

Monday, May 13, 2024
Six o'clock p.m.
North Little Rock City Hall Council Chamber
300 Main Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas

The regular meeting of the North Little Rock City Council scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2024, was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor Terry C. Hartwick.

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

The roll was 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/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, Deputy City Clerk Talor Shinn, Deputy City Clerk/Enforcement Officer Jim Scott and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

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

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 on Monday, April 22, 2024, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by City Clerk Diane Whitbey (8/0).

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

1. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer/Chair Energy Risk Management Committee memorandum re: PCA (Power Cost Adjustment rate) for May, 2024 (\$0.0054 kWh [positive]).
2. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Replacement/New Owner Application #42746* for Diamond Star Express, 623 North Cypress Street, by Iqbal Gillani.
3. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Change of Manager Application No. 42759* for Circle K, 700 E. Broadway, by Laura Picklesimer.
4. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Change of Manager Application No. 42671* for Circle K, 3320 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, by Laura Picklesimer.
5. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Change of Manager Application No. 42762* for Circle K, 5051 Warden Road, by Laura Picklesimer.
6. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Change of Manager Application No. 42763* for Circle K, 4300 E. Broadway, by Laura Picklesimer.

7. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *Change of Manager Application No.42821* for Circle K, 4601 Northshore Drive, by Todd Solomon.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hartwick invited Judge Paula Juels Jones and several tennis players who were present to come forward. He then proclaimed the month of May as Tennis Month in the city of North Little Rock and presented the proclamation to North Little Rock Tennis Center Director Dan Cornelison. Mr. Cornelison said there have been a lot of tournaments and other events in Burns Park that attracted visitors from across the United States to North Little Rock. He and the Tennis Pro had visited multiple elementary schools this year to promote the sport. Several players were also present. Judge Jones said the Tennis Center in Burns Park is one of the best in the nation. The facility was built 50 years ago at a time when public parks did not include indoor tennis courts, but North Little Rock did.

Mayor Hartwick invited City Clerk Whitbey, Deputy Clerk Shinn and Deputy Clerk/Enforcement Officer Scott to join him at the podium. He then presented a proclamation declaring the week of May 5 through 11, 2024 as Municipal Clerks Week in the City of North Little Rock. Ms. Whitbey thanked Mayor Hartwick and North Little Rock Clerk Team members Talor Shinn, Jim Scott, Katelyn Thomas and Shelley Ussery for the work they do for the residents of the city.

Mayor Hartwick invited Mrs. Bernadette Rhodes to come forward. Mrs. Rhodes is a resident and homeowner in Indian Hills (North Little Rock). She is also a former city employee. She currently works at Metroplan as Regional Planner. Mrs. Rhodes is also a Board Member of the Indian Hills Community Club (IHCC). She presented a PowerPoint Presentation titled *Protecting the Future of Indian Hills*. Also present and speaking was Mr. Jason Goikochea who is also a resident of Indian Hills and an architect. Their presentation included illustrations of the area owned by IHCC (approximately 30 acres that contain 17 acres of lakes, 2 dams, 5 acres along Five Mile Creek with trails and a waterfall, boat ramp access to the upper lake, tennis courts and pool facility and the status of the property and a plan to protect the neighborhood's future). The pool has been closed two (2) years. Issues included items being left on the property and vandalism. An illustration was shown which included a vision of the future with green space and existing park site with revisions. The pool would be too expensive to keep and maintain. The plan included refurbishing the tennis courts and a potential pavilion and playground. A ten (10) year plan was presented by year: 1 - \$76,000 dam remediation, rip rap, intake repairs, boat ramp improvements and upper dam access cut; 2 - \$79,250 demolition of the swimming pool; 3 - \$62,750 site prep for new pavilion, grading and sod, tennis court drainage; 4 - \$40,000 automated security gate; 5 - \$130,000 new pavilion -- Phase 1; 6 \$80,000 new pavilion -- Phase 2, tennis court renovation with Pickleball and Basketball – Phase 1; 7 - \$74,000 tennis courts et al – Phase 2, natural playground landscaping; years 8 and 9 no projects – savings years; 10 - \$200,000 for lake sediment removal. Annual expenses would include \$26,000 for

administration/operations and \$17,100 for maintenance/utilities. The plan included all 1,200 Indian Hills residents making contributions to an Urban Service District (USD). There would be no rules regarding any property. The fee of \$8.50 per month per household would be collected on monthly water bills for 10 years. To be able to move forward at least 25% of the (current) registered voters living in the area would need to sign a petition to create a USD which is the only option available. Mrs. Rhodes explained the percentage of signatures required and said the petition is volunteer led with ongoing meetings at First United Methodist Church. Volunteers are going door to door to obtain signatures. The total number of signatures needed would be 512. Council Member Hamilton asked what would happen to the IHCC assets if the council did not pass an ordinance creating the district. Mrs. Rhodes said the IHCC board would no longer be able to pay for liability insurance which would mean board members would walk away and the non-profit organization would no longer manage the property. The area would become a public nuisance and liability. The property would have to be sold through an auction or the city would have to take responsibility for it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

O-24-16

AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 165 AND WEST OF CYPRESS CROSSING SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM I2 TO RU, R1, R4 AND R5 ZONING CLASSIFICATION, BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9263; ADOPTING AN AMENDED LAND USE PLAN FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read March 25, 2024 and the readings were suspended. The item was called this date and held by the sponsor, Council Member Taylor.

CONSENT AGENDA

By voice vote and all members present having voted “aye”, consent agenda items R-24-39, R-24-100, R-24-101, R-24-102, R-24-103 and R-24-104 were adopted (8/0).

R-24-99 (RESOLUTION NO. 10819 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING GABE STEPHENS TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-24-100 (RESOLUTION NO. 10820 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CHARLEY FOSTER TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK PLANNING COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-24-101 (RESOLUTION NO. 10821 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN CITY-OWNED ITEMS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS; PROVIDING FOR AUCTION THEREOF; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-24-102 (RESOLUTION NO. 10822 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO ARKANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF TRANSFORMERS FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-24-103 (RESOLUTION NO. 10823 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 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).

R-24-104 (RESOLUTION NO. 10824 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES IN CERTAIN BUDGETS; was adopted (8/0). (\$75,000.00 – North Little Rock Airport)

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hartwick convened a public hearing on the following items:

Call #	Address	Owner:
R-24-105	913 West 23 rd Street	Norman Mooty c/o Iretta and Danny Benefield
R-24-106	808 West 34 th Street	IRemodel Holdings LLC
R-24-107	26 Pine Tree Loop	Philip Forst Link

Mr. Tommy Anderson spoke regarding R-24-107. He is a family friend and advised the owner’s step-father died of cancer in August, 2023. His mother died in the house fire January 10, 2024. The owner is autistic and had been unable to hire an attorney as he is without funds. Mr. Anderson said the owner had been staying with him since the fire and he is trying to help him reclaim the property. Mayor Hartwick asked if Mr. Anderson was aware of the condition of the property. Mr. Anderson said some time is needed and referenced condemning the property and demolishing the structure. Code Enforcement Director Felicia McHenry said the estimated cost to demolish the structure would be \$11,000.00. City Attorney Fields asked Mr. Anderson if he was helping the owner recover insurance funds. Mr. Anderson said the house was paid for and did not have insurance coverage. However, there a van was covered and they are waiting on those funds. Mrs. McHenry advised the house had been certified to the State Land Office for back taxes in the amount of \$10,000.00. The family filed for Bankruptcy in 2019-2020 which has expired. She said she saw a filing for a Small Estate in regards to the bank account, but not the house. Mayor Hartwick asked Mr. Anderson if he understood everything that was discussed.

Mr. Anderson nodded in the affirmative. Council Member Ross said he would get the land back once he paid the fees/taxes. City Attorney Fields said it would be after they paid the State Land Commissioner and paid off any liens. Mayor Hartwick suggested Mr. Anderson call Ms. Fields. There being no one else wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned.

R-24-105 (RESOLUTION NO. 10825 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 913 WEST 23RD STREET 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. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Norman Mooty c/o Iretta and Danny Benafield*)

R-24-106 (RESOLUTION NO. 10826 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 808 WEST 34TH STREET 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. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: IRemodel Holdings LLC*)

R-24-107 (RESOLUTION NO. 10827 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 26 PINE TREE LOOP 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. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Philip Forst Link*)

Mayor Hartwick convened a public hearing on the following items:

Call #	Address	Amount:
R-24-108	1425 West 36 th	\$5,679.52
R-24-109	2506 E. Washington	\$13,527.87
R-24-110	4700 Haywood	\$4,958.59
R-24-111	3011 Gribble	\$5,303.39

There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned.

R-24-108 (RESOLUTION NO. 10828 – 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 1425 WEST 36TH STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Hight, and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount - \$5,679.52*)

R-24-109 (RESOLUTION NO. 10829 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT OF CLEAN UP LIEN TO BE FILED WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR AGAINST CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2506 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount - \$13,527.87*)

R-24-110 (RESOLUTION NO. 10830 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT OF CLEAN UP LIEN TO BE FILED WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR AGAINST CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4700 HAYWOOD STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; 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 unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount - \$4,913.59*)

R-24-111 (RESOLUTION NO. 10831 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE AMOUNT OF CLEAN UP LIEN TO BE FILED WITH THE PULASKI COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR AGAINST CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3011 GRIBBLE STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Insalaco, III, and by consent of all members present the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount - \$5,303.30*)

R-24-112 (RESOLUTION NO. 10832 – 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 unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-24-29 (ORDINANCE NO. 9667 - COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW A TYPE 2 SHORT TERM RENTAL IN AN R4 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1323 FRANKLIN 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 Ross, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). 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 unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: Helen Brents*)

O-24-30 (ORDINANCE NO. 9668 – COUNCIL MEMBER BAXTER)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW A TYPE 2 SHORT TERM RENTAL IN AN R3 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATION AT 5008 PARKER STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Hight, 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 Taylor, 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: Kalpana Sharma/Helen Brents*)

O-24-31 (ORDINANCE NO. 9669 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW AN EVENT CENTER IN A C6 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 112 SMARHOUSE WAY 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 Insalaco, III, the readings were suspended (8/0). Council Member Ross asked about days and hours of operation and the number of people allowed by based on occupancy numbers. Mr. Thomas Pownall, Engineer said the Planning Commission agreed to seven (7) days a week from the hours of 8:00 a.m. until 12 midnight. The occupancy number was not limited but determined by the Fire Marshal. There is another limit on parking (*see next ordinance*) of 86 stalls which would allow approximately 400 attendees. Council Member Ross said she spoke with the Fire Marshal. She confirmed a 14,000 square foot building will be constructed behind the existing structure. Mr. Pownall said the applicant would stipulate to the Fire Marshal's recommended number of occupants. Ms. Karen Miller is working with investors through the building process. The number of occupants could be up to 400. Council Member Ross said the property is zoned C6 and asked about additional parking. Mr. Pownall said C6 does not require additional parking, however the inclusion of an Event Center may require additional parking. Council Member Ross asked who would manage the event center. Ms. Miller said an event planner will be hired to run the center. Mr. Scott Miller and his wife Dawn

were present and also investors. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Insalaco, III. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members the ordinance was amended as follows:: Section 2: 3. *strike through Contact the Fire Marshal to determine the and insert IS 400 at the end of the sentence;* and Section 2: 4. *strike through 6:00 a.m. and insert 8:00 A.M.* (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Insalaco, III, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: Thomas Pownall – Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-32 (ORDINANCE NO. 9670 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW A PARKING LOT IN A C6 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT ~~112~~ 110 SMARTHOUSE WAY 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 Ross, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight. Council Member Hight said he is familiar with the property. He asked if the driveway would accommodate emergency vehicles. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was amended as follows:: *strike through 112 and insert correct address 110* (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Insalaco, III, and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: Thomas Pownall – Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-33

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 9263) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 9504 MACARTHUR DRIVE WITHIN THE PLANNING JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, TO ALLOW THE WAIVER OF OFF-STREET PARKING, SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Hamilton. Council Member Taylor asked why the item was filed “for consideration only”. City Attorney Fields said the property is outside the city limits. Planning Director Shawn Spencer said the property is in the county. When there is not an elected official (Council Member representative) the mayor would sponsor the legislation. Mayor Hartwick said he did not support all of the variances requested. Council Member Ross said she is on the city Tree Board. When “in-lieu of” funds are collected they go into (and account) for

the ward (where the property is located). However, this property is not within the city limits. City Attorney Fields said a separate ordinance would be used to waive (tree) fees. Council Member Hamilton asked if there were reasons to approve the ordinance. Mr. Spencer said the property could be annexed in the future. If so, the property would need to follow the same rules as other properties within the city limits. Council Member Baxter said this is an opportunity to prepare the area for compliance if annexed. The applicant was not present to answer questions. Mr. Spencer said the applicant/contractor was notified of the meeting. Council Member Ross said she did not see this area being annexed into the city in the future. On the previous motion, and the roll having been called, the following members voted yes: Council Members Ross and Robinson, and the remaining members voted no, the motion to adopt failed (2/6). (*applicant: Brian Fason – Carson Construction – CFS Technologies*)

O-24-34 (ORDINANCE NO. 9671 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROSS)

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING SECTION 14.107.D.2 OF THE SIGN ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 7697) TO REPLACE A SIGN LOCATED ON CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4320 MCCAIN BOULEVARD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Mayor Hartwick convened a public hearing. Mr. Jasper Burton, President OF Cuerden Sign Company from Conway is working with a company representing Chik-fil-a. Council Member Ross said the base of the existing sign is three (3) to four (4) feet below the street level. This ordinance would allow a ten (10) foot sign. Mr. Burton said the current 12 foot sign would be replaced with a ten (10) foot sign. Council Member Hamilton said the new sign will be closer to requirements. There being no one else wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and the roll having been called, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: Jasper Burton, Jr. – Cuerden Sign Company*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Barbara Brown Smith is a new resident of the city. She is studying the ordinances and laws of the city and has met her council representatives. She referenced a Town Hall meeting held recently which she was unable to attend due to an accident. Mrs. Brown Smith said she was informed none of the (city) representatives attended the meeting. She said the public elected the members and should make themselves available to hear the concerns of residents. She had an issue with outside entities being landlords and said they come to Arkansas because the state does not have strong laws pertaining to them. A few years ago a bill was introduced in the (Arkansas) State Legislature, but it failed. There needed to be steps in place to hold landlords accountable for their property. Mrs. Brown Smith said she worked in city government and is now retired. She said her son Shawn Ray is a (North Little Rock Police) Officer.

Note: Council Member Robinson left the council chambers at about 6:36 p.m. and returned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Clarence Hicks lives on Nona Street with his grandson. He said he had an issue with the (State) Department of Human Services, Department of Health, B. J. Black -- State Licensed Inspector, Mr. Nick Parrish – Master Plumbers License Inspector and the Arkansas Contractor’s Licensing Board. Mr. Hicks said he obtained a list of certified contractors (from the state) who could install a walk-in shower for him. The contractor he used was not a licensed plumber but used another plumber’s license and committed fraud. The person did a terrible job. Mr. Hicks said he had not been able to use the tub/shower or had water in his house since October 30, 2023. He had to get an activation through Silver Sneakers and go to his daughter’s house. His health has been affected, he has peripheral neuropathy from his knees to the bottom of his feet. He is under the care of multiple Doctors and on several medications. No one had returned to correct the issue with his property. City Attorney Fields said this is outside of the city’s purview. Mr. Hicks said he filed a complaint with the Arkansas Contractors Licensing Board but was advised it would be a civil matter since the contractor was not a licensed plumber. Mayor Hartwick said Mr. Hicks may need to contact a lawyer. City Attorney Fields said the city had no control over the state (agencies). Mayor Hartwick suggested Mr. Hicks reach out to his state representatives. Mayor Hartwick referenced several residents who signed in to speak who live on Division Street. Ms. Deana Stickford said she was upset that people did not show up for a Town Hall meeting (referenced previously). She read from a list of concerns related to housing: stricter codes for landlords, proactive legislation and escrow accounts, better supervision and accountability from public trustees, officials and all agenda sub-officials, answer or excessive gas bills, more equitable infrastructure, better-faster actions to housing emergencies and better responses from HUD and RAD. Illegal evictions have to be stopped and better management is needed by M and T Management. Funds are also missing. Residents do not feel safe and better security is needed at their apartments. Ms. Stickford said killer mold was still present along with standing sewage. She said a date needs to be set for the next Town Hall meeting and a partnership committee with ACO North Little Rock Chapter. Ms. Patricia Hamby has lived at Cedar Gardens fka Bowker House over 20 years. The same issues and problems have happened again and the building needs to be brought up to code. Landlords keep changing. Ms. Hamby said she lives on the third floor and had mold in her apartment and still smells it. She pays her rent every month. She said a bolt lock had to be installed on her apartment for security. She said when she was outside she could smell sewage. Ms. Frankie Boykins had the same issues as previously referenced. She had mold come through the paint. She had issues with people throwing trash into the yard which she reported to management. The constant change of management requires them (the residents) to sign new documents to be recertified. Mayor Hartwick asked Mrs. McHenry if this was the property they had visited. She confirmed it was. Mayor Hartwick asked if the city could write a letter to the complex management. Ms. Fields said she would need documentation regarding citations, etc. Mrs. McHenry said when Code Enforcement had gone to the property in the past to perform inspections, tenants would not let them in their apartments. Tenants have been

advised to contact Code Enforcement with issues. Mrs. McHenry said her department had not received any complaints. Mayor Hartwick asked if any of the speakers had contacted Code Enforcement. Ms. Stickford said she had. Mrs. McHenry said if her department was contacted, they would write a letter to the owner/management. Ms. Fields said the individual tenants could let Code Enforcement Officers into their apartments. Ms. Hattie Temple said she expected one council member from each ward to attend the Town Hall meeting previously mentioned. Mayor Hartwick said the notification was provided at the last council meeting which was only four (4) days before the meeting. Ms. Temple said she would work with the council before scheduling the next meeting. Mayor Hartwick reminded the council the next council meeting scheduled for Monday, May 27, 2024, has been moved to Tuesday, May 28, 2024, due to the Memorial Day holiday.

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 adjourned at 7:20 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting which was rescheduled due to the Memorial Day Holiday to *Tuesday*, May 28, 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