

December 13, 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, December 13, 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, NATHAN HAMILTON, MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, and JANE GINN (7/0). Council Member CHARLIE HIGHT was absent. City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were led by Mayor Hartwick.

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, November 22, 2021, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk, Diane Whitbey (7/0).

Mayor Hartwick asked Mrs. Debrah Mitchell to come forward. Mrs. Mitchell is with the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus. She spoke regarding the proposed Congressional Redistricting maps. During a Special Session held in October, (State) Lawmakers approved Redistricting maps for the four Congressional Districts based on the 2020 Census data. Several options were proposed. Act 1114 and 1116 split the most populated county in the state (Pulaski) into three Congressional Districts. The new law shifted 21,000 black residents out of Congressional District 2 and moved them into Congressional Districts 1 and 4. The neighborhoods of McAlmont, Sherman Park, Meadow Park, Glenview and Scott will be affected. The congressman for the areas is from Jonesboro in District 1. The areas impacted are predominately African American and vote Democrat. The split was designed to separate the majority minority areas to dilute the voting power of black and brown people. After further comments, Mrs. Mitchell referenced petitions for a referendum which were circulated and asked everyone to sign.

On the motion of Council Member Ginn and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, communications #1, 2, 3 and 4, were accepted and filed (7/0).

1. Kenny Stephens, Safety Department Director, Traffic Analysis Report for Speed Study done at 500 Pollock Street. No speed hump approved for the area.
2. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office, application for Grocery Store Wine, Retail Beer Off Premises, Small Farms Winery – Retail, Wine Sampling – Change of Manager for Wal-Mart Supercenter #1105 at 4450 E McCain Blvd for Earnestine Davis.
3. Derrell Hartwick, President and CEO North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Activity Report, Q4 2021.
4. R. M. White, Petition requesting Speed Hump at Incas Drive between Osage Drive and Flintrock Drive (27 signatures – for).

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hartwick invited Mr. John Gaudin to come forward. Mr. Gaudin introduced the new Argenta Arts District website which included the downtown murals and public arts. Mr. Gaudin spoke about community (financial) investment in the arts projects around the city and suggested the city council adopt legislation regarding the same. Mr. Chris Kent, Executive Director, Argenta Downtown Council. He said there are no available locations for business rental in the downtown Argenta area. This is due in part to the investment in the area. Mr. Kent said a project is underway in the alley behind City Hall to reinvigorate the area. Mr. Kevin Kresse is a local artist. He is a North Little Rock native. Mr. Kresse painted the Dog Town Proud and Bicycle Murals in the area. Murals are a great way to talk about a community and tell a story. Mayor Hartwick commended Mr. Gaudin, Mr. Kent and Mr. Kresse for their efforts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by voice vote, consent agenda items R-21-186, R-21-187, R-21-188, R-21-189, R-21-190, R-21-191, and R-21-193 were adopted (7/0). R-21-192 was pulled and called under new business.

R-21-186 (RESOLUTION NO. 10160 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING SHIRLEY ABLE TO THE POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY KAREN ROLLINS ON THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT BOARD (PENSION BOARD); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-21-187 (RESOLUTION NO. 10161 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN CITY-OWNED ITEMS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS; PROVIDING FOR AUCTION THEREOF; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-21-188 (RESOLUTION NO. 10162 – COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON)

A RESOLUTION RENEWING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A COMMUNITY GARDEN LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH IRIS PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0). (903 West 45th Street - \$5,000.00)

R-21-189 (RESOLUTION NO. 10163 – COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON)

A RESOLUTION RENEWING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A COMMUNITY GARDEN LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH NORTH HEIGHTS COMMUNITY GARDEN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0). (4801 Allen Street - \$830.00)

R-21-190 (RESOLUTION NO. 10164 – COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON)

A RESOLUTION RENEWING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A COMMUNITY GARDEN LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SKYLINE COMMUNITY GARDEN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0). (257 Skyline Drive - \$900.00)

R-21-191 (RESOLUTION NO. 10165 – COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON)

A RESOLUTION RENEWING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A COMMUNITY GARDEN LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH GREATER SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0). (217 North Hazel Street - \$4,200.00)

R-21-193 (RESOLUTION NO. 10166 – COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON)

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A LICENSE AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY GARDEN LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH DARK HOLLOW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0). (1002 Curtis Sykes Drive - \$3,008.00)

NEW BUSINESS

R-21-192 (RESOLUTION NO. 10167 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROSS)

A RESOLUTION RENEWING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A COMMUNITY GARDEN LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH ST. JOSEPH CENTER OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called. Without objection, Council Member Ross was added as sponsor and Council Member Hamilton was removed as sponsor as he serves on the

Board of Directors. The resolution was read. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, with the exception of Council Member Hamilton who passed, the resolution was adopted (6/1). (*St. Joseph Center of Arkansas - \$4,430.00*)

R-21-194 (RESOLUTION NO. 10168 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS A.F.L.-C.I.O., LOCAL NO. 35; 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 adopted (7/0).

R-21-195 (RESOLUTION NO. 10169 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO GENESIS DATACOM, A SOLE SOURCE VENDOR, FOR THE PURCHASE OF CAMERA ENCLOSURES FOR THE CITY; 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 resolution was adopted (7/0). (*\$65,251.70*)

R-21-196 (RESOLUTION NO. 10170 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE REAL ESTATE CONTRACT TO SELL CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 800 EAST MAIN STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS TO HAYBAR PROPERTIES, LLC; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Robinson. Council Member Ross asked about one of the parcel numbers. Council Member Taylor asked if parcel numbers were being used for legal descriptions. City Attorney Fields said it is in the real estate contract which will be reviewed by the legal department when the property is transferred. Mayor Hartwick said this is the old Electric Department (downtown). Anything on the west side of the viaduct is not being sold. There are five parcels being sold on the east side. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended to include a parcel illustration provided this date (7/0). On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted as amended (7/0). (*\$830,000.00*)

R-21-197 (RESOLUTION NO. 10171 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2021 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO REALLOCATE CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS IN THE ARPA FUND; 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 adopted (7/0).

R-21-198 (RESOLUTION NO. 10172 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SALARY INCREASES TO ALL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING ELECTED OFFICIALS AND UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES COVERED UNDER AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND THE FOP, IAFF, AND THE NLRPD SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION) AND A 25 CENT PER HOUR INCREASE FOR ALL PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 8, 2022; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

R-21-199 (RESOLUTION NO. 10173 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SALARY INCREASES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 8, 2022; 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 adopted (7/0).

R-21-200 (RESOLUTION NO. 10174 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2022 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 Harris and seconded by Council Member Hamilton. Council Member Ross asked Chief Finance Officer Ember Strange about the contribution to the Arkansas Arts Center. She advised no other cities or the county contribute. The contribution has increased from \$40,000.00 to \$100,000.00. North Little Rock has a Community Theater. Council Member Hamilton said the other cities do not contribute. He supports regionalism and art. The City of Little Rock does support the Arkansas Arts Center. Council Member Ross said North Little Rock has the Arkansas Regional Hub and Thea Foundation. However, other cities do not contribute to those. Mayor Hartwick said a lot of North Little Rock students could benefit. Council Member Ross made a motion to amend to reduce the allocation to the Arkansas Arts Center from \$100,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Council Member Robinson recommended reducing the allocation to \$-0-. The Arts Center is located in Little Rock. Council Member Taylor seconded Council Member Ross' previous motion. Council Member Hamilton said a lot of North Little Rock students attend classes at The Arts Center. The \$60,000.00 (additional) request is a one-time request. Mrs. Strange said the request (from The Arts Center) was for more than this amount, however, it was not funded. The Arts Center provides an annual report to the city. Council Member Baxter said some of the classes include woodworking and include non-traditional students. On the previous motion, and the following Council Members having voted yes: Ross and Robinson, and the following members having voted no: Hamilton, Taylor, Baxter, Harris and Ginn, the motion to amend failed (2/5). On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, with the exception of Council Member Robinson, who voted no, the resolution was adopted (6/1).

R-21-201 (RESOLUTION NO. 10175 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; 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 adopted (7/0).

R-21-202 (RESOLUTION NO. 10176 – 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 Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

O-21-102 (ORDINANCE NO. 9413 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 QUOTA ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 9323) FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS; 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 (7/0). On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted (7/0). Emergency clause adopted (7/0).

O-21-103 (ORDINANCE NO. 9414 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE CITY (ORDINANCE NO. 9321) REGARDING MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE RETIREMENT BOARD; 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 (7/0). On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted (7/0).

O-21-104 (ORDINANCE NO. 9415 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATOIN OF THE OSAGE HILLS PUMP STATION IN THE CITY OF MAUMELLE, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND 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 (7/0). On the motion of Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Ginn, and the roll having been called,

and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted (7/0). Emergency clause adopted (7/0).

O-21-105 (ORDINANCE NO. 9416 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW AN ACCESSORY USE (ATM) IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING LINE IN A C3 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4109 EAST BROADWAY STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 (7/0). 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 adopted (7/0). Emergency clause adopted (7/0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Hartwick asked Deputy Chief of Staff Mike Davis to come forward. Mr. Davis was joined by Arkansas Travelers Baseball Park Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer, Rusty Meeks and General Manager, Sophia Ozier. Mr. Meeks said 2021 was a great year. They entered into a new licensing agreement with Major League Baseball which took over the Minor League System. This included cuts in the number of teams. North Little Rock was chosen as one of the 30 AA teams. There were 60 home games and 59 openings. Next year should be a more normal season. Opening day will be April 11, 2022. There will be 69 home games scheduled. The season began at 85% capacity and went to full capacity in July. However, the Delta COVID variant did affect attendance. Under the new licensing agreement, there are facility standards that will have to be met. They are required to have a baseball field which is up to major league baseball standards. There is still a sink hole issue that needs to be addressed. Chief Davis said the sink hole is the city's responsibility. We love the ball park and want the team to stay. Council Member Hamilton said he loves the Travelers and is a supporter. It is the city's responsibility as the landlord to take care to these issues. He asked that the council be kept up to date on the Major League standards. Council Member Taylor asked about the cost to bring the park up to standards. Chief Davis said the Travelers are responsible for the score board, dugouts, etc. will be about \$11 million. The city is responsible for the drainage and sink hole issues. The cost will be about \$5.5 million.

Mayor Hartwick announced the following upcoming events:

December 14: Grand Opening Laman Plaza All-Inclusive Playground.

December 17: National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day.

December 23 & 24: City Offices will be closed in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day which fall on Friday and Saturday. Garbage and recycling routes will run as scheduled all week with no delay.

December 31: City Offices will be closed in observance of New Year's Day which falls on Saturday. Garbage and recycling routes will run as scheduled all week with no delay.

Mr. James Ard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He thanked the North Little Rock Police Chief (Patrick Thessing) for assisting him with a theft issue.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. (7/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, December 27, 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