

December 27, 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, December 25, 2023, and rescheduled to Wednesday, December 27, 2023, was called to order at 4:59 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, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, VINCE INSALACO, III, and CHARLIE HIGHT (8/0). City Clerk and Treasurer Diane Whitbey, Deputy City Clerk/Enforcement Officer Jim Scott, and Deputy City Attorney Marie Bernard-Miller were also present.

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

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 held Monday, December 11, 2023, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by City Clerk Diane Whitbey (8/0).

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

1. Chris H. Olsen, letter to Mayor Terry C. Hartwick re: The Edgemont House.
2. Ember Strange, CFO and Chair Energy Risk Management Committee memorandum to City Clerk Diane Whitbey, re: Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) rate for January, 2024 - \$0.0102 kWh (positive).
3. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *application for Restaurant Mixed Drink Minimum Permit – New Application* for Rock N Roll Sushi, 2607 McCain Boulevard, Suite A, by Jason Alley.
4. Janice W. Vaughn, letter to Mayor Hartwick re: Communication #1.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hartwick invited Mr. Austin Paul, Development Consultants, Inc. (DCI) and Mr. John Eckart, RJR Enterprises to come forward and share a presentation regarding plans for Funland in Burns Park. Mr. Paul referenced a PowerPoint presentation which included an illustration of the proposed site which will be inclusive for all people and all ages. It will include a Splash Pad, Zip Track, Net

Climber, Large Berm Slide and the existing train with tracks and station. Materials will include poured in place rubber surfacing, artificial turf, integral color concrete (Splash Pad) and special pavers around the train station. There will be an area youth ages 5 – 12 years which will include a Hilgard Play System (deck, slides, climbing elements, etc.). There will be a toddler area with activities appropriate for the age group. Mr. Eckart said the one-of-a-kind Splash Pad area will include shade sails and seating. The combined splash pad/playground area will attract a lot of users. Inclusive elements include an Inclusive Whirl, Seesaw and Harmonic Chimes. Lastly, there will be an arched Train Tunnel with a trail over the train track. Council Member Ross said the design is similar to Creekside Park in Bentonville. She asked how many city employees would be assigned to the park. Mayor Hartwick said employees who were relocated after the tornado will rotate back to Funland once it reopens. Council Member Baxter asked if the natural hillside turf East of the Climber would be high enough for cardboard sliding. Mr. Paul said there will be a steep slope so it is possible. Mr. Eckart said the original time frame included a completion date in late August (2024). After talking with Mayor Hartwick, a new date was presented as July 4 (2024). Mayor Hartwick said this would allow use of the park before school resumes for the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-23-216

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO REHABILITATE PROPERTY FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 214 WEST 14TH STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. The applicant, Mr. Bruce Tate was not present. The legislation was held at the request of the sponsor. *Note*: the item was removed from the agenda after being called on six consecutive meeting dates.

R-23-247

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 800 NORTH BEECH STREET, BUILDING 8 IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, 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. The Hilburn Law Firm represents the owner. An update on the legal status of the property was provided. A court hearing was held last Friday. As a result the owner and lender are talking. Council Member Taylor asked how much longer this will take. Mayor Hartwick recommended leaving the item on the agenda to insure future updates on the state. The borrower wants to rebuild, the lender has wanted to remove the structure. Council Member Ross referenced a photo from October and asked why the property hadn't been cleaned up. The attorney said there is litigation involved at this time. Mrs. Felicia McHenry, Code Enforcement Director said the property is in the same condition. Her concern is the condition of the building with children in the area. Management has not kept the area secured. Council Member Ross said she is

concerned with the safety of children in the area. The resolution was then held by the sponsor, Mayor Hartwick. (owner: SC Apartments AR LLC)

CONSENT AGENDA

By voice vote and all members present having voted “aye”, consent agenda items R-23-265, R-23-266, and R-23-267 were adopted (8/0).

R-23-265 (RESOLUTION NO. 10714 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO RUSSELL CHEVROLET FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO VEHICLES FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (\$114,921.00), was adopted (8/0).

R-23-266 (RESOLUTION NO. 10715 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO POWERPHONE FOR THE PURCHASE OF TOTAL RESPONSE SOFTWARE FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (\$79,285.50), was adopted (8/0).

R-23-267 (RESOLUTION NO. 10716 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES IN CERTAIN BUDGETS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

NEW BUSINESS

R-23-268 (RESOLUTION NO. 10717 – MAYOR HARTWICK, COUNCIL MEMBERS ROSS, HAMILTON, TAYLOR, ROBINSON, BAXTER, HARRIS, INSALACO, III, HARRIS AND HIGHT)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF FUNLAND AMUSEMENT PARK; AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Insalaco, III. Council Member Ross asked Deputy Chief Finance Officer Anita Worley said the project will be funded as follows: \$1,037,000 – FEMA proceeds; \$523,000 – Insurance proceeds and \$1,615,000 – 2023 Sales Tax Capital Improvement Fund. On the previous motion and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*not to exceed - \$3,175,000.00*)

R-23-269 (RESOLUTION NO. 10718 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT OF A CLEAN UP LIEN TO BE FILED WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR AGAINST CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY

LOCATED AT 705 EAST BETHANY ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount: \$5,155.81*)

R-23-270 (RESOLUTION NO. 10719 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT OF A CLEAN UP LIEN TO BE FILED WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR AGAINST CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 506 KAY STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount: \$4,328.61*)

R-23-271 (RESOLUTION NO. 10720 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT OF A CLEAN UP LIEN TO BE FILED WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR AGAINST CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2025 PARKER (1206 WEST 21ST STREET) IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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). (*amount: \$4,169.61*)

O-23-110

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF A TYPE 2 SHORT TERM RENTAL IN AN R1 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3818 NORTH MAGNOLIA STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and held by the sponsor, Council Member Ross. The applicant was unable to attend the meeting. (*applicant: Melissa Kidder on behalf of Smokey Lane Apostolic Church*)

O-23-111 (ORDINANCE NO. 9639 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROSS)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW AN EVENT CENTER IN A C3 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2005 MAIN STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). Council Member Taylor said there were questions regarding parking in the past. The applicant, Mr. Ernie Alonzo said the issue has been resolved with the church. 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 unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicants: Ernie and Kay Alonzo*)

O-23-112 (ORDINANCE NO. 9640 – COUNCIL MEMBER HARRIS)

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND ABANDONING A CERTAIN UNUSED EASEMENT ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7520 COUNTS MASSIE ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Harris 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 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). (*applicant: Thomas Engineering*)

O-23-113

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING SECTION 14.19.D.2 OF THE SIGN ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 7697) TO REPLACE A SIGN LOCATED ON CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AT 6150 REMOUNT ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and held by the sponsor, Council Member Insalaco, III. (*applicant: St. Anne's Catholic Church*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Hartwick thanked Ms. Rylie Birdwell, local news reporter for covering the city. City Offices will be closed, Monday, January 1, 2024, in observance of New Year's Day. Garbage and trash routes will be delayed one-day the remainder of the week (i.e. Monday's pickup will be Tuesday, etc.). Council Member Baxter asked North Little Rock Police Chief Patrick Thessing to remind the public about the use of firearms and fireworks in the city. Chief Thessing said both are illegal in the City of North Little Rock. He reminded the public when shots are fired into the air, they do come down and cause damage to property and life. There will be extra officers working New Year's Eve. Residents were encouraged to call 911 to report issues. Council Member Baxter thanked Chief Thessing and the North Little Rock Fire Department for their efforts.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, January 8, 2024, 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