

Monday, December 9, 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, December 9, 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, MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, 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, Deputy City Clerk/Enforcement Officer Jim Scott, and Assistant City Attorney Marie Bernarde-Miller 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, November 25, 2024, were approved, accepted, and filed as prepared by Chief Deputy City Clerk Katelyn Thomas (8/0).

No communications were filed for the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-24-248 (RESOLUTION NO. 10964 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A SIGN LOCATION LEASE TO LEASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 54 RIVERFRONT DRIVE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, TO LAMAR ADVERTISING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Council Member Robinson asked

how long the legislation had been in the process to be presented to City Council. Council Member Taylor said around three (3) months. Council Member Robinson advised that she was aware that all necessary requirements had gone through the Planning Commission. On the motion of Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

CONSENT AGENDA

By voice vote and all members present having voted “aye”, consent agenda items R-24-250, R-24-251, R-24-252, and R-24-254 were adopted (8/0). R-24-253 and R-24-255 were pulled and called under new business.

R-24-250 (RESOLUTION NO. 10965 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TOM BROWN TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted. (8/0).

R-24-251 (RESOLUTION NO. 10966 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENTS WITH CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted. (8/0).

R-24-252 (RESOLUTION NO. 10967 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENTS WITH MILSOFT UTILITY SOLUTIONS AND INVOICECLOUD, INC. FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted. (8/0).

R-24-254 (RESOLUTION NO. 10968 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2025 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted. (8/0).

NEW BUSINESS

R-24-253 (RESOLUTION NO. 10969 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SALARY INCREASES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2024; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Hight. Council Member Hamilton stated he did not want his opinion to dissuade the Council’s votes, however he did not feel comfortable with the lack of discussion between himself and other individuals for proper feedback. He commented that he would pass on his vote regarding the legislation, but he said there were a number of reasons to justify the raise. On the previous motion of Council Member

Hamilton, and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, with the exception of Council Member Hamilton who passed, the resolution was adopted (7/1).

R-24-255 (RESOLUTION NO. 10970 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2025 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Council Member Ross stated there was an overage on the Sales Tax Capital Improvement Fund by \$47,000. Under the line item for City Council, Drainage and other improvements for all four (4) wards, showed a total sum of \$75,000. Calculating the formula for inflation would put the amount at \$90,000. Council Member Ross said she wanted to increase each ward by \$50,000 from the Revenue over expenditures (\$471,550 – Ward drainage and other improvements). Mayor Hartwick asked if everyone understood the request from Council Member Ross. Council Member Hight said no. Chief Financial Officer Ember Strange came forward and stated she had budgeted \$4,125,100 in revenue and only allocated \$3,653,550 of that amount. It left a sum of \$471,550 in the budget. Ms. Strange reiterated Council Member Ross's request to allocate an additional \$50,000 to each Ward for drainage and other improvements bringing the total to \$125,000. Mayor Hartwick commented that it was part of the half penny sales tax. Ms. Strange corrected the statement and said it was the permanent tax from a separate fund. Council Member Ross said the additional money being allocated stemmed from the fact that one drainage project could be cost around \$180,000. The budget was \$500,000 (split between all (4) wards). In the past, they have had to rely on other funds to complete small projects. Mayor Hartwick agreed costs are rising to complete projects. Mayor Hartwick asked Ms. Strange if the budget would balance with the amendment proposed. Ms. Strange said yes. Ms. Strange read the amendment proposed again and stated she would send an updated Exhibit to the City Clerk's Office and Legal Department. On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows: Exhibit "A", page 43 - *Allocate an additional \$50,000 in each ward to the Drainage and other improvements, bringing the total amount to \$125,000 for each ward. The following line items would be updated: 20-220-53006, 20-220-53007, 20-220-53008, and 2-220-53009.* (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Insalaco, III and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted as amended (8/0).

R-24-256 (RESOLUTION NO. 10971 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 916 NORTH H 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. 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 Baxter,

and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: COC Community Development, Inc. dba North Point Dixie Church of Christ*)

Mayor Hartwick recognized Mr. Tom Brown who was reappointed to the Board of Zoning Adjustment by R-24-250 (consent agenda).

R-24-257 (RESOLUTION NO. 10972 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 411 MEADOW PARK DRIVE 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. 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 Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owners: Truman Heathcock and Nina Heathcock*)

R-24-258 (RESOLUTION NO. 10973 – 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 215 WEST D AVENUE 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 Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount \$7,062.81*)

R-24-259

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 309 KAY STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and withdrawn by the sponsor, Mayor Hartwick. (*amount \$6,212.81*)

R-24-260 (RESOLUTION NO. 10974 – 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 2524 DIVISION 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 \$5,705.13*)

R-24-261 (RESOLUTION NO. 10975 – 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 8040 RAINS 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 Baxter and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount \$7,044.15*)

R-24-262 (RESOLUTION NO. 10976 – 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 4908 LYNCH 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 Hight and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount \$4,819.15*)

R-24-263 (RESOLUTION NO. 10977 – 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 1701 (1705) MOSS 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 Insalaco, III and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*amount \$15,973.27*)

R-24-264 (RESOLUTION NO. 10978 – 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, ARKNASAS, AS A RESULT OF GRASS CUTTING EXPENSES AND ABATEMENT OF OTHER 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 Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-24-89 (ORDINANCE NO. 9722 – COUNCIL MEMBER HIGHT)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 4 OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 10, PARKS AND RECREATION; 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). On the motion of Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Robinson, 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). Mayor Hartwick asked if the legislation was in regards to Electric bikes class one (1) and two (2). Council Member Hight said that was correct, Class three (3) is prohibited. He added he had been working on this legislation several years. *(to allow certain classifications of electric bicycles)*

O-24-90 (ORDINANCE NO. 9723 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 14.19 AND SECTION 14.26 OF ORDINANCE NO. 9263 (SIGN ORDINANCE) TO ALLOW AN ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE COPY BILLBOARD SIGN ALONG A CERTAIN PORTION OF INTERSTATE 30 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 Harris, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). Mr. Tom Gibbons with Lamar Advertising came forward. Council Member Ross asked how large the billboard would be. He advised it would be 672 square feet, which is the national standard billboard size. She asked if the billboard would be one or two sided. Mr. Gibbons said it would be one display per side (two-sided). Council Member Ross asked how the eight (8) second slide timing was decided. He advised the Federal Highway Department recommended that standard in 2007 after completing studies. A motorist driving typically glances at a digital billboard for 1.3 seconds. At 60-70 mph after 8 seconds the driver only perceived one display. Council Member Ross voiced her concern about additional billboard requests along the interstate if this legislation was approved. Mayor Hartwick said it would be up to the Council. Council Member Taylor referenced (city) sign districts and restrictions. Council Member Ross said her concern was saying no to the next applicant that comes along. Mr. Gibbons showed a rendering of the billboard provided by their company, Lamar Advertising. The billboard has the City of North Little Rock logo on it for display. The Simmons Bank Arena has a billboard that operates the same way. Proposed lighting operates at a national standard passed before 2007. The 0.3 foot candles lighting is adjustable via a monitor that is on all the time and it automatically dims at night. Council Member Ross asked about use for emergency alerts. Mr. Gibbons said it was written into Code and also the Arkansas Highway Department (ARDOT) regulations that authorizes the use of that function. Council Member Ross asked how fast the billboard could display an emergency alert. Mr. Gibbons said within one (1) to two (2) minutes. They have a network of employees (100) who monitor content 24/7. Each person has a camera to monitor signs. Council Member Taylor asked if Lamar had an electronic sign near Mardel's off of

Highway 167. Mr. Gibbons confirmed they did and this billboard would be comparable to that. Council Member Ross reiterated her concerns. Council Member Harris said he understood this billboard would replace four (4) others. Mr. Gibbons said their company would be removing five (5) billboards in other locations due to various reasons which would improve the area in his opinion. Mrs. Jo Melton has lived in North Little Rock over 50 years and drives this route every day. She stated concern about the location of the sign and the possibility of more being built. She has expressed her concerns in the past and voiced her opposition to changeable copy signs in North Little Rock. Some of the issues included the lights shining into neighbors windows. Passing this legislation will open the door to many more billboards. Mrs. Melton referenced an email that was provided prior to the meeting (copy on file with the City Clerk's Office). She asked that Council members take a moment to read it and reflect upon the legislation as she felt there was no reason to rush it. Mrs. Melton said she just learned the billboard would be two-sided and feels the sign is not safe. She believes the safety and the aesthetics of the City should be considered. She asked if they had received permission from the State Highway Department for the sign. She added the State is allowing brush to be grown around billboards across Arkansas. Mr. Gibbons said they have a vegetation permit for their locations and which is approved by the Highway Department to keep it clear. He said ARDOT requires City approval of the sign before they receive approval from their level (Highway Department). Council Member Ross asked how tall the sign would be. Mr. Gibbons stated around 20 feet. Council Member Ross asked about animation or flags at the location. Mr. Gibbons said there would not be any. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, with the exception of Council Members Ross and Baxter who voted no, and Council Member Insalaco, III who passed, the ordinance was adopted (5/2/1). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-24-91

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW MINOR AUTO REPAIRS IN A C3 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3820 LOOKOUT ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read and withdrawn by the sponsor, Council Member Hamilton. (*applicant: Nick Kockaya*)

O-24-92 (ORDINANCE NO. 9724 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW A HOTEL IN A C6 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 118 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE 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 Hight, 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 Insalaco, III, 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: John Pownall of Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-93 (ORDINANCE NO. 9725 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 110 NORTH POPLAR STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM C6 TO PUD ZONING CLASSIFICATION, BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9263; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Robinson, 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 Taylor asked Mr. John Pownall, Thomas Engineering, why the property was changing from C6 to PUD Zoning. Mr. Pownall said that was what the Code required. On the previous motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight, 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: John Pownall of Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-94 (ORDINANCE NO. 9726 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 120 SOUTH POPLAR STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM C6 TO PUD ZONING CLASSIFICATION, BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9263; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Robinson, 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 Insalaco, III, 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: John Pownall of Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-95 (ORDINANCE NO. 9727 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING SECTIONS OF 7.2.1 AND 7.2.3 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 9263) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 120 SOUTH POPLAR STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, TO WAIVE TREE REQUIREMENTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. 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). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Hight. Council Member Ross asked Mr. Pownall why trees were being waived. Mr. Pownall said the waiver was for interior trees. Council Member Ross said the legislation included two (2) Street trees as well. Mr. Pownall advised trees are planted along the riverfront side of the parking lot and Popular Street. Some of the trees overlap. Council Member Ross clarified this legislation would waive two (2) Street trees and two (2) parking lot trees. Mr. Pownall confirmed that was correct. On the previous motion of

Council Member Hight 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: John Pownall of Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-96 (ORDINANCE NO. 9728 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING SECTIONS OF 7.2.2 AND 7.2.3 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 9263) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 118 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, TO WAIVE TREE AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS; WAIVING SECTION 9.11 OF THE SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 7946) FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY TO WAIVE SIDEWALK REQUIREMENTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to suspend the readings was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight. Council Member Ross asked about the request to waive trees and sidewalks. Mr. Pownall advised on East Washington Avenue there would be a pullout where cars would exit and drop off in front of the Hotel. It was hard to put trees in that area. He said same situation was on the Popular Street side. The sidewalk would be a little over five (5) feet. It would be hard to implement trees in the area. There would not be enough room for the cars to park along the street on Popular. Council Member Ross asked about the bushes on the West side of the property. Mr. Pownall advised there was a building on the West property line and area requesting a waiver where the building is located. The areas is three (3) to five (5) feet wide and they felt the bushes would not grow in that little of space. Council Member Baxter asked if the reason for so many drop off points was because of the offsite parking. Mr. Kal Makan came forward and advised the North side is the proposed Hotel drop off area. The East side would be drop off for a high-end restaurant planned for the seventh floor. On the previous 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 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 (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: John Pownall of Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-97 (ORDINANCE NO. 9729 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING SECTION 7.2.1 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 9263) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 110 NORTH POPLAR STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, TO WAIVE TREE REQUIREMENTS; WAIVING SECTION 9.11 OF THE SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO 7946) FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY TO WAIVE SIDEWALK REQUIREMENTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. 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). A motion to adopt was made

by Council Member Taylor. Council Member Ross asked if Mr. Pownall was requesting a waiver of all seventeen (17) trees and the sidewalk. Mr. Pownall said the business is trying to maintain the parking at the location and will be widening the parking lot to the East side. If trees are put in the middle of the parking lot they will lose spaces. Mayor Hartwick asked how many parking spaces were at the location. Mr. Pownall estimated around 107 spaces. Mayor Hartwick asked if Mr. Pownall had thought about turning the layout around to accommodate the tree requirement and retain parking spaces. Mr. Pownall said they could explore the idea, however their main goal was to retain parking spaces. Mayor Hartwick stated his opinion of favoring trees in the parking lot. Mr. Kal Makan stated they put thought into the curb appeal since this will be a Boutique Hotel. Other hotels they manage have won landscape awards. Demographics from the surrounding area will cause issues having less parking spaces. Mayor Hartwick asked Mr. Makan to find a way to plant some trees. Mr. Makan said he would. Council Member Ross reminded the Council there was an (Tree) In Lieu of Fee others developers have paid in the past. She asked if there was city property nearby where trees could be planted if the (in lieu of) fee was paid. Mr. Makan said he was open to the idea. On the previous 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, with the exception of Council Member Ross who voted no, the ordinance was adopted (7/1). Emergency clause adopted (7/1).
(applicant: John Pownall of Thomas Engineering)

O-24-98 (ORDINANCE NO. 9730 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)
AN ORDINANCE WAIVING SECTIONS 7.2.2 AND 7.2.3 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE
(ORDINANCE NO. 9263) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 210 EAST
BROADWAY STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, TO WAIVE
TREE AND LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. 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). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight. Council Member Ross asked why the trees and landscaping were being waived on this piece of legislation too. Council Member Hamilton said he had spoken to the applicant and others in the area and feels it wouldn't change much. He was willing to accept the inevitable of there being a lot of concrete in the area. Council Member Ross asked why all the trees on 2nd Street were being waived. Mr. Pownall said all of 2nd Street was mostly developed. The City put in all the improvements on that portion. Council Member Ross asked how many were required to put in. He believes it was an additional two (2) or three (3) trees. Council Member Ross asked how many trees have been waived on the entire project. She is on the Tree Board and wanted to defend the trees. Mayor Hartwick advised this legislation was a different project. For the first time in fifty (50) years Argenta was getting two (2) hotels. Council Member Ross asked about the landscaping waiver. Mr. Pownall said there was not enough room to put a parking lot in front of the Hotel and have the 6 foot landscape strip. There was not enough room in the back of the Hotel to include a 4 foot landscape strip in order to have access to the back of the building.

On the previous motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight, 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: John Pownall of Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-99 (ORDINANCE NO. 9731 – COUNCIL MEMBER HARRIS
AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND ABANDONING A CERTAIN UNUSED EASEMENT ON
PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5120 NORTHSORE DRIVE 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 Hight, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (8/0). 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 Insalaco, 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: Erika Glidden of White-Daters & Associates*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jo Melton is a longtime resident. She said North Little Rock gets things done and has bragged about that opinion, however there are times items that go through too fast. She was made aware of O-24-90 the same day of the Council Meeting and attempted to call as many Council Members as she could. More background information was needed before it was adopted with an emergency clause. She said the location wasn't included in the legislation, but was in the attachments. This did not give the general public an opportunity to understand what the legislation entailed. Mayor Hartwick advised the 2024 Christmas Parade was rescheduled to the Sunday (December 15th) at 2:00 pm due to rain the previous weekend. He also announced a reception for Council Member Hight and Council Member Taylor which will be held 5:00 pm before the December 23 City Council Meeting. Mr. Kal Makan asked what the process was to expand the entertainment district (to encompass new incoming Hotels). Council Member Taylor advised him the paperwork had already been filed for the next Council agenda. Mayor Hartwick advised the City Swearing In Ceremony will be held Friday, January 3rd at 10:00 am in City Hall. The public was invited to attend.

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 adjourned at 6:52 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for Monday, December 23, 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