

Monday, December 23, 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 23, 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). *Note:* Council Member Hamilton participated by telephone. City Clerk Diane Whitbey, 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, December 9, 2024, were approved, accepted, and filed as prepared by Chief Deputy City Clerk Katelyn Thomas (8/0).

On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, communications #1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were accepted and filed (8/0).

1. Derrell Hartwick, President/CEO North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce re: Economic Development Activity Report Q4 2024.
2. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer re: October 2024 Financial Update for the City of North Little Rock.
3. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: *New Retail Beer off Premises & Small Farm Winery – Retail Application #44283* for Locust Food Mart, 1424 Locust Street, by Mohammad Alam.
4. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer/Chair Energy Risk Management Committee memorandum re: Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) rate for January 2025, \$0.0071 kWh (positive).
5. Sherry Little, Treasurer Indian Hills Community Club (IHCC) petition for Proposed Urban Service District for Indian Hills Community Club (570 signatures included per cover page).

PRESENTATIONS

None.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

By voice vote and all members present having voted “aye”, consent agenda items R-24-267, R-24-268, R-24-269, R-24-270, R-24-271, R-24-272 and R-24-173 were adopted (8/0). R-24-265 and R-24-266 were pulled and called under new business.

R-24-267 (RESOLUTION NO. 10979 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PURCHASE HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE FROM THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

R-24-268 (RESOLUTION NO. 10980 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PURCHASE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE FROM THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; was adopted (8/0). (\$939,766.00)

R-24-269 (RESOLUTION NO. 10981 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PURCHASE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND INSURANCE FROM THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE DEFENSE PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (\$119,533.35)

R-24-270 (RESOLUTION NO. 10982 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PURCHASE VEHICLE INSURANCE FROM THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE; AND FOR OTHER PUROSES, was adopted (8/0). (\$482,450.17)

R-24-271 (RESOLUTION NO. 10983 – MAYOR HARTWICK)
A RESOLUTION WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PURCHASE PROPERTY INSURANCE FROM THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0). (\$767,348.42)

R-24-272 (RESOLUTION NO. 10984 – 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). (*General, Street, Parks, IT, Sales Tax Capital Improvement, 2023 Sales Tax Capital Improvement*)

R-24-273 (RESOLUTION NO. 10985 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITIES OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS AND MAUMELLE, ARKANSAS FOR PURPOSES OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS BEING RETAINED BY THE CITY OF MAUMELLE, ARKANSAS TO SERVE AS BOTH PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT AND PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHING SERVICES CENTER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARK. CODE §§ 12-10-301, ET SEQ. AS AMENDED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 2019, NO. 660; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (8/0).

NEW BUSINESS

R-24-265 (RESOLUTION NO. 10986 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION; 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).

R-24-266 (RESOLUTION NO. 10987 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, JOHN E. CHARLES LODGE NO. 5; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Hight and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Mayor Hartwick asked North Little Rock Police Office Michael Gibbons to come forward. Officer Gibbons is President of the North Little Rock Fraternal Order of Police John H. Charles Lodge No. 5. He was joined by Officer Michael Johnson, Vice President, and Officer Greg Blankenship, Contract Committee Chairman. Mr. Gibbons said he represented 170 men and women (during contract negotiations) who serve and protect the residents of North Little Rock. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their upcoming vote on the 2025-2026 FOP Contract. Support of the legislation would send a strong message to members, police officers and city governments across the State of Arkansas. It also shows support for the health and well-being of officers after retirement. North Little Rock is the only city in the state to provide family health insurance coverage for officers after retirement. This is a vital tool for recruiting new officers. Mr. Gibbons said the greatest recruiting tool is our city government and the residents of

the City of North Little Rock. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). Mayor Hartwick thanked the officers for their service and referenced how hard they and other employees worked in the aftermath of the 2023 tornado. Mayor Hartwick also thanked the wives and other family members.

R-24-274 (RESOLUTION NO. 10988 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SALARY INCREASES FOR THE ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF, THE FIRE BATTALION CHIEFS AND THE FIRE MARSHAL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read.

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).

R-24-275 (RESOLUTION NO. 10989 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING SALARY INCREASES TO ALL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING ELECTED OFFICIALS AND UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES COVERED UNDER AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK AND THE FOP, IAFF, AND THE NLRPD SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION); APPROVING A 25 CENT PER HOUR INCREASE FOR ALL PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2025; 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). (2.5%)

R-24-276 (RESOLUTION NO. 10990 – 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 913 GREENLEA 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 Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (\$4,754.63)

R-24-277 (RESOLUTION NO. 10991 – 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 2517 FRANKLIN 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). (\$6,959.11)

R-24-278 (RESOLUTION NO. 10992 – 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 317 SHORT 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 Insalaco, III and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (\$5,644.48)

R-24-279 (RESOLUTION NO. 10993 – 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 2305 NORTH BERKLEY 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 Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (\$6,642.69)

O-24-100 (ORDINANCE NO. 9732 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; APPROVING THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES TO BE EXECUTED TO SAID AREA; ASSIGNING SAID TERRITORY TO WARD 3; DECLARING AN EMEGENCY; 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 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). (*requested by: McCoggins-White Family Trust Properties*)

O-24-101 (ORDINANCE NO. 9733 – COUNCIL MEMBERS HARRIS AND ROSS)

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING SALARY INCREASES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS (EXCLUDING COUNCIL MEMBERS) OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2025; 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). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Harris and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Without objection, Council Member Ross was added as a co-sponsor. 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). No

emergency clause. City Attorney Fields asked the sponsor to amend this legislation to include an emergency clause at the next council meeting. (4%)

O-24-102

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9257 TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT KNOWN AS THE ARGENTA OUTDOOR DINING DISTRICT; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and withdrawn by the sponsor, Council Member Taylor.

O-24-103 (ORDINANCE NO. 9734 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING AN EASEMENT LOCATED ON EAST 2ND STREET LOCATED AT 200 EAST BROADWAY STREET; 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 having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*requested by Greg Nabholz of Nabholz Properties, Inc.*)

O-24-104 (ORDINANCE NO. 9735 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 804 NORTH OLIVE STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM R4 TO C6 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 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 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: Thomas Pownall of Thomas Engineering*)

O-24-105 (ORDINANCE NO. 9736 – COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL USE TO ALLOW A SHORT TERM RENTAL IN A R4 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1215 ROCKWATER BOULEVARD, UNIT A, 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 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: Roger Colburn*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Hartwick reminded everyone city offices will be closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25, 2024 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. City offices will also be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025 in observance of New Year's Day. Garbage and trash routes will run one-day delayed the remainder of each week. The following North Little Rock City Officials will be sworn in on Friday, January 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the lobby of City Hall: Mayor Terry C. Hartwick, City Clerk and Treasurer Diane Whitbey, Council Members (Ward 1) Nathan Hamilton, (Ward 2) Nicole Hart, (Ward 3) Ron Harris and (Ward 4) Scott Fowler. The public is invited to attend. Council Member Baxter referenced a reception held prior to the council meeting honoring Council Members Hight (24 years) and Taylor (16 years) for their service to the City of North Little Rock. He said he appreciated them for their service and tutelage over the years. Council Member Hight said he enjoyed working with City Council Members, the City Attorney, City Clerk, Mayor and other city employees. Council Member Taylor said he enjoyed the work and seeing projects come to fruition.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Hight, and by consent of all members present, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2025, 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