

July 12, 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, July 12, 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, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, JANE GINN, and CHARLIE HIGHT (7/0). Council Member MAURICE TAYLOR was absent during roll call. City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were led by Council Member Harris.

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, June 28, 2021, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk, Diane Whitbey (7/0).

Council Member Taylor entered the council chambers at 6:02 p.m.

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

1. Mary Jones, via email to City Clerk re: Lack of Diversity in North Little Rock Planning Commission and Affordable Housing.
2. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: Restaurant Mixed Drink Permit – Maximum – Replacement/New Owner for Cantina Bar, 4000 Vali Court, by Santos Rodriguez.
3. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: Additional Permits – Retail Beer Off Premises & Small Farm Winery – Retail for Cana One Stop at 1524 Pike Avenue, by Rajbir Singh.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hartwick invited Miss Sophie Nash to join him at the podium. He then read a proclamation proclaiming Sophie Nash and the Women of North Little Rock High School Soccer Day in the City of North Little Rock in recognition of the teams' successful season, and the contributions made by Miss Nash. Miss Nash introduced her teammates who were present. Mayor Hartwick thanked the team members, coaches, and parents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None.

NEW BUSINESS

R-21-88 (RESOLUTION NO. 10065 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 8616 WHICH CONDEMNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3414 PARKER STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-21-89 (RESOLUTION NO. 10066 – 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. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Mayor Hartwick convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. Council Member Ross said there are several repeat names / property owners on the list. She asked if there were other options (in addition to filing a lien) the city could do to be reimbursed for cutting the grass. City Attorney Fields said when property is vacant/abandoned and reaches the point that the city has to cut the grass, a lien is the remedy the law currently provides. Many of the property owners may be out of state. When the liens are sent to the county, they are added to the tax records as a lien against the piece of property. On the previous motion and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-21-61 (ORDINANCE NO. 9373 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A CHAPTER ON TAXATION AS PART OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE; REPEALING CERTAIN CODE SECTIONS; REPEALING ORDINANCE NOS. 4350, 4759, 4882, 4990, 5497, 5503, 6335, 7186, and 7394; 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). City Attorney Fields said the purpose of this ordinance is to repeal and include all content in one place, which the city clerk will post to the website. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Harris, 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-21-62 (ORDINANCE NO. 9374 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.1.10 OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 9, PARKING REGULATIONS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 readings were suspended (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Taylor 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). (*Section 1. 2.1.10 Recreational Vehicles*)

O-21-63 (ORDINANCE NO. 9375 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 5 OF THE NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES’ POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL TO INCLUDE WHISTLE-BLOWER POLICY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Harris and seconded by Council Member Baxter, 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 Baxter. Human Resources Director Betty Anderson said the city has a policy (for employees) under Grievance Procedures. Housing Urban Development requires all agencies receiving federal funds have an actual “Whistle Blower Policy.” On the previous motion, and the roll having been called, and all members having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-21-64 (ORDINANCE NO. 9376 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE DEFINING “PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT” TO BE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE UNDER ARKANSAS LAW; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Harris, 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).

O-21-65 (ORDINANCE NO. 9377 - MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO PROGNOST SYSTEMS, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN AUTOMATED DIAGNOSTIC ADVISORY SYSTEM FOR THE MURRAY HYDROELECTRIC PLANT; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Harris, 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 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). (*amount: \$112,352.48*)

O-21-66 (ORDINANCE NO. 9378 – COUNCIL MEMBERS BAXTER AND HARRIS)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW A PAWN SHOP IN AN C4 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9871 MAUMELLE BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read.

Without objection, Council Member Harris was added as a cosponsor. On the motion of Council Member Baxter 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 Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Council Member Ginn asked the name of the pawn shop and if the applicant was present. Mr. Shawn Spencer, Planning Director said this is an existing jewelry store that has been at this location for years. The applicant has requested the ability to pawn jewelry. This would not be a typical pawn shop with other items like motorcycles, lawnmowers, etc. Council Member Ginn asked if firearms would be for sale. Mr. Spencer said that was not the intent or discussed. Council Member Ginn asked if firearms would have to be approved prior to sale. Mr. Spencer said the (current) zoning allows the sale of firearms. Council Member Ginn said she had received a call from someone with concerns about the proximity to Subway and added this was not the right neighborhood for a pawn shop. Council Member Baxter said the owner is working at his west Little Rock location and unable to be at the meeting. He advised there is another restaurant in the strip mall that sells alcohol. He added that neither he nor Council Member Harris had received any calls or other contact from anyone opposing this request. This location is not going to be a pawn shop. This legislation allows the applicant to receive (jewelry) pawn business. Council Member Ross referenced a pawn shop in Ward 4 near a McDonalds and other restaurants off of John F. Kennedy Boulevard. Council Member Ginn said Braswell doesn't have firearms. On the previous motion, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, with the exception of Council Member Ginn, who voted no, the ordinance was adopted (7/1). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: American Jewelry and Loan*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Ross 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, July 26, 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