September 14, 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, September 14, 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). Chief Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Katelyn Thomas, and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

Note: the majority of Council Members participated in the meeting electronically. Chief Deputy City Clerk Thomas, City Attorney Fields, Council Members Debi Ross and Jane Ginn were present in the council chambers.

The prayer was led by Mayor Smith.

On the blanket motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member White, 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: *Retail Beer Off Premises - NEW*, for Williams Grocery, 2324 E. Broadway, by Lakisha Williams.
2. Ember Strange, Finance Director/Chair Energy Risk Management Committee, memorandum to City Clerk Diane Whitbey re: Power Cost Adjustment rate (PCA) for September, 2020 (.0019/kwh) negative.
3. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Retail Beer Off Premises – Retail Liquor – Replacement/New Owner*, for Inner City Liquor, 4010 Pike Avenue, by Gerry Issioffia (note: this is also a change of location for the old Mary's Liquor Store in Levy).

On the motion of Council Member Taylor 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, August 24, 2020, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (8/0).

On the motion of Council Member Ginn 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 27, 2020, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (8/0).

Mayor Smith announced a Special Call meeting.

September 11, 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, September 14, 2020, at City Hall Council Chambers, North Little Rock, Arkansas. The following will be on the agenda:

> **R-20-137 Approving and Certifying 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. Sponsor: Mayor Joe A. Smith.**

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 R-20-137 (RESOLUTION NO. 9917 – 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 Ross. 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).

PRESENTATION

Mayor Smith invited Director of Governmental Affairs Margaret Powell to come forward and provide an update on the deadline to complete the 2020 Census. Council Members recently made videos supporting the program and encouraging their constituents to complete the Census. Due to COVID-19, responses have been down. During the summer months the plan was revised. Currently, North Little Rock residents have reported at a rate of 61.6%. City Departmental employees have been polled and assisted in completing the form. In August, the city announced a Video Contest for North Little Rock residents to generate interest in the program and the upcoming deadline. There are multiple categories

for residents to enter and the deadline to enter a video is September 30, 2020. The slogan for 2020 is "Count Me In North Little Rock." The city is also providing on-site outreach to the public. So far over 100 people have completed the Census as a result of these events. The value of the Census to communities is $3,000 per participant. Assistant Fire Marshal Dustin Free said the North Little Rock Fire Department has been out with door hangers as part of a Smoke Detector F.O.C.U.S program which is funded through Census Grant funds. The Fire Department has joined the Census Committee in promoting the F.O.C.U.S. program and assist residents with their Census forms. The Fire Marshal's Office installs Smoke Detectors, provides a safety video on the importance of Smoke Detectors in homes, and ask residents if they have completed their Census form. So far, 100% of the households they have installed equipment in have completed the Census. Mrs. Powell named several other organizations which have assisted in promoting the program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None filed.

NEW BUSINESS

R-20-129 (RESOLUTION NO. 9918 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FUNDS RELATED TO THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY AREA SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (STP) AND HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (HIP) FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB, WHITE OAK CROSSING, AND COUNTS MASSIE ROAD ROUNDABOUT PROJECT; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-20-130 (RESOLUTION NO. 9919 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATON TO DONATE PROPERTY FOR THE INTERSTATE 30 AND INTERSTATE 40 WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ginn and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Council Member Ross referred to an amendment substituting corrected maps (3 pages). On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member White, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows:: *substitute maps provided this date for Exhibit "A"* (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted as previously amended (8/0).

R-20-131 (RESOLUTION NO. 9920 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH GENE SUMMERS CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK RIVER TRAIL EROSION STABILIZATION PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF $55,115.00; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). Council Member White asked about FEMA Funds. Council Member Hight asked the status of funds (from FEMA) for River Trail repairs. Mayor Smith said he thought FEMA has agreed to fund 14 of 15 projects that were submitted by the City of North Little Rock. Council Member Hight asked for an updated from Emergency Services Director Leonard Montgomery at the next council meeting. Council Member Baxter asked that the public be notified of any closings of the trail.

R-20-132 (RESOLUTION NO. 9921 – COUNCIL MEMBERS ROBINSON AND TAYLOR)
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GENE SUMMERS CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR 9TH STREET IMPROVEMENTS – FROM G STREET TO I STREET, IN THE AMOUNT OF $322,470.00; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-20-133 (RESOLUTION NO. 9922 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR CRYSTAL HILL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF $140,677.50; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ginn and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-20-134 (RESOLUTION NO. 9923 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLE EQUIPMENT FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; ANDF OR 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 resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*$47,312.49*)

R-20-135 (RESOLUTION NO. 9924 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 8791 (2020 BUDGET) TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK HERITAGE CENTER PERMANENT EXHIBIT; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ginn and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Mayor Smith said a plan to upgrade the museum by providing a more inviting environment has been in the works for a while.

History Commission Director Sandra Taylor-Smith and History Commission Chair Suzanne Jackson worked with others to procure a plan and funding. Members of the commission were successful in obtaining a $50,000.00 grant and continue fund raising efforts. Council Member Ross said this will be a great addition to the downtown area. Council Member Ginn said banners are being applied to the building to promote the (North Little Rock Heritage) Center. Council Member White said she was concerned at first, but after visiting with Mrs. Taylor-Smith and Mrs. Jackson, she learned the (history of) entire city will be represented in the exhibit(s). On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-20-136 (RESOLUTION NO. 9925 – 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 6605 WINDHILL DRIVE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 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). (*$6,335.47*)

O-20-78 (ORDINANCE NO. 9279 – MAYOR SMITH)
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 QUOTA ORDINANCE (NO. 9197) FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK FINANCE DEPARTMENT AND THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK VEHICLE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT; 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). On the motion of Council Member Ross 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).

Mayor Smith asked Mr. Randy Jumper to come forward. Mr. Jumper came forward and presented the North Little Rock Kiwanis Club Charley Ball Outstanding Community Partner Award to Mayor Smith. Mr. Ball was a member of the Kiwanis Club for 70 years and very involved in the community. He also presented Mayor Smith with a club membership. Mayor Smith accepted the award and said it was a great honor.

O-20-79 (ORDINANCE NO. 9280 - MAYOR SMITH)
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9274, WHICH ACCEPTED THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, APPROVED THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES TO BE EXTENDED TO SAID AREA, AND ASSIGNED SAID TERRITORY TO WARD 2; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded

by Council Member Ross, 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 the only thing this legislation does is clean up wording. 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-20-80 (ORDINANCE NO. 9281 – MAYOR SMITH)
AN ORDINANCE WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO JCON, INC. FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF A STORMWATER PIPE AT 7TH STREET, EXTENDING FROM ORANGE STREET TO MAPLE STREET; 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). (*$98,711.50*)

O-20-81 (ORDINANCE NO. 9282 – MAYOR SMITH)
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A GENERAL REVENUE PROMISSORY NOTE (BURNS PARK GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT PROJECT), SERIES 2020; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE NOTE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO, 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). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Council Member Ross asked if these were being purchased through the State Bid. Mayor Smith said he recalled the purchase includes 40 trade-in vehicles. He said play has increased significantly at the (city owned) golf course due to the COVID-19 virus which has increased use of the golf carts. 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-20-82 (ORDINANCE NO. 9283 – COUNCIL MEMBER BAXTER)
AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7718 MACARTHUR DRIVE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM C-3 TO C-4 ZONING CLASSIFICATION, BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9263; GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW FOR A CONTRACTOR'S OFFICE WITH OUTDOOR STORAGE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). Mayor Smith asked Mr. Joe Reynolds to come forward. Mr. Reynolds said he represents the Meadowlane Subdivision where he has lived for 40 years. He has visited with the

applicant and said the property owners are not opposed to the request. The entrance will be from MacArthur Drive and a 6 foot privacy fence. Mr. Chris Robinson is the owner of the company. On the motion of Council Member Baxter 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). (*applicant: Foundation Repair of AR)*

O-20-83 (ORDINANCE NO. 9284 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON)
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A WAIVER OF SECTION 14.14 OF ORDINANCE NO. 7697 TO ALLOW A ROOF SIGN IN A C-6 MIXED USE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 418 E. BROADWAY IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Robinson 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 Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Mayor Smith convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. Council Member Hight asked if the current pole sign that used to advertise the Exxon Station at this location will come down. Mr. Shawn Spencer, Planning Director said the Exxon Station went to the Board of Adjustment years ago and obtained permission for the (pole) sign. As long as the sign is not moved, it is allowed at its current location. A Starbucks sign will go on the pole. Council Member Hight said he thought if the sign was changed in any way it would be out of compliance with the Sign Ordinance. Mr. Spencer said that was true, however, this was a Board of Adjustment case that allowed a 50 foot sign on the property. Council Member Taylor said the approval of the sign (by the Board of Adjustment) created a variance which runs with the property. The right to have the sign went with the property when it was sold. 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: David Hamilton of Seiz Sign Company*)

O-20-84 (ORDINANCE NO. 9285 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW A CAR LOT IN A C-4 ZONE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2001 E. BROADWAY STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor 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 Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ginn, 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: Eric James and Pierre Grimes*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brent Ferguson thanked Captain Almon who he heard on the KABF last Saturday regarding home smoke alarms and fire safety. He has a problem with the city's website which indicated the (current)

meeting had not begun or loaded. Mr. Ferguson said he is having trouble with Sergeant Green with the North Little Rock Police Department. He was advised persons with AOL accounts are unable to contact the department via email. Mayor Smith asked Mr. Ferguson to email him tomorrow and he would have someone contact him by telephone. Council Member Ross said she has had issues receiving email through the city's Mimecast program. Council Member White has experienced the same issue. Mr. Thomas Rester is a concerned citizen. He asked for an estimate on how much funds are available to assist the community in dealing with COVID-19. Mayor Smith asked Mr. Rester to contact the city Finance Department. He also thanked Mayor Smith for his service to the city. Council Member Hight asked if there was an update on reopening the Library. Mayor Smith said it will take more time.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, September 28, 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