October 12, 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, October 12, 2020, was called to order at 6:00 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 Council Member Jane Ginn were present in the council chambers.

The prayer was led by Pastor Greg Sanders, Assembly of Cabot, son-in-law of Council Member White.

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

1. Patty Green, Petition requesting Speed Hump on Saunders Drive (*35 signatures for*).
2. Alberta Hall Shipp, Petition requesting Speed Hump on Libby Lane (*20 signatures for*).

Mayor Smith invited Arkansas State Police Director Colonel Bill Bryant to come forward. Major Jason Aaron who is over the Highway Patrol Division for the eastern part of the state was also present with him. Colonel Bryant commended the North Little Rock Police Department for their assistance earlier this year during protests at the State Capitol where North Little Rock officers assisted the Arkansas State Police. The officers were professional and treated all people with dignity and respect. He commended North Little Rock Police Chief Tracy Roulston and his team for their efforts. Leaders were: Lieutenant Todd Spafford, Special Operations Commander, Lieutenant Steven Chamness Assistant Special Operations Commander, Sergeant Brandt Carmical SWAT Commander, Sergeant Danny Haley, Assistant Special Operations Commander, Sergeant Justin Cross, SRT Commander and Lieutenant Jim Scott, DRONE Commander. These men led by example alongside the men and women of the North Little Rock Police Department. Colonel Bryant also thanked Mayor Smith and Chief of Staff, former North Little Rock Police Chief Danny Bradley for their continued support of all law enforcement. Colonel Bryant said he was a DEA (Drug Enforcement Agent) when he first came to Arkansas and had the opportunity to work with North Little Rock Police Officers then and now. He presented a Chief Roulston a Certificate of Appreciation to the officers of the North Little Rock Police

Department for their response to Governor Asa Hutchinson's declaration in June, 2020 and assistance as referenced above. Chief Roulston thanked Colonel Bryant and commended the officers who were involved. He thanked the North Little Rock Police Officers who put their lives on the line daily to protect our city. Mayor Smith commended both the North Little Rock Police Department and the Arkansas State Police as they partnered together during these events.

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, September 28, 2020, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (8/0).

Mayor Smith referenced a letter he provided Council Members from Central Arkansas Water Director Tad Bohannon, CEO regarding proceeding with shutting off delinquent accounts. This follows numerous letters to customers who are delinquent on their water bills. North Little Rock Electric has been sending out letters as well giving customers the opportunity to come in and make payment arrangements. North Little Rock Electric will begin disconnects for non-payment this month, too. The city has not collected any funds on these accounts since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The City Clerk's Office delayed penalties (for Business/Privilege License renewals) until June 30, 2020. (Penalties have been assessed since July 1, 2020. This is in line with the State of Arkansas' delinquent tax collection.)

PRESENTATIONS

See above.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by voice vote and all members present having voted "aye", consent items R-20-146, R-20-147, R-20-148, R-20-149, to R-20-150, were adopted (8/0).

R-20-146 (RESOLUTION NO. 9934 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE CITY'S AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-147 (RESOLUTION NO. 9935 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE

DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION (SA); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-148 (RESOLUTION NO. 9936 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, JOHN E. CHARLES LODGE NO. 5; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-149 (RESOLUTION NO. 9937 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO SELL CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON PIKE AVENUE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS TO RECOVERY CENTERS OF ARKANSAS, INC.; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (*$25,000.00*)

R-20-150 (RESOLUTION NO. 9938 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO PURCHASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2721 NORTH POPLAR STREET FROM THE NANCY COCHRAN TIPPIT TRUST AND THE GEORGE EDWARD COCHRAN TRUST; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (*$290,000.00 – parking for Justice Building*)

Mayor Smith referenced the two year agreements regarding the Police Department and the purchase of the property adjacent to the Justice Center for additional parking.

NEW BUSINESS

R-20-151 (RESOLUTION NO. 9939 – MAYOR SMITH)
A RESOLUTION 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; 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 (8/0).

O-20-92 (ORDINANCE NO. 9293 – MAYOR SMITH)
AN ORDINANCE DISSOLVING THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT BOARD, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 15, 2020; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 readings were suspended (8/0). On the

motion of Council Member Ginn 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-20-93 (ORDINANCE NO. 9294 – MAYOR SMITH)
AN ORDINANCE WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF METERING EQUIPMENT FOR THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS VETERANS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM; 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). On the motion of Council Member Ginn 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). (*Federal Pacific – $40,520.00*)

O-20-94 (ORDINANCE NO. 9295 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)
AN ORDINANCE REZONING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1701 W. SHORT 17TH STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM R-3 TO R-4 ZONING CLASSIFICATION, BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9263; 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). On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: Reola Perry*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Whitbey read a public comment from Mr. James Ard (provided by telephone earlier in the day) reminding everyone there isn't much time before the (General) Election. He said there are two candidates for mayor with clean skirts. He said honesty needs to be kept in the mayor's office and encouraged people to vote for one of the two women who are running. He went on to recommend voting for Debi Ross. He then commended Mayor Smith for the excellent job he has done in guiding the city (of North Little Rock). Council Member Taylor asked about the hours included in the ordinance allowing Main Street to be closed (for outdoor dining) on the weekends. Chief of Staff Danny Bradley said the area closes around 5:00 p.m. on Friday and is blocked through Saturday evening. City Attorney Fields said there is a portion of the 300 Main block that is open until approximately 2 – 3:00 p.m. to allow customers' access to Galaxy Furniture Store. Mayor Smith said this in cooperation with the Downtown Council and retailers. Council Member Harris reminded the public to participate in the (2020) Census count. Mayor Smith said staff has been working in shopping centers obtaining additional participation. Council Member Robinson suggested adding two additional Code Enforcement Officers to help with Code Enforcement in the city as they have a lot of territory to cover.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, October 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