

March 13, 2023  
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, March 13, 2023, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor Terry C. Hartwick.

Council members had the option of attending the council meeting in person or participate virtually. The Council Chambers were open to the public.

The roll having been called and the following Council Members answered to their names: DEBI ROSS, NATHAN HAMILTON, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, VINCE INSALACO, III and CHARLIE HIGHT (7/0). *Note:* Council Members Robinson and Hight participated virtually. City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, Clerk/Treasurer/Enforcement Officer Jim Scott, and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were led by Council Member Insalaco, III.

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Harris, and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2023, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by City Clerk Diane Whitbey (7/0).

On the blanket motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, communications #2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 were accepted and filed (7/0).

2. Report to Pulaski County Clerk by Argenta Downtown Central Business Improvement District No. 31 of North Little Rock, as of December 31, 2022.
3. Becky Ragsdale, March 5, 2023 email to Mayor Hartwick re: Senate Bill 197 and Short Term Rental Law for North Little Rock.
4. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *restaurant mixed drink maximum permit – change of manager* for The Purple Cow, 4201 Warden Road, by Paul Novicky.
6. Via email from North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce President Derrell Hartwick re: Economic Development Activity Report Q1 2023.
7. Argenta Downtown Central Business Improvement District No. 31 of North Little Rock Petition for Appointment of Successor Commissioner.
8. Via email from Overbrook Property Owners Association re: 1101 Cache River rehab status.

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, communication #1 was read by title, accepted and filed (7/0).

1. Press Release – Arbor Day Foundation Names North Little Rock a 2022 Tree City USA.

On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, communication #5 was read, accepted and filed (7/0).

5. Email from Deputy City Attorney Rick Hogan re: 1101 Cache River Re-Hab Status (progress report).

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Hartwick invited Mr. Robert Birch, Economic Development Director to come forward. Mr. Birch provided an Economic Development update through a PowerPoint Presentation.

- Continue to work with Shorter College on expansion of a Second Chance Worker's program
- North Little Rock School District will have upcoming announcement regarding 7<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School
- New businesses opening along East Broadway in April
- Rose City Health Clinic – construction begins in April
- Safe Foods / PSSI Upgrade (new rail spurs, new product lines)
- Amazon, Lowe's, Dollar General
- Maly Entertainment Group (former Wild River Country site) – Entertainment Venue, Event Center, Beer Garden, Arcade, 18-hole Putt-Putt Golf Course, Bowling, etc.
- New development former Ben E. Keith Building, Pike Avenue – announcement this week

The above developments will create many new jobs within our city.

*Note:* Council Member Taylor entered the council chambers at 6:14 p.m.

Mayor Hartwick invited Ms. Chelsea Boozer, Central Arkansas Water Government Affairs Manager to come forward. Ms. Boozer provided an update on a Federally Funded State Assistance Program known as the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program - LIHWAP. The program is to help low-income households pay water and wastewater bills. A temporary one-time benefit began in May 2022 which offered to pay up to \$2,000.00 on past due water and/or waste water bills for those who qualified. The program is administered by the State of Arkansas which received \$13.1 million and \$10 million was designated for household benefits. The program has been expanded to include up to one-year of additional water or waste water paid. Anyone who participated in the initial program will automatically qualify for assistance in the current program. Income verification is required. Central Arkansas Water (CAW) pushed this to central Arkansas customers. So far, customers have received \$700,000.00 in benefits. Council Member Ross said these funds will not affect customer rates as these are federal funds. Mr. Tad Bohannon, Central Arkansas Water Chief Executive Officer was also present.

*Note: Council Member Robinson left the meeting at 6:18 p.m.*

### **SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING**

*None.*

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

O-23-09

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE CODE TO REGULATE ISSUANCE OF, AND CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH, SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTAL BUSINESS LICENSES FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read one time February 13, and was read a second time, February 27, 2023. The item was called and held by the sponsor, Council Member Ross.

O-23-16 (ORDINANCE NO. 9553 – COUNCIL MEMBER HAMILTON)

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND ABANDONING A CERTAIN UNUSED EASEMENT ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 20 SMOKEY LANE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of council Member Hamilton 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). Emergency clause adopted (7/0). *(requested by Bear Davidson of Davidson Engineering on behalf of Woodcrest Company)*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*None.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

R-23-50 (RESOLUTION NO. 10506 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO REAUTHORIZE AND INCLUDE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES FOR SPECIFIED DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS; 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-23-51 (RESOLUTION NO. 10507 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT TO REAUTHORIZE AND INCLUDE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Hight. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the

resolution was amended as follows:: *attach Exhibit "A"* (7/0). On the motion of Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted as amended (7/0).

R-23-52 (RESOLUTION NO. 10508 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE LOSS AND BUSINESS INTERRUPTION INSURANCE FOR THE MURRAY HYDROELECTRIC PLANT; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN INSURANCE AGREEMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Harris, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

O-23-19 (ORDINANCE NO. 9554 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 QUOTA ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 9550) FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OF 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 Hamilton, 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 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-23-20 (ORDINANCE NO. 9555 – MAYOR HARTWICK, COUNCIL MEMBERS TAYLOR, HAMILTON, HIGHT, BAXTER AND ROBINSON)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1.1.1. OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (7/0). Council Member Ross referenced Section 4: pertaining to food preparation vehicles (aka Food Trucks) (which will become effective [in four (4) years] on January 1, 2027). There is a section referencing exhaust hoods which are expensive. North Little Rock Fire Marshal Chief Brent Almon said a lot of Food Trucks already have a Vent Hood, but not a Vent Hood Suppression System. If they only need the suppression system, the cost is about \$2,500.00. If both are required, the cost is around \$5,000.00 (at this time). Companies may not be able to meet the demand of installation if all of the trucks try to install the equipment at the same time. Current truck owners/operators will be advised of the change in the code. Newly manufactured trucks include the required equipment. Council Member Ross also referenced a required propane gas detector. The cost of the item is about \$50.00. Chief Almon said an LP (natural) gas detector can easily be purchased online. It would detect the presence of LP gas in the trailer. Food trucks have issues because they are mobile. The movement on the road can result in gas lines or fittings becoming loose. If the operator lights their cooking equipment with gas (fumes/vapors) in the truck it can result in a fire. There have been two food truck fires in North Little Rock that were the result of propane leaks. Council Member Hight asked if the city had an agreement with the City of

Little Rock and other cities regarding permits. Ms. Whitbey said state law requires cities and towns to honor business/privilege licenses from other areas in the state, which North Little Rock does. However, not all cities do in regard to food trucks. This ordinance would not effect that. On the motion of Council Member Hamilton 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). Emergency clause adopted (7/0).

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Whitbey reminded the public a Short Term Rental Bill will be heard in (State) House Committee meeting Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Big Mac Building behind the State Capitol. Council Member Hight said the father of City Engineer Chris Wilbourn passed away over the weekend and sent his condolences.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member and seconded by Council Member, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m. (7/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, March 27, 2023, 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