

January 25, 2021  
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, January 25, 2021, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor Terry C. Hartwick.

The roll having been called and the following Council Members answered to their names: DEBI ROSS, NATHAN HAMILTON, 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 Hartwick, City Clerk Whitbey, City Attorney Fields, and Council Member Ginn were present in the council chambers.*

The prayer was led by Council Member Ross.

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, January 11, 2021, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (8/0).

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

1. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: Replacement – retail beer off premises permit replacement for Best Superstop, 4414 E Broadway, by Arvid Singh.
2. Julie Fisher, Mayor's Office – Mayor's Proclamation – Day of Racial Healing in the City of North Little Rock.
3. Speed Hump Studies for Saunders, Libby Lane and Countryside.
4. Amy Beckman Fields – City Attorney memorandum to City Council re: Risk Management Committee Quarterly Report (Q4, FY2020).
5. Speed Hump Studies for Eureka Garden and Toltec.
6. Ember Strange – Finance Director memorandum re: December 2020 Financial Update (delayed until February).
7. Julie Fisher, Mayor's Office – Thea Foundation re: 2020 Annual Funding Performance Report.

On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Robinson, communication #8 was read by title only and accepted and filed (8/0).

8. Council Member Charlie Hight – email from Doug McDowall re: Dollar General Alcohol Permit Applications. (*Note – these items were on the council agenda 12-29-2020 and accepted and filed*). Council Member Hight asked the city to consider sending the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (ABC) a letter regarding the number of applications being made for beer permits issued to stores, which is currently unlimited. These type permits are not based on population. Council Member Robinson said the council has allowed several of these permits in the past. It would not be reasonable to revoke those. Council Member Hamilton thanked Mr. McDowall for his letter. However, the Arkansas State Legislature passed a state law allowing beer and/or wine sales in grocery and retail establishments. Council Member Ross encouraged neighborhood groups or residents to express their concerns when the proposed permits are presented to the city.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Hartwick presented a Proclamation for a Day of Racial Healing in the City of North Little Rock. He was part of a group of Arkansas Mayors and County Judges who attended a ceremony last week at the Arkansas Municipal League. Racial healing is critical to the education, social, mental and overall well-being of our residents and children.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and all members present having voted “aye”, consent items R-21-05, R-21-06, R-21-07, R-21-08, R-21-09, R-21-10, R-21-11, and R-21-12 were adopted (8/0). Council Member Ross asked about the required annual report for each of the non-profit organizations. Ms. Whitbey advised Ms. Mary Beth Bowman will provide copies of each report to be filed with the legislation.

R-21-05 (RESOLUTION NO. 9983 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THEA FOUNDATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).  
(\$48,000.00)

R-21-06 (RESOLUTION NO. 9984 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK UNIT OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (\$66,000.00)

R-21-07 (RESOLUTION NO. 9985 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN ENHANCED COMMUNITY SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARGENTA DOWNTOWN COUNCIL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (*\$140,000.00*)

R-21-08 (RESOLUTION NO. 9986 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (*\$60,000.00*)

R-21-09 (RESOLUTION NO. 9987 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BUTTERFLY COMMUNITY (SEIS PUENTES PROJECT); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (*\$39,000.00*)

R-21-10 (RESOLUTION NO. 9988 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ARGENTA COMMUNITY THEATER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was ADOPTED (8/0). (*\$75,000.00*)

R-21-11 (RESOLUTION NO. 9989 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OZARK MISSION PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (*\$10,000.00*)

R-21-12 (RESOLUTION NO. 9990 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARKANSAS REGIONAL INNOVATION HUB, INC.; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (*\$125,000.00*)

**NEW BUSINESS**

R-21-13 (RESOLUTION NO. 9991 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

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. Mayor Hartwick convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-21-04 (ORDINANCE NO. 9321 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR THE NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 8602, AS AMENDED; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by

Council Member Hight and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). Council Member Hight asked Finance Director Ember Strange to explain the change. Finance Director Strange advised the main change would make the plan fair for long-term employees. The original plan included that if an employee has been with the city for 20 years and reached the age of 65, they would receive a 2.2% multiplier for their retirement. There are a number of long term employees (example 30 years) who are only eligible for a 1.8% benefit at the age of 62. This change will make it more equitable and was referenced during 2021 Budget meetings. The city's contribution to the plan was increased 1.35% (or \$390,000.00) to keep the plan at current funding. Council Member Ross said this is an either or option. Ms. Strange confirmed employees can still wait to retire until the age of 65. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Robinson. On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was amended as follows: *attached Exhibit "B"* (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Baxter 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 as amended (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-21-05 (ORDINANCE NO. 9322 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL TO UPDATE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN; 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 Hight and seconded by Council Member Robinson, 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-21-06 (ORDINANCE NO. 9323 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES FOR EACH DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK FOR 2021; 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 Hight, 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-21-07 (ORDINANCE NO. 9324 – COUNCIL MEMBER HIGHT)

AN ORDINANCE RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5103 NORTH LOCUST STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM R1 ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) ZONING CLASSIFICATION, BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9263; 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 Hight 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).

O-21-08 (ORDINANCE NO. 9325 – COUNCIL MEMBER HIGHT)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW FOR A CELL TOWER IN A C3 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 22 REMOUNT ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 Hight 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: Crown Castle*)

O-21-09 (ORDINANCE NO. 9326 – COUNCIL MEMBERS HIGHT AND GINN)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW FOR A CAR RENTAL BUSINESS IN C3 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3929 MCCAIN BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ginn 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 Hight, 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-21-10 (ORDINANCE NO. 9327 – COUNCIL MEMBER BAXTER)

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND ABANDONING CERTAIN UNUSED EASEMENTS ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8900 MAUMELLE BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; 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). On the motion of Council Member Baxter 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).

O-21-11 (ORDINANCE NO. 9328 –COUNCIL MEMBER ROSS)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9079, WHICH ADOPTED RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK CITY COUNCIL; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ross

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 Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present the ordinance was amended as follows:: *Section 2.03 Calling of Roll – add* WHEN RECORDING THE VOTE OF ANY MEMBER WHO IS PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY IN A MEETING THE CITY CLERK SHALL CALL THE NAME OF THE MEMBER AND RECORD THE RESPONSE. IF FOR ANY REASON NO RESPONSE IS RECEIVED THE CITY CLERK SHALL RECORD THAT MEMBER ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE (8/0). City Attorney Fields advised this would cover technical difficulties which happen from time to time. The vote recorded as abstain is not a ‘no’ vote and it is not a ‘yes’ vote and therefore cannot be counted. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council Member Hight asked about residents leaving garbage cans out (during the week – when it is not pickup day). Council Member Hight asked if Unit 50 could pick up trash along John F. Kennedy Boulevard between Kierre and Osage. Council Member Hight asked if part time employees are covered by Workers Compensation Insurance if they contract COVID-19 due to their position. Council Member Robinson asked if the city had legislation preventing people from bringing weapons on city property or in city buildings. The city needs something in place to take care of our employees. She also asked about city property that is being leased to other individuals, non-profits, etc. Council Member Baxter asked if former Mayor Smith left the emergency equipment that was attached to his vehicle after leaving office and could it be installed on Mayor Hartwick’s vehicle.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Ginn, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, February 8, 2021, 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 TERRY C. HARTWICK

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIANE WHITBEY, CITY CLERK