

November 8, 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, November 8, 2021, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor Terry C. Hartwick.

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson reinstating a state-wide public health emergency, council members had the option of attending the council meeting in person or participate virtually. The Council Chambers were open to the public and social distancing and the use of masks were encouraged for those attending the meeting in person.

The roll having been called and the following Council Members answered to their names: DEBI ROSS, MAURICE TAYLOR, NATHAN HAMILTON, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, JANE GINN, and CHARLIE HIGHT (8/0). *Note: Council Member Harris participated electronically via Zoom. All other members were present in the Council Chambers.* City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

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

On the motion of Council Member Hight 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, October 25, 2021, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk, Diane Whitbey (8/0).

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. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: application for Grocery Store Wine, Retail Beer off Premises, Small Farm Winery – Retail Permit – Replacement/New Owner, for Fill & Chill, 4614 East Broadway, by Mantej Singh.
2. Patricia Brewer, via email letter to Mayor Hartwick re: issue with Centerpoint Energy.
3. Amy Fields, City Attorney memorandum to City Council Members re: Risk Management Committee Quarterly Report (Q3, FY2021).

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hartwick presented checks to the following Non-Profit Food Banks:

Gardner Memorial United Methodist Church – Dana and David Burnett, Rex Winkley and Sue Winkley

River City Ministries – Executive Director Paul Wilkerson

S.T.E.P., Inc. – Executive Director Tom Allen

Park Hill Christian Church – Jan and Joe Diederich, Co-Chairs of Outreach Ministry, David and Jennie Gregory, Board Chair

Amboy Community Food Pantry – Kay Shultz, Director

Pulaski Technical College Food Pantry, Michelle Grainger, Finance Manager and Dr. Margaret Ellibee, Chancellor.

All recipients expressed their appreciation to Mayor Hartwick and City Council members on behalf of those in the community who will benefit from the donations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

None filed.

NEW BUSINESS

R-21-168 (RESOLUTION NO. 10142 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO REHABILITATE PROPERTY FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5124 ALPHA STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).
(*Henry Coleman*)

R-21-169 (RESOLUTION NO. 10143 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN EXCLUSIVE LISTING CONTRACT WITH IREALTY ARKANSAS SHERWOOD TO SELL APPROXIMATELY 8 ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND LOCATED ON WEST 38TH STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Council Member Taylor said there was only one signature line in the Contract and advised the Listing Brokers name should be included as well. City Attorney Fields will have that added to the Contract. Council Member Ross said she had inquiries as to where the public can find city-owned property for sale and advised it is on the North Little Rock website under A to Z listings. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (\$260,000.00)

R-21-170 (RESOLUTION NO. 10144 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO A COLLECTION

SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES, INC. FOR COLLECTION OF DEBT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross. Council Member Ross said there were a few blanks in the contract. Ms. Jill Ponder, Director of Business for North Little Rock Electric Department advised item 3 b should include “does not have” and item 9 should include “agrees” and “10%”. On the motion of Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution Collection Services Agreement was amended as follows:: *insert in the blanks – 3b check box DOES NOT HAVE and 9 check box AGREES and insert 10 (%) (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 amended (8/0). *(for a percentage of the debt collected)*

R-21-171 (RESOLUTION NO. 10145 – 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 Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Hartwick asked Chief Financial Officer Ember Strange to come forward to distribute copies of the proposed 2022 Budget to Council Members. A public meeting will be held Monday, November 22, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., prior to the regular scheduled City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Council Member Ross referenced Redistricting (City) Wards as a result of the 2020 Census. There is a 10% factor that is required to be met to keep the numbers of residents within each ward equal or similar. Mr. Shawn Spenser, Planning Director said Ward 1 - 13,876, Ward 2 – 15,357, Ward 3 – 18,551, Ward 4 -16,807 (total 64,591). The average for number in each ward is 16,150. Mayor Hartwick asked the difference in numbers from the previous Census (2010). Council Member Ross said Silver City Courts and Eastgate in Ward 1 had reduced residents during the time of the Census count. Ward 1 also includes areas where response to the count was low. Mayor Hartwick referenced areas where new residential development has grown (in the past 10 years). Council Member Ross said the city could request a recount. There would be a financial cost associated with a recount. Council Member Baxter said Ward 3 had growth due to several new apartment complexes being built. City Attorney Fields said the statute does not have a timeline, but the redistricting needs to be done before the 2022 elections.

Mayor Hartwick advised there will be a Christmas Tree lighting event at the Argenta Plaza tomorrow (Tuesday, November 9, 2021). Ms. Shara Brazear, Communications Director said two Girl Scout Troops and three other youth will assist Mayor Hartwick in lighting the tree. Channel 11 (KTHV) will broadcast live from the Plaza at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. There will be music starting at 4:45 p.m. The

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North Little Rock Kiwanis Club will host a Food Drive during the event. Attendees were encouraged to bring canned goods.

Mayor Hartwick announced the following additional upcoming events:

North Little Rock City Offices will be closed (Thursday) November 11, 2021 in observance of Veterans Day. Sanitation and recycling routes will run one-day delayed the remainder of the week (i.e. Thursdays' pickup will be Friday and Friday's pickup will be Saturday).

November 20: Northern Lights & Holiday Market, time: to be determined, at The Plaza

November 25 & 26: City Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holidays (Sanitation and Recycling Routes will run one-day delayed the remainder of the week (*Thursday's pickup Friday and Friday's pickup Saturday*))

December 5: 2021 Christmas Parade (Council Member Hight said there will be food trucks in the City Services Parking lot during the parade).

December 9: Justice Building Open House

Council Member Ross asked when the second Budget meeting will be held. Mayor Hartwick said (if needed) a second meeting would be held December 13, 2021.

Ms. Whitbey reminded council members to bring their laptops to the Budget meeting for needed updates.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6: p.m. (7/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, November 22, 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