

December 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, December 14, 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, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, JANE GINN and CHARLIE HIGHT (7/0). Council Member MAURICE TAYLOR was not present during roll call but joined the meeting electronically shortly after. 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 Ginn were present in the council chambers.*

The prayer was led by Council Member Harris.

On the motion of Council Member Ginn and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting and Special Call meeting scheduled for Monday, November 23, 2020, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the Chief Deputy City Clerk (8/0).

On the blanket motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, communications #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were accepted and filed (8/0).

1. Council Member Beth White – email to Mayor Joe A. Smith re: resignation from Fit2Live Garden Advisory Committee at end of Council term and thank you.
2. Council Member Beth White – email to Mayor Joe A. Smith re: resignation from Senior Citizens Commission effective end of November, 2020 and thank you.
3. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Grocery Store wine, retail beer off premises, small farm winery – Retail Permit – Change of manager for CVS/Pharmacy #10975, 2501 McCain Boulevard*, by Jessica Chavis.
4. John Owens, President North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce – Economic Development Activity Report – Q4 2020.
5. Larry K. Massey, Petition requesting Speed Hump on Eureka Garden Road (near 208) (*8 signatures for*).
6. Retha Ross, Petition requesting Speed Hump on Toltec Drive (*18 signatures for*).

Mayor Smith announced a Special Call meeting.

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

**R-20-181 Expressing the willingness of the City of North Little Rock to partner with the Arkansas Department of Transportation for the Highway 70 and Highway 391 Improvements Project. Sponsor: Mayor Joe A. Smith**

**R-20-182 Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with International Development Services. Sponsor: Council Member Linda Robinson**

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-20-181 (RESOLUTION NO. 9965 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO PARTNER WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE HIGHWAY 70 AND HIGHWAY 391 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; 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).

R-20-182 (RESOLUTION NO. 9966 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Ginn, and by consent of all members the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). Mayor Smith said the purpose of the legislation was to correct a previous error.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Smith invited External Affairs Director Margaret Powell to come forward and provide an update regarding the 2020 Census. Mrs. Powell said the number of self-responders was 62.5%. This does not include numbers collected by (door-to-door) canvassers. The full report will be available in mid-June (2021). There were two contests which included a Census Video Contest and a Chalk Art Contest. Winners were announced. Cash prizes were donated by local businesses and individuals.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

On the motion of Council Member Ginn and seconded by Council Member Ross, and all members present having voted “aye”, consent items R-20-169, R-20-170, R-20-171, R-20-172, and R-20-173 (8/0).

R-20-169 (RESOLUTION NO. 9958 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TIM CUMMINS TO THE POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY DON BLAKEY ON THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK AIRPORT COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-170 (RESOLUTION NO. 9959 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TODD ADAMS TO THE POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY JIM JULIAN ON THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK AIRPORT COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-171 (RESOLUTION NO. 9960 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CITY COUNCIL MEMBER CHARLIE HIGHT TO THE POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BETH WHITE ON THE SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-172 (RESOLUTION NO. 9961 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALAN NEW AND LOUIS FRANCE AS SUCCESSOR COMMISSIONERS OF THE ARGENTA DOWNTOWN CENTRAL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 31; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-20-173 (RESOLUTION NO. 9962 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN CITY-OWNED ITEMS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS; PROVIDING FOR AUCTION THEREOF; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

Mayor Smith said Mr. Blakey and Mr. Julian are retiring from the Airport Commission. He thanked them both for their services and welcomed the two new commissioners. Mayor Smith also thanked Council Member Hight for agreeing to serve on the Senior Citizens Commission and Mr. New and Mr. France who were appointed to the Downtown Business District.

**NEW BUSINESS**

R-20-174 (RESOLUTION NO. 9963 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2021 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Robinson. Council Member Ross asked about public arts projects. Mayor Smith has not committed the funds for 2021 and will leave that up to the City Council and Mayor-elect (Terry C.) Hartwick. On the previous motion, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-20-175 (RESOLUTION NO. 9964 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2021 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ginn and seconded by Council Member White, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

Mayor Smith thanked staff members for their efforts in putting together the two large budgets for 2021.

R-20-176 (RESOLUTION NO. 9965 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR AN ARVEST BANK EPAYABLES ACCOUNT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Council Member Ross asked who would oversee this account. Finance Director Ember Strange said the purpose of the account is to pay large vendors who accept ePayables by charge, not employee use. The city would receive a rebate when used. This is a faster and more secure process. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-20-177 (RESOLUTION NO. 9966 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE GARAGE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED 1601 WEST 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURE; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; AND FOR OTHER PUPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ginn. Mayor Smith then convened a public hearing on the following items: R-20-177 - 1601 West 18<sup>th</sup>, R-20-178 – 1711

Chandler, and R-20-179 – 2541 Hwy 161. 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, this resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Deborah Jean Grissim*)

R-20-178 (RESOLUTION NO. 9967 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1711 CHANDLER STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A NUISANCE PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; AND 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 resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Eddie Givens*)

R-20-179 (RESOLUTION NO. 9968 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 2541 HIGHWAY 161 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 Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: J&P Flash, Inc.*)

R-20-180 (RESOLUTION NO. 9969 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND CERTIFYING AMOUNTS OF LIENS TO BE FILED WITH 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 Hight. 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-20-111 (ORDINANCE NO. 9311 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CHAPTER ON AIRPORT ZONING AS PART OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE; REPEALING ARTICLE 22 (AIRPORT ZONING) OF THE OLD ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 7697); 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 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).

O-20-112 (ORDINANCE NO. 9312 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 19.2 (SIGN BOARD) OF THE OLD ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 7697); DISSOLVING THE SIGN BOARD; AMENDING ARTICLE 9 OF THE CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 9263); DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to suspend the readings was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight. Mayor Smith advised the Sign Board rarely meets. The Board of Adjustment is an established board that meets monthly for various reasons. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the motion was unanimously adopted (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Ginn and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was amended as follows: *delete Section 3 and Section 4, and renumber Section 5 to Section 3* (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Hight 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 as amended (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Smith recognized Council Member-elect Nathan Hamilton and Mayor-elect Terry C. Hartwick who were present and thanked them for their service to the residents of North Little Rock. Mayor Smith said the next City Council meeting will be Monday, December 28, 2020. City Offices will be closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Mayor Smith wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Council Member Harris asked if there would be a going away celebration. Mayor Smith said in September, a ribbon cutting will be held for the new Justice Center. He will be here for that event and hopefully the Coronavirus (and COVID) would be under control and allow for a gathering at that time. Mayor Smith reminded everyone of the recent passing of North Little Rock Police Sergeant Buck Dancy due to COVID-19. Council Member Ross said Council Member White is also retiring from the City Council at the end of her term (December 31, 2020). Council Member Robinson said Council Member Harris was reelected in a run-off election.

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 6:34 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, December 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