

Tuesday, November 12, 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, November 11, 2024, and held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, was called to order at 6:00 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, LINDA ROBINSON, MAURICE TAYLOR, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, VINCE INSALACO, III and CHARLIE HIGHT (8/0). Chief Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Katelyn Thomas, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Talor Shinn, 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, October 28, 2024, were approved, accepted, and filed as prepared by City Clerk Diane Whitbey (8/0).

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

1. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: New retail Beer Off-Premises, Small Farm Winery-Retail & Grocery Store Wine application for Family Dollar #30531, 715 East Broadway Street, by Katrina Young.
2. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer – September 2024 Financial update and reports.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Hartwick presented a proclamation to Caroline Jones for winning 6A tennis finals and the Arkansas overall tennis championships. Miss Jones was joined at the podium by family members and her coaches.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

None scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

O-24-68

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2, ANIMAL CONTROL; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was one time and held by the sponsor, Council Member Insalaco, III. (*Chickens*)

CONSENT AGENDA

By voice vote and all members present having voted “aye”, consent agenda items R-24-237, R-24-239, R-24-240, and R-24-241 were adopted (8/0). R-24-238 and R-24-242 were pulled and called under new business.

R-24-237 (RESOLUTION NO. 10952 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JENNIFER JOHANSEN TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK PUBLIC COMMUNITY GARDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted. (8/0).

R-24-239 (RESOLUTION NO. 10953 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO TSE INTERNATIONAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF A UTILITY WIRE PULLER FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted. (8/0). (\$181,659.00)

R-24-240 (RESOLUTION NO. 10954 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT FOR SERVICES FROM MILSOFT UTILITY SOLUTIONS AND ASSOCIATED CONTRACTORS FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted. (8/0). (\$258,930.00)

R-24-241 (RESOLUTION NO. 10955 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2024 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES IN CERTAIN BUDGETS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted. (8/0). (\$64,299.17 *return Arkansas Opioid Qualified Settlement Funds*)

NEW BUSINESS

R-24-238 (RESOLUTION NO. 10956 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN AND THE 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK IN REGARD TO THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME-ARP) PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Ms. Bailey Noland, Director of Community

Development, explained the purpose of the legislation. When funding was originally received the plan was written under the guidance of the Home Investments Partnership American Rescue Plan. HUD (Housing and Urban Development) asked for a more specific plan. The new details would not change any ongoing projects. Council Member Ross asked the difference between Tenant-Based Assistance (TBA) and Tenant Assistance Demonstration (RAD). Ms. Noland advised she could not speak on all the different types of vouchers through the Housing Authority, however she could provide information on Tenant-Based Assistance (TBA), which is assistance that is tied to the individual. If an individual applies and it gets approved, it is their responsibility to locate housing, then go through the Housing Authority process to ensure the home is up to code and standards to verify it is a safe and livable property. If an individual moves out of the location they could find another unit and go through the same process. The funding follows the person and not the building or property. Council Member Ross asked if an applicant could take the funding to any property that accepts it (like in Little Rock). Ms. Noland said that it would need to be a North Little Rock property since the Housing Authority program is based in North Little Rock. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (8/0).

R-24-242 (RESOLUTION NO. 10957 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PLAYGROUND WITH SPLASHPAD AT FUNLAND PARK; AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS TO RJR ENTERPRISES, INC., PLAYCORE WISCONSIN, INC., DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS, INC. (aka DCI) AND JCON, INC. IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$895,778.28; AMENDING THE 2024 BUDGET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was read. Vicki Stephens, President of the Parks and Recreation

Commission asked the members of the commission who were present to stand. *(Note: prior to the Council meeting starting, a folder with copies of previous City Council Minutes, Parks and Recreation Commission minutes, and adopted legislation was provided to all members of the City Council and the Mayor from Ms. Stephens).* Ms. Stephens extended her thanks to the Mayor, his staff, City Council, and the voters of North Little Rock for passing the 2023 Sales Tax Capital Improvement Tax. In 2022 the City decided to levy a (sales) tax and discussed how it would be spent. She referenced an Ordinance 9454 and discussion from a Council meeting May 9th, 2022. Ms. Stephens then referred to a section regarding a statement from Ms. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer for North Little Rock, which estimated \$18 million dollars would be used for Parks and Recreation Community Centers that could include an Aquatic Center. She also referenced a statement from Mayor Hartwick regarding the need for improvements at all North Little Rock Recreation Centers. This also included the possibility to build Community Center in Ward 4. She read a statement from Ms. Strange that estimated around \$45 million with the continuation of the tax over a five (5) years. Ms. Stephens said she appreciated the projects that were underway using the previous ½ cent tax. On December 18th, 2023, Ms. Stephens said that Mayor Hartwick, CFO Strange, Chief of Staff Mike Davis, Mr. Austin Paul Development Consultants Inc. (DCI), and Mr. John Eckart RJR Enterprises, were

present at the Parks and Recreation meeting and provided a proposal to rebuild Funland. The estimated cost of the project was \$3.175 million. Commissioners asked where the money would come from and were advised the following: \$1,037,000.00 would come from FEMA, approximately \$500,000.00 would be from insurance, and \$1,615,000.00 would be from the sales tax fund. She said Ms. Strange made a comment to the Commission that no funding would come from the Parks and Recreation Commission's budget. The motion passed during their meeting regarding the above information. Ms. Stephens referred to the December 27th, 2023 Council meeting and the PowerPoint proposal presentation shown to the Mayor and City Council by Mr. Austin Paul and Mr. John Eckart that included how funds would be spent on Funland. Resolution 10717 was adopted approving the funds. The Parks and Recreation Commission has not received any reports on how the sales tax funds have been spent. The Commission is aware that \$1.6 million went to Funland, \$1.5 million was supposed to go to the North Little Rock Community Center. Updates have not been provided. Ms. Stephens asked the City to keep them (Parks Commissioners) informed when the financials are presented and include how much of the sales tax money had been spent. She said the Commission was under the impression that since the Funland money had been spent, they could possibly use some of the money to bring the tennis courts up to date. It would cost about \$600,000.00 to do so. To replace aging Parks equipment would cost around \$1,000,000.00. The Parks department has been without a full-time director for close to 4 years. She commended the previous directors on doing the best job that they could during their tenure. However, none were able to replace equipment. Ms. Stephens thanked Mayor Hartwick for appointing Kenny Stephens as the Park Director and commended Mr. Stephens on his work. Ms. Stephens asked to be allowed to be part of the financial process going forward. She referenced the packet she had provided the Mayor and City Council and advised the Commission subject to State Law/Statutes which include job requirements that must be completed. One of those items is the budget. She thanked the Mayor for allowing the Commission to be part of the budget process for the first time in four (4) years and be able to present it after they reviewed it. Ms. Stephens said they want to be a good Commission and need help figuring out how to spend the \$18 million the City committed to them in the best way possible. She referenced the packet again and mentioned a copy of the Parks and Recreation Commissions budget which was approved by the Commission in September, 2024. It was presented to Ms. Strange and Mr. Davis. However they (the commissioners) have not seen the budget for 2025 yet. They hope the numbers will be close to theirs. Ms. Stephens thanked the Council for their time. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Robinson. Council Member Ross said a key take away was that the Parks and Recreation Commission was not being included in projects in the Park. Going forward she would like to ensure they are included as they should be involved in overseeing the (annual) budget. Council Member Robinson said she would like to know what is in the State Statue which governs the Parks and Recreation Commission. Council Member Ross asked Ms. Strange to come forward as the wording in the resolution was confusing. Ms. Strange said Mrs. Shinn read the legislation to indicate an amendment of \$895,778.28. She referenced Section 3 of the legislation and said the amount of the amendment should be \$603,336.03. She said that when

the presentation was originally put forward she made the Council aware FEMA funds had not been obligated, but they (Strange and Davis) felt good about the numbers. The bathroom by the splash pad is expected to cost \$203,000.00. FEMA funds in this amount have been denied. An appeal has been filed. The City's insurance company, (Arkansas Municipal League), has provided payments. From those funds additional funding was able to be allocated. Ms. Strange said JCon was not originally involved in the project. She added the City Engineer, Parks Director and Chief of Staff have been meeting weekly to ensure the project stayed on track. It came to their attention there were additional needs. She explained that JCon would need to be added to assist with the project. The cost was not to exceed \$445,000.00 which is where the proposed \$600,000.00 adjustment comes from. Council Member Ross said when the City has had smaller projects and if the amount ended up exceeding \$10,000.00 the City Engineer would bring legislation back to the Council for an additional funding approval. In the City Council minutes, a statement indicated everything would be brought back before City Council. Council Member Ross asked why none of the information was brought back to them. Ms. Strange said they (Strange and Davis) had been working on a budget amendment. She said she let everyone know that if the scope of JCon's services were expanded, it would have to go to the City Attorney's Office for a contract. She said a contract was provided, however the City Attorney's Office starting questioning other things. She said she had verified the budget numbers. Ms. Strange said they (Strange and Davis) began working on getting the contract back to bring before the City Council. Council Member Ross asked if the City had a contract with JCon to begin with to increase their scope of services. Ms. Strange said no and advised the City had a contract with JCon for a different scope of services, which she said the Engineering Department felt could fall within that contract. She said once other items were being discussed and before any money was paid out, she asked what was being done and how much it would cost. Council Member Ross asked if the Engineering Department had a contract with JCon that they can provide. Ms. Strange said the contracts were for McCain and Park Hill. Council Member Ross advised those were for landscaping. Ms. Strange agreed that it was for landscaping and irrigation. Council Member Ross asked if the JCon contract referenced included landscaping at (city) Parks. Ms. Strange said she was not aware of the extent of the services and it would be a question for engineering. Council Member Hamilton asked if the amendment would be a change order for \$600,000.00 and not \$900,000.00. Ms. Strange advised the \$895,000.00 is the remaining amount to be paid to the entities listed in the legislation and stated the City had not gone over the original allocation. She advised they would bring a budget amendment before the City Council and used the Rose City Health Clinic as an example. Council Member Hamilton said that he believed there was no ill intent. He advised he did have concerns about Ms. Vicki Stephens's statements regarding being included for the first time in four (4) years for their budget. Council Member Hamilton said he did not have any issues with the change order being requested as he believed it to be standard procedure for a massive project. City Attorney Fields said it was not a change order as there was no contract with JCon. She advised the majority of the work had been done prior to her office being provided a contract. The City Attorney's Office was unable to write a contract for services that had already been performed. This legislation would authorize

payment in the additional amounts. Mayor Hartwick asked Ms. Strange when she received the contract. Ms. Strange said she respectfully disagreed with Ms. Fields statement. She said no payments had been made to JCon. The company was advised to stop work when the City requested the contact. Council Member Taylor asked if the City owed the money. Ms. Strange said yes. Ms. Fields advised payments had been made to JCon under a landscape contract (which did not included Funland). Ms. Strange said the City did not owe money for the work that has not been completed. Council Member Taylor asked how much the City owed. Ms. Strange said it would be \$600,000.00 to finish the project and get the park (Funland) open. Council Member Taylor asked whether or not there was a contract in place. Ms. Strange said no, they never had a contract for JCon. Council Member Taylor asked what the Council was approving the \$600,000.00 for. He then clarified his question and asked if it was for work that had been started that needed to be completed. Ms. Strange said yes. Council Member Baxter said when an issue arises in a construction project, the city may get who they have on hand at the time based on experience/need. He referenced city Department Heads: Kenny Stephens (Parks Director), Mike Davis (Chief of Staff), and the City Engineer. City staff work with the vendors to get the problem handled once it's brought to their attention. He said he understood full time staff and appreciates the work the Parks Commission has done. He encouraged more communication to prevent future concerns. Council Member Baxter said that there has been oversight for issues like digging up a pipe in the Park and not having commissioners on site for example. On the previous motion of Council Member Taylor, and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and by consent of all members present, with the exception of Council Members Ross, Robinson, and Hight who passed, the resolution was adopted (5/3).

Note: Council Member Hamilton left the Council Chambers at 6:27pm.

R-24-243 (RESOLUTION NO. 10958 – 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 405 COLLEGE PARK DRIVE 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 adopted (8/0). (owner: Henry Coleman - amount - \$6,070.83)

R-24-244 (RESOLUTION NO. 10959 – 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 615 WEST 23RD 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 adopted (8/0). (*owner: PML Facility LLC c/o Peter Private Money Lenders LLC - amount - \$4,965.83*)

R-24-245 (RESOLUTION NO. 10960 – 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 1605 NORTH CHANDLER 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 Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (8/0). (*owners: First Commercial Mortgage Co. c/o Patricia Smith - amount - \$7,081.11*)

R-24-246 (RESOLUTION NO. 10961 – 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 4724 HAYWOOD 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 Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (8/0). (*owners: James H. Harvey and Betty J. Harvery - amount - \$5,624.15*)

R-24-247 (RESOLUTION NO. 10962 – 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 EXPENSE AND ABATEMENT OR 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 Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (8/0).

O-24-77

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE TWO (ILLEGAL PARKING) OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 9, PARKING REGULATIONS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 readings were suspended (8/0). Council Member Hight advised he had an amendment and requested a public hearing at the next City Council meeting. City Attorney Amy Fields advised

there would have to be a publication for the public hearing. City Clerk Diane Whitbey advised notification could be sent with regular Council communication. Council Member Ross asked if the Council could be made aware of the details of the amendment beforehand. Ms. Fields said the amendment would include two (2) additional exceptions: 1. for vehicles and/or trailers necessary to conduct business operations or activities; and 2. for areas close to Churches for any church service, event, or activity.

Note: Council member Hamilton returned to the Council Chambers at 6:34pm.

O-24-78 (ORDINANCE NO. 9712 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON)
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW A TIRE STORE IN A C3
ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4500 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 Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor. On the previous motion, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause adopted (8/0). (*Ahmed Alshugan – City Tire LLC*)

Council Member Ross asked that the 2025 budget include a Planning Department Enforcement Officer who would be able to enforce conditions of Conditional and Special Uses. She used the previous legislation as an example of the need to ensure zoning restrictions are being enforced. Mayor Hartwick advised the budget was provided to each Council Member before the meeting confirmed and they would be able to take it home to review.

O-24-79 (ORDINANCE NO. 9713 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW A HOTEL IN A C6
ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 210 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 Baxter and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). Mr. John Pownall of Thomas Engineering (applicant) requested a waiver of bushes along Popular Street. Currently, a strip of landscaping is required between the parking area and the street. C-6 zoning allows building (the parking lot) up to the property line. A tree waiver was requested for the south side of the parcel which is 2nd Street. City Attorney Fields advised the council to adopt separate legislation in regard to waivers. This legislation would approve a conditional use for the property. Ms. Fields said this Ordinance could be held and voted on at next meeting if preferred. On the motion of Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Harris, and the roll having been called, and all members present

having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted (8/0). Emergency clause adopted (8/0). (*John Pownall of Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-80 (ORDINANCE NO. 9714 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW SATELLITE PARKING IN C6 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 503 OLIVE 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 Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). Mayor Hartwick convened a public hearing. Mr. Nemo Sitaram came forward to speak. Mr. Sitaram works for Conway Management and is involved with the Aloft by Marriott project in Argenta. Council Member Hamilton asked how many parking spots are required for the proposed hotel. Mr. Sitaram said 113. They have made provisions for 128 spots. Council Member Hight asked if the owner was fully aware of the situation as he noticed a sign had been erected at the location recently. Mr. Sitaram said the property owner was present in the council chambers. Council Member Ross asked if there was a written agreement between the Management and the property owner as required in past legislation. Mr. Sitaram said they had a letter of intent (LOI) with the property owner. Council Member Ross asked if there was a signed agreement and if it was legal and if it would be attached to the legislation. City Attorney Fields asked that the signed lease agreement be provided the City Clerk's Office to attach to the Ordinance. Mr. Sitaram said the hotel will have 90 rooms. Council Member Baxter asked how long the contract would be between the property owner for off-site parking and the hotel. Mr. Sitaram said it was in the contract and it was for twenty-five (25) years. There being no one else wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. On the motion of Council Member Hamilton 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 adopted (8/0). Emergency clause adopted (8/0). (*John Pownall of Thomas Engineering*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Scott Fowler thanked the voters of Ward 4 for their vote. He said he looked forward to learning from the seated Council members and working with them for the best interest of the City. Mr. Fowler acknowledged Council Member Hight's commitment to the citizens of Ward 4 and North Little Rock. Ms. Vicki Stephens, President of the Parks and Recreation Commission, stated she had been on the Commission for thirty-one (31) years along with Odestine Smith. She appreciated everything the City has done for them. It is important for the Mayor and City Council to understand the Commission has to follow state law and should include them in the spending of funds and budget discussion. She reiterated from previous comments that they want the Chief Financial Officer of the City to allow them to be able to participate. The Commission needs to know how much sales tax money is allocated and how it is being spent, so they can continue to operate. Ms. Stephens said this is the first time in thirty-one (31) years that she had served that they (the commission) had the opportunity to make improvements to their program

and be able to keep it on the respected level it had always been. Council Member Taylor advised the Arkansas Realtors Association was collecting heaters and warm winter items to be sent to Asheville and Eastern North Carolina. Individuals can go online to their website to find the information. Deputy City Clerk Shinn reminded the Mayor about the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony Thursday, November 14th. The event will be held at the Argenta Plaza at 6:00pm. Mayor Hartwick asked all Veterans in the Council Chambers to stand and be recognized for their service.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for Monday, November 25, 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