

Monday, April 14, 2025
Six o'clock p.m.
North Little Rock City Hall Council Chambers
300 Main Street
North Little Rock, Arkansas

The regular meeting of the North Little Rock City Council scheduled for Monday, April 14, 2025, 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, NICOLE HART, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, SCOTT FOWLER and VINCE INSALACO, III (7/0). Note: COUNCIL MEMBER NATHAN HAMILTON was absent. City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, Deputy City Clerk Enforcement Officer David Pettit and Deputy City Attorney Marie Bernard-Miller were also present.

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

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting held on Monday, March 24, 2025, were approved, accepted, and filed as prepared by City Clerk Diane Whitbey (7/0). Note: Council Member Ross contacted Ms. Whitbey for clarification regarding R-25-60. Ms. Whitbey advised following was added to the minutes "*was previously adopted under Consent Agenda. Item was called following new business, expunged then reread.*"

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, 5, 6 and 7 were accepted and filed (7/0).

1. Dan Scott, Director of Neighborhood Services email commending North Little Rock Police Officer Jonny Helmich re: neighborhood complaints about vacant lot on East 2nd Street and his response to the same.
2. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: Application for Restaurant Mixed Drink Maximum Permit – Change of Manager for Hooters of Arkansas, 4110 Landers Road by Sarah White.
3. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer and Chair Energy Risk Management Committee email to City Clerk Diane Whitbey re: Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Rate for April, 2025 \$0.0076 kWh (positive).

4. Anita Paul, Mayor's Office memorandum re: Retail Beer Off-premises, Retail Liquor & Beer-Wine-Spirits Sampling – Replacement/New Owners for Springhill Wine & Spirits, 4281 E. McCain Boulevard by Harprett Kaur.
5. Mayor's Office letter from Bernard Owens, Solid Waste Services Manager re: CPI increase for disposal outlined in current contract for volume discount agreement for Class I and Class IV Solid Waste. Increase will be 2.7%. Current disposal rate is \$21.52 per ton. New rate effective April 1, 2025, \$22.10 per ton.
6. Talor Shinn, Deputy City Clerk/Records Manager letter to Mayor and City Council regarding records from City Hall basement.
7. Mayor Hartwick – email from Edgar Ramirez, North Little Rock IT Department re: Spanish Translation.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hartwick asked Mr. Chris Kent, Argenta Downtown Council Director and Mr. Greg Phillips, Main Street Arkansas Director to come forward. Mr. Phillips thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to present the Argenta Downtown Council (ADC) with two 2025 Excellence in Downtown Revitalization Awards. Mr. Phillips has been with Main Street Arkansas for 28 years and has worked all over the state (of Arkansas). He thanked the Mayor and City Council for their on-going support of ADC. He encouraged continued support into the future. The Spirit of Main Street Award, was for a video essay which illustrated the importance and portray the spirit of the downtown district. The Campaign for Main Street Award recognized and outstanding Special Event Image or Public Relations Campaign that had a significant impact on the Main Street program. The video referenced was then shown. Mr. Phillips introduced other members of Main Street Arkansas who were present: Susan Shaddix and Mark Miller. They provide free interior design and small business consultation to any property or business owner in a downtown business district. Mr. Kent is the Executive Director of the ADC. He thanked Mr. Phillips and the Main Street Arkansas staff for the awards. He commended the staff members: (full time) Calvin, Dion, Monica, John, Elise, (part time) Marsha, Zeppelin, Adam, Suzy and Tim. Mr. Tim Carr produced the video. Mr. Kent also thanked their Board of Directors and chair Errin Stanger. The ADC has 107 different properties between Broadway and 8th Street which are owned by 80 individuals. These individuals voluntarily pay for the services that support the ADC which include clean sidewalks, maintenance of flowerbeds and an advocate for the area. As a result of COVID-19 in 2020, property and business owners, former Mayor Joe A. Smith and the City Council worked together to create an entertainment district. It was the beginning of the *Dogtown Throwdown* Street parties. ADC created a modern Social Media strategy which changed the perception of who North Little Rock was. Mayor Hartwick said Main Street Argent was started by former Mayor Patrick Henry Hays in the early 1990's in North Little Rock.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-25-61

A RESOLUTION WAIVING BIDS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A VOLUNTARY SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTHCARE PLAN WITH CHAMPION HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and withdrawn by the sponsor, Mayor Hartwick.

CONSENT AGENDA

By voice vote and all members present having voted “aye”, consent agenda item R-25-64, R-25-65, R-25-66, R-25-67, R-25-68, R-25-69, R-25-70, R-25-71, R-25-72, and R-25-73 were adopted (7/0).

R-25-64 (RESOLUTION NO. 11052 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KAREN BYRANT TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-25-65 (RESOLUTION NO. 11053 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING SUZANNE CLEMENTS JACKSON TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORY COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES was adopted (7/0).

R-25-66 (RESOLUTION NO. 11054 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BELINDA SYKES-BURNEY TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK HISTORY COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-25-67 (RESOLUTION NO. 11055 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LILLIAN WILLIAMS TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-25-68 (RESOLUTION NO. 11056 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRAD PAUL TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-25-69 (RESOLUTION NO. 11057 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK FOR 2026 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT FUNDS FOR THE RECYCLE BIKES FOR KIDS PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-25-70 (RESOLUTION NO. 11058 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A MUNICIPALITY SOLID WASTE FACILITY FINANCIAL ASSURANCE AGREEMENT

WITH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-25-71 (RESOLUTION NO. 11059 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2025 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, TO REAUTHORIZE AND INCLUDE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES FOR SPECIFIED DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-25-72 (RESOLUTION NO. 11060 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDIGN THE 2025 BUDGET FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT TO REAUTHORIZE AND INCLUDE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (7/0).

R-25-73 (RESOLUTION ON. 11061 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CHANGE ORDER AND AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OT TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC., FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK FIRE STATION (new Central Fire Station); AND FOR OTHER PUROSES, was adopted (7/0).

NEW BUSINESS

R-25-74 (RESOLUTION NO. 11062 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHOROIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO REHABILITATE PROPERTY FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4509 HAYWOOD STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Fowler. Council Member Ross asked if the owner was present. Mr. Miles Newman – Newman Capital Ventures LLC came forward. Council Member Ross asked if he understood the content and deadlines included in the proposed agreement. He owns three (3) houses on the street (Haywood). One is currently under renovation. Council Member Baxter asked how long the rehabilitation would take. The contractor (name not provided) said three (3) months. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution as adopted (*owner: Newman Capital Ventures LLC*)

R-25-75 (RESOLUTION NO. 11063 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO REHABILITATE PROPERTY FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4503 HAYWOOD STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Hart. Council Member Ross asked the same question she asked regarding 4509 Haywood Street. The owner and contractor agreed to the requirements.

On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).
(owner: Newman Capital Ventures LLC)

R-25-76

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO IMPLEMENT A SIX-MONTH PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE IN-PERSON SPANISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AND SIMULTANEOUS NON-AI SPANISH CLOSED CAPTIONING FOR NORTH LITTLE ROCK CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was called and held at the request of Mayor Hartwick for the sponsor, Council Member Hamilton who was absent.

O-25-27 (ORDINANCE NO. 9761 – COUNCIL MEMBER INSALACO, III)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW A PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO IN A C1 ZONE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5101 NORTH LOCUST STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Insalaco, III and seconded by Council Member Fowler, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (7/0). On the motion of Council Member Insalaco, III and seconded by Council Member Fowler, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted (7/0). Emergency clause adopted (7/0). (applicant: Amanda Hines-Watts, Hines-Watts Properties, LLC)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rodney Cotton is a resident and President of the Ashley Downs Community. He spoke for neighbors about two issues. There is an ongoing issue with storm water drainage. Anytime there is moderate to heavy rainfall, large portions of Ashley Downs are overwhelmed by standing water. Yards flood and driveways are impassable. Some home are at risk of interior water damage. This also poses a potential for mosquito breeding grounds and property damage. The residents request a basic, functioning infrastructure system to manage storm water. The second request was for streetlights on Smarty Jones Drive. It is pitch black at night, which creates a dangerous situation for pedestrians, drivers, children and seniors in the neighborhood. This is not safe. The issues have persisted too long. Mr. Cotton asked for a clear and timely plan for the area. Council Member Ross said she thought the developer installed streetlights. Council Member Harris who is a developer said the issue in Crystal Hill and Ashley Downs is the city accepted new subdivisions “as is”. He is working with the Mayor on how to get more streetlights in the area. When the developer created the subdivisions, streetlights were not installed as the location was in a rural area (county). He said this was not an Entergy or utility issue but a city/ward issue. He referenced the 12 inches of recent rain. He then asked if (city) engineer considers where structures were built before accepting an annexation. Council Member Robinson said when the city annexed Ashley Downs there was a different city engineer so the city doesn’t know what conversation was had. She asked Mr. Cotton if there was an HOA

(Home Owners Association). He said there was, funds are used to maintain the aesthetics, common areas and green space. They cannot maintain streets or lights. Council Member Robinson said the city engineer had been in the area doing some work. Mr. Cotton said it was a survey. He said a couple of solutions could include putting square culverts in the drainage ditches which could move a larger amount of water faster. Mr. Cotton then showed photos of the drainage ditch and outlet. Council Member Hart has been talking with Mr. Cotton. She has been in contact with Entergy who provides services (lights) to the area. The city needs to find out how much it would cost to provide lights and where the funding would come from. There is a cost associated with the ditches as well. Council Member Hart said she and Mr. Cook (City Engineer David Cook) will meeting with Mr. Cotton Wednesday morning to go over the results of the mentioned survey. Council Member Ross asked for the cost of the ongoing supply of electricity from Entergy. Council Member Harris said he asked for a streetlight on a pole (Crystal Hill area). There would be a monthly fee. Mayor Hartwick asked North Little Rock Electric General Manager Ryan Wilson to come forward. Mr. Wilson spoke with a Design Engineer at Entergy who is looking into a per-light cost that would be billed (to the city) on a monthly basis. Entergy will not charge for the buildout. Council Member Ross asked who would maintain the lights. Mr. Wilson said it would be Entergy. Council Member Harris said the city currently pays Entergy for streetlights. Mr. Wilson could not confirm that. Mr. Cotton said the majority of Ashley Downs does have streetlights. There are 10 poles on the backside (Smarty Jones) that do not have streetlights. Council Member Baxter said his area of the city is over 60-70 years old. When his subdivision was built, curbs were not installed. Now residents have multiple vehicles which has been an issue for parking. Developers are not the end-all, fix-all and the city cannot always go back and fix those mistakes. Council Member Fowler asked if there would be any new development in the area. Mr. Cotton said the remaining properties would be sold in May. He said the buyer was going to use it for farmland.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Ross and by consent of all members present, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m. (7/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for Monday, April 28, 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