off Premises – Retail Liquor – Replacement/New Owner*, for Old Mill Wine & Spirits, 2600 Lakewood Village Drive, Suite A, by Nicole Williams.
2. Anthony Nicholson, Petitions (12) Opposing Changing the Name of the Dixie Community in North Little Rock (187 signatures in support of opposition).

Note: communication #2 was read. Council Member Robinson said residents of the Dixie Community were concerned that a Social Media group suggested the name of said community be changed. The name of the community has nothing to do with the Confederacy. The community was named after the Dixie Cotton Seed Oil Mill, which was a major employer of people from the area. Residents in the Dixie Community wanted to let Council Members know their position in this matter by filing the petitions.

3. Ember Strange, Finance Director/Chair Energy Risk Management Committee memorandum to City Clerk Diane Whitbey re: Power Cost Adjustment rate (PCA) for August, 2020 (.0022/kwh) negative.

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

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-20-98, R-28-99, R-20-100, and R-20-101, were adopted (8/0).

R-20-98 (RESOLUTION NO. 9887 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CHARLEY FOSTER TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK PLANNING COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-99 (RESOLUTION NO. 9888 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KIMBERLY DANIELLE DRAKE TO THE POSITION ON THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK LIBRARY COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-100 (RESOLUTION NO. 9889 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION GRANTING A TEMPORARY USE FOR THE INTERSTATE 30 AND INTERSTATE 40 WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). Mayor Smith said this will allow the Arkansas Department of Transportation (AR DOT) to use the location during construction which may begin in October.

R-20-101 (RESOLUTION NO. 9890 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO REHABILITATE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 905 NORTH CYPRESS STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).
(Hope Rental Properties, LLC)

NEW BUSINESS

R-20-102 (RESOLUTION NO. 9891 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF FOUR VEHICLES FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM FREEDOM CHEVROLET, A HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM CONTRACTOR; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Mayor Smith said these are old

prices (2020 - which could be a savings of \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00). Council Member Ginn asked if this was the same company the city purchased from previously. Mayor Smith said it was not. She then asked why the city was not purchasing from a dealership located in Arkansas. Mayor Smith said the purchase is through a Government Bid. This is the equivalent to a “fire sale”. The city (North Little Rock) uses Area Council Cooperative purchases a lot. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (\$177,231.52)

R-20-103 (RESOLUTION NO. 9892 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT OF A CLEAN UP LIEN TO BE FILED WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR AGAINST CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 MOSLEY STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 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 (\$3,975.22)

Mayor Smith convened a public hearing regarding R-20-104 (108 Vine Street), R-20-105 (1602 Gum Street) and R-20-106 (317 and 319 W. 17th Street). There being no one present wishing to be heard, the items were called (see below).

R-20-104 (RESOLUTION NO. 9893 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 108 VINE 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. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Etta Mae W. Brown*)

R-20-105 (RESOLUTION NO. 9894 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1602 GUM 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. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ginn, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owners: Larry Thomas Morehead and Brittany Nicole Taylor*)

R-20-106 (RESOLUTION NO. 9895 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 317 AND 319 W. 17TH 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. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ginn, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).
(owners: Jay Edward and Jeffery Lee Richards)

R-20-107

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHERS STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 3805 MACARTHUR 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 withdrawn by the sponsor, Mayor Smith. Per Code Enforcement, the property was sold. (owner: Billy B. Whitley)

R-20-108 (RESOLUTION NO. 9896 – 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 Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ginn. 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-20-66 (ORDINANCE NO. 9267 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 12, PUBLIC SAFETY REGULATIONS; 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 Ginn and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Mayor Smith said the fire department needs road access to certain structures. The current (weight limit) is 75,000 pounds. The (city's) newest fire truck weighs 78,000 pounds which required an increase. The proposed weight limit increase is 85,000 pounds. Council Member Ross said she had asked Planning Director Shawn Spencer if this applied to new construction only. Mayor Smith confirmed this. 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-20-67 (ORDINANCE NO. 9268 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON)

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND ABANDONING THE ALLEYWAY BETWEEN WEST 4TH STREET AND ROCKWATER BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK;

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). On the motion of Council Member Taylor 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: John Pownall/Thomas Engineering Company*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council Member Robinson asked the City Clerk to mail the ordinance regarding signs (placement in right-of-way) in the city. Council Member Robinson received a message from a constituent regarding a public comment that was not submitted in time to be included in council meeting comments. The message was “I know that our city is not perfect, and we have our challenges. However, has anyone approached Council Members or the Mayor regarding any type of division or racism in the city and have they offered solutions?”

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, August 10, 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