

May 22, 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, May 22, 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, MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, RON HARRIS, and VINCE INSALACO, III (6/0). Council Member Robinson participated virtually by telephone. Council Members STEVE BAXTER and CHARLIE HIGHT were absent. City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, Deputy City Clerk Talor Shinn, Deputy Clerk/Revenue Enforcement Officer Jim Scott, and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were led by John Barber.

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 held Monday, May 8, 2023, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by City Clerk Diane Whitbey (6/0).

On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Insalaco, and by consent of all members present, communications #1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, was accepted and filed (6/0).

1. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer memorandum re: December 2022 Financial Update.
2. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer memorandum re: March 2023 Financial Update.
3. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer memorandum re: Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Report.
4. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer memorandum re: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.
5. Patricia Green (resubmitted) Petition requesting Speed Hump on Saunders Drive between Lynch and Campbell.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hartwick invited those present for the presentation of a proclamation proclaiming May as National Tennis Month to come forward. He then presented the same to USTA (United States Tennis Association) Arkansas Executive Director, Deanna Garretson. Ms. Garretson and North Little Rock

District Court Judge Paula Juels Jones thanked the city for the recognition. Mayor Hartwick announced 20 of the 24 tennis courts in Burns Park are back open for use.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-23-60

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 5800 BAUCUM PIKE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNERS TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was held by the sponsor, Mayor Hartwick. (*owner: Wayne M. Ball*)

R-23-84

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED AGREEMENT TO REHABILITATE PROPERTY FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4209 CORAL STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and held by the sponsor, Council Member Hamilton.

R-23-95

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 4706 ATKINS STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and held by the sponsor, Mayor Hartwick. Council Member Robinson said a Structural Engineer looked at the building. However, she did not know the results. Mayor Hartwick asked Code Enforcement Director Felicia McHenry to contact the owners for an update. (*owner: Stewards of Christ Outreach Inc. c/o Floris H. Blood, Patricia D. Harris and Aprea Harris*)

CONSENT AGENDA

By voice vote of all member present, consent agenda items R-23-102, R-23-103, and R-23-104, were adopted (6/0). R-23-105 was pulled and called under new business.

R-23-102 (RESOLUTION NO. 10557 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING AVON “JUNIOR” PHILLIPS TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK PLANNING COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (6/0).

R-23-103 (RESOLUTION NO. 10558 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING VANDY BELASCO TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK PLANNING COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (6/0).

R-23-104 (RESOLUTION NO. 10559 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING STEVE BAXTER TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (6/0).

NEW BUSINESS

R-23-105

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO REHABILITATE PROPERTY FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1709 CHANDLER STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Insalaco. Council Member Ross asked if the person requesting the agreement was present. City Attorney Fields said if the council wants the person present her staff will let them know in the future. On the previous motion, and the following members having voted yes: Hamilton, Taylor and Harris, and the following members having voted no: Ross, Robinson and Insalaco, the motion failed (3/3). On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the previous vote was expunged (6/0). Mayor Hartwick then held the legislation. (*Forefather's Investment Group, LLC*)

R-23-106 (RESOLUTION NO. 10560 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SALARY INCREASES TO ALL FULL AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING ELECTED OFFICIALS) OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2023; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present the resolution was adopted (6/0).

R-23-107 (RESOLUTION NO. 10561 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SALARY INCREASES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2023; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (6/0).

R-23-108 (RESOLUTION NO. 10562 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO APPROVE SALARY INCREASES FOR ALL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES (INCLUDING UNIFORMED POLICE PERSONNEL, UNIFORMED FIRE PERSONNEL, CITY ATTORNEY, CITY CLERK, MAYOR, AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS) AND FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; 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 resolution was adopted (6/0).

R-23-109 (RESOLUTION NO. 10563 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET AND APPROVING RETROACTIVE SALARY INCREASES FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 31, 2023 TO MAY 26, 2023 FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES (INCLUDING UNIFORMED POLICE PERSONNEL, UNIFORMED FIRE PERSONNEL, CITY ATTORNEY, CITY CLERK, MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS) AND FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (6/0).

R-23-110 (RESOLUTION NO. 10564 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET AND APPROVING RETROACTIVE SALARY INCREASES FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 31, 2023 TO MAY 26, 2023 FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor, and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (6/0).

Mayor Hartwick said the March 31, 2023 tornado was devastating to areas of our city. Within minutes of the tornado touching down in North Little Rock our city employees from all departments were working on assisting our residents and business owners. The city implemented a curfew for the protection of both our residents and volunteers. Chief Financial Officer Ember Strange said city staff continue to work on recovery efforts. Once the visual efforts are done, work will continue behind the scenes with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) on reimbursements. Retroactive pay will be submitted. Electric Department retroactive pay will be submitted separate since they have their own budget. Mayor Hartwick said he was in Burns Park (today) and the bike trail is open. He spoke with several people who were very complimentary of the way the city has handled recovery efforts.

R-23-111 was called following condemnations. However, it remained in the number sequence for the permanent number assignment.

**R-23-111 (RESOLUTION NO. 10565 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT TO APPROVE SALARY INCREASES FOR ALL FULL-TIME SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND FOR PART-TIEM EMPLOYEES OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; 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 resolution was adopted (6/0).

R-23-112 (RESOLUTION NO. 10566 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1315 (1311) WILLOW STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; 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 Ross and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (6/0). (*owner: Brinda Kay Cox*)

R-23-113 (RESOLUTION NO. 10567 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 4513 ATKINS STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; 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 Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (6/0). (*owner: A P Rentals LLC*)

R-23-114 (RESOLUTION NO. 10568 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE GARAGE LOCATED AT 1502 CRUTCHER STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; 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 Ross and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (6/0). (*owner: Terrance Flowers*)

R-23-115 (RESOLUTION NO. 10569 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 4801 MACARTHUR DRIVE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNERS TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; 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 Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (6/0). (*owners: Ali Malek and Alsiri Mazen*)

R-23-116 (RESOLUTION NO. 10570 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 2516 PARKER STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC NUISANCE AND CONDEMNING SAID STRUCTURES; PROVIDING A PERIOD OF TIME FOR PROPERTY OWNER TO ABATE SAID NUISANCE; 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 Ross and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (6/0). (*owner: Robert Bennett*)

**R-23-111 was called above.

O-23-29 (ORDINANCE NO. 9564 – MAYOR HARTWICK, COUNCIL MEMBERS ROSS, HAMILTON, ROBINSON, TAYLOR, HIGHT, INSALACO, BAXTER AND HARRIS) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES' POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL TO RECOGNIZE JUNETEENTH AS A CITY HOLIDAY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 readings were suspended (6/0). 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 (6/0). Emergency clause adopted (6/0).

O-23-30 (ORDINANCE NO. 9565 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON) AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 703 PARKER STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM R4 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 Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (6/0). On the motion of Council Member Robinson 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 (6/0). Emergency clause adopted. (*applicant: Thomas Pownall – Thomas Engineering*)

O-23-31 (ORDINANCE NO. 9566 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON) AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1723 WEST 19TH STREET AND 1906 FLORA STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM R3 TO R4 ZONING CLASSIFICATION, BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9263; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 readings were suspended (6/0). On the motion of Council Member Robinson 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 (6/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (6/0). (*applicant: James Hoffman*)

O-23-32 (ORDINANCE NO. 9567 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATIONS IN AN I1 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7100 COLONEL MAYNARD ROAD 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 Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (6/0). 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 adopted (6/0). Emergency clause adopted (6/0). (*applicant: Ecotech Holdings, LLC*)

O-23-33 (ORDINANCE NO. 9568 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROSS)

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING SECTION 9.11.A OF THE SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 7946) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 410 WEST A AVENUE AND 3100 NORTH POPLAR STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO ALLOW THE WAIVER OF SIDEWALK REQUIREMENTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 readings were suspended (6/0). On the motion of Council Member Ross 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 (6/0). Emergency clause adopted (6/0). (*applicants: Damon and Jennifer Crawford*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Patricia Green spoke for her subdivision neighbors. Residents in the subdivision have requested two (2) speed bumps on Saunders. There have been two (2) speed study surveys done – one is 2021 and a second in 2023. Ms. Green said they indicate the 85th percentile is 10 miles per hour or greater over the posted speed limit. Small children live in the neighborhood and residents have observed many children almost being hit by a vehicle. Traffic flow comes through from Lynch Drive and Campbell. Council Member Hamilton said he supports the request and advised the City Council has not approved (voted) for a Speed Bump in over a decade. He added it should be difficult for a vehicle to travel over 25 miles per hour on any residential street. Ms. Felicia (unknown last name) spoke in support of the request. They have a very nice subdivision and are in dire need of speed bumps. Council Member Robinson said there is a procedure to request a speed bump and the council has voted for speed humps in the past. Traffic and other entities (in the city) make a professional recommendation, which the council usually follows. Council Member Taylor said the recommendation comes from the Traffic Department. Mayor Hartwick asked Ms. Green if she had obtained signatures (on a petition). She said

she had. The most recent one was three (3) weeks ago. Council Member Robinson said she and Council Member Taylor would like to see the results of the recent speed study. Ms. Whitbey advised the signatures on the petition are from 2021, however Ms. Green advised she had talked to all of the previous petitioners and they were all still in support of the request.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Insalaco, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. (6/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, June 12, 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