

Monday, September 22, 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, September 22, 2025, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor Terry C. Hartwick.

The roll was called and the following Council Members answered to their names: DEBI ROSS, NATHAN HAMILTON, NICOLE HART, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, SCOTT FOWLER and VINCE INSALACO, III (8/0). City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, Deputy City Clerk/Records Manager Talor Shinn, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Sheila Mendez-Quiroz, 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 Ross and seconded by Council Member Fowler, and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting held on Monday, September 8, 2025, were approved, accepted, and filed as prepared by City Clerk Diane Whitbey (8/0).

On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Harris, and by consent of all members present communication #1 was accepted and filed (8/0).

1. Ember Strange, Chief Financial Officer/Chair Energy Risk Management Committee memorandum to City Clerk Diane Whitbey re: Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) rate for October, 2025 (\$0.0137 kWh [positive]).

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hartwick asked Mrs. Gilda Pontalti Giordani, Mr. Gilson Giordani, and his daughter-in-law Mrs. Diana Pontaliti Giordani (Hartwick) to come forward. He then presented Mr. and Mrs. Giordani Honorary Citizen Proclamations. The Giordani's were visiting from Brazil. Diana said she received a volleyball scholarship and has been in the United States for about 10 years. This is the first time her parents have been able to visit North Little Rock. She said they are having a great time.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

None.

Without objection, O-25-75 was called.

O-25-75 (ORDINANCE NO. 9802 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH FIRST SECURITY BANK; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Ross 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 Ross 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 (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

R-25-145 (RESOLUTION NO. 11139 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF KENDA SHIELDS TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK RESIDENTIAL HOUSING FACILITIES BOARD; 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).

O-25-74 (ORDINANCE NO. 9803 – COUNCIL MEMBERS ROBINSON AND HART)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL PROPERTY OWNERS' MULTIPURPOSE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 41 (RIVER ROCK ESTATES PROJECT); DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read; the readings were suspended and a public hearing was held on Monday, September 8, 2025. The item was read again this date. City Attorney Fields reviewed a proposed amendment. Attorney Lisa Ferrell thanked everyone for their efforts and allowing her client to bring housing development to the city. On the motion of Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Hart, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was amended as follows:: *substitute new version provided this date* (8/0). On the motion of Council Member Insalaco, III 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 commended all parties for coming to an agreement.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items filed under the Consent Agenda were pulled at the request of Council Member Hamilton and called under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

R-25-154 (RESOLUTION NO. 11140 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO SELL CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 512 MAIN STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Fowler. Council Member Hamilton asked the process to sell (city-owned) property. City Attorney Fields advised the legal requirement is the majority of the city council vote in favor of the sale to proceed. A legal consideration is for adequate payment. The city cannot give away property. This sale is to a governmental organization the city is affiliated with and not all consideration has to be financial. Other consideration could include economic development. If the sale were to a private individual or industry there would be a harder look. In this instance, A & P (North Little Rock Advertising and Promotion Commission) is going to provide nominal support to build the proposed pavilion and bronze sculptures. Council Member Hamilton asked the appraised value of the property. He advised Pulaski County had the property appraised at \$975,000.00. In 2009, it (parcel) sold for \$287,000.00. The sale price (included in this resolution) is \$2,500.00. He asked how the current price was determined. Mayor Hartwick said he questioned the price; this is the city selling something it already owns. The amount of economic development the project will bring to the city will outweigh \$975,000.00. Council Member Hamilton said Argentco, LLC sold the property to the City of North Little Rock in 2013. Mr. John Chandler paid \$5,000.00 to have an option to purchase this property. Council Member Hamilton advised he agreed with the project and said Kevin Kresse is an amazing artist. He advised he was asked by someone in January about buying a property (parcel) next to a house the individual was working on. At the time, he asked what the process was to sell city (owned) property. On April 25, he advised he had reached out to Mayor Hartwick and reviewed notes from their conversation regarding the process. He referenced a sign being placed on a parcel and a newspaper listing. He asked if there was a rush on this purchase/sale. Council Member Ross said this is a green strip of land. Members of the public have stepped up to fund this project. This project will be over \$2 million. She referenced the bronze statues, which will represent musical artists from across the state. Council Member Fowler advised there were preexisting scheduled commitments within the pavilion. It was his understanding A & P wanted the project completed by Spring (2026) so there would be minimal disruption for other scheduled events. Council Member Hamilton asked if the A & P Commission had voted on this item and asked how much taxpayer money the A & P Commission would put into the project. Council Member Fowler advised he thought it was \$600,000.00. The A & P tax is based on a percentage of the hotel/motel lodging tax and a tax on prepared food. He said the tax is not a city tax but an incremental tax. Mayor Hartwick said the tax had been allowed by the State Legislature years ago. Council Member Hamilton asked why A & P was doing this instead of the city. The city owns the (adjacent Argenta) Plaza. Council Member Ross referenced meetings for a city-wide sales tax at which time it was determined 60 percent of tax revenue comes from people who live outside the city. The city is not funding the

project because it would be a tourist attraction, which falls under A & P. Information had been provided to the public. Council Member Hamilton said the item should not have been placed on the Consent Agenda, there was no (sale) sign on the property. He asked if the (North Little Rock) Chamber of Commerce promote this property for sale. Council Member Hamilton referenced certain city contracts, which the city did not have funds to pay as of August 1. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, with the exception of Council Member Hamilton, who voted no, the resolution was adopted (7/1). (\$2,500.00 + closing costs, pavilion with sculptures)

R-25-155 (RESOLUTION NO. 11141 – COUNCIL MEMBERS INSALACO, III AND FOWLER)

A RESOLUTION SETTING DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PETITION FOR THE FORMATION OF THE INDIAN HILLS LAKEFRONT PROPERTY URBAN SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Fowler. Council Member Hamilton asked why legislation was not on the agenda for a vote as previous public hearings had been held. City Attorney Fields said this was the statutory way to bring forward an Urban Service District and legislation would be filed for the next Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 13, 2025. A public hearing will be held the same date. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-25-156 (RESOLUTION NO. 11142 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2025 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES IN CERTAIN BUDGETS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Council Member Hamilton asked why the budget was being amended and referenced revenue versus expenses. Chief Financial Officer Ember Strange advised she went through June Financials and analyzed departments through the end of the year (2025). There were some areas where adjustments needed to be made. Some revenue had been adjusted and other items were under review. Budget amendments can be made anytime an adjustment is needed. She referenced several areas which included Insurance, overtime for Police, vehicles with unexpected repairs which included Fire equipment. Parks Revenue had been coming in higher than anticipated. Credit card expenses/fees also needed an adjustment and the contract is under review/negotiation. IT Maintenance of software for Police Tasers required updates. The 2023 Sales Tax Capital Improvement Fund will zero out as funds are moved from an expense budget to a descriptive place. Council Member Hamilton asked if the Parks Department received any funds from A & P. Ms. Strange said they do get a portion of the food and lodging tax and referred to the summary page. She reminded the Council PO (Purchase Order) Expenses were rolled forward in April. She used the Fire Department as an example and advised Ladder/Pumper Trucks can take 24 to 48 months to obtain. The city passed a Reserve Policy under the previous Mayor. She

referenced the amounts included for the General Fund Revenue and Expenses. Council Member Hamilton referenced a determination made August 1 that the city did not have funds available to pay seven of eight contracts (with non-profits). Ms. Strange said she and Council Member Hamilton had conversations about this. Funds were never determined to be “not available”. Sales Tax revenue was under evaluation at the time. Sales Tax makes up 65 percent of the city’s revenue. Council Member Hamilton referenced a contract, the language/wording and the dates included within for payment and advised one of the eight entities received funds. Ms. Strange advised the payments referenced were not part of the budget amendment but the payments were made last week. It is her responsibility to advise the Council of her evaluations. City Attorney Fields reminded the council they adopted the Arkansas Municipal League’s Procedural Rules for Municipal Officials. One of the provisions includes “when a member is discussing a motion and there is debate, remarks should be confined to the subject”. Council Member Hamilton said this amendment adds \$2.3 million in expenses to the (2025) budget. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

R-25-157 (RESOLUTION NO. 11143 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 313 WEST 47TH 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. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Fowler. Mayor Hartwick convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Ernest L. Fulford*)

R-25-158 (RESOLUTION NO. 11144 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1420 FRANKLIN 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. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Fowler. Mayor Hartwick convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: NLR Properties AR 7 LLC*)

R-25-159 (RESOLUTION NO. 11145 – MAYOR HARTWICK)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, HOUSES AND OTHER STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 904 ATKINSON RHODES 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. Council Member Robinson asked if the family was notified and if they responded. Code Enforcement Director Felicia McHenry said the owner was mailed a certified letter and received a return-receipt with a signature. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Fowler, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*owner: Angela J. McGhee*)

R-25-160 (RESOLUTION NO. 11146 – 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 515 GORDON 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 Hart and seconded by Council Member Hamilton, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0). (*\$14,817.61*)

R-25-161 (RESOLUTION NO. 11147 – 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 Ross and seconded by Council Member Fowler, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was unanimously adopted (8/0).

O-25-75 *was called earlier in the meeting – see above.*

O-25-76 (ORDINANCE NO. 9804 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROSS)
AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT ~~1516~~ 1519 WEST 46TH STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM R3 TO R4 ZONING CLASSIFICATION, BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 9263; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; 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 readings were suspended (8/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Fowler. Without objection, the following scrivener's error was corrected: *change address number from 1516 to 1519 in TITLE and SECTION 1*. Council Member Hamilton asked why the rezoning was needed. The applicant: Ms. Elizabeth Jimenez

advised the building was built as a triplex with a rock foundation, three separate entrances and parking pads. In 2020, the property lost electricity for over 12 months, which caused it to revert to a duplex. This legislation would allow it to go back to a three-family dwelling so they can pull permits. On the motion of Council Hamilton and seconded by Council Member Fowler, and the roll having been called, and members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was unanimously adopted (8/0). Emergency clause unanimously adopted (8/0). (*applicant: Yazmani and Liz Jimenez of Jimenez Investments, Inc.*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kenny Wilder retired from the North Little Rock Police Department in 1994. He attended the June 23 (2025) Council Meeting and asked for help on the old Police Pension Fund. This fund is not the same as LOPFI which current officers are eligible for. The old plan has received one \$50 increase in the past 20 years. There are about 50 retired officers and widows receiving funds from the plan. Mr. Wilder said he spoke to a Council Member regarding the plan in April, 2025. Mr. Wilder asked several questions: Where does the money for the old Pension Plan come from? Does the city ever run out of money for this fund and if it does it happen? Can the old Pension Plan be changed to include a built in COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment)? Can it be rolled into the current LOPFI Pension Plan? Council Member Hamilton advised he spoke with Mr. Wilder on several occasions and said was advised by (the) Finance (Department) it was a closed Pension Plan which means the employees were given a choice, at the time to either stay on the City Pension Plan or go over to LOPFI. At that time, some members chose to stay on the City Pension Plan. At this time, there is no contractual agreement to increase the retirement amount. He encouraged Mr. Wilder to reach out to city council members individually to request an increase in the old plan. Council Member Hart introduced her husband who was attending the meeting. Council Member Fowler encouraged anyone who wanted to speak at the public hearing for the proposed lakefront Indian Hills USD to attend the meeting, October 13. Council Member Baxter announced on October 10, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., the Senior Citizen Center will recognize former director, Charley Baxter by renaming the art gallery located within the facility. Mr. Baxter served the city in several positions (including Community Development Director, Housing Authority Director, Hays Center Director and Deputy Chief of Staff) in the past. Council Member Hamilton advised a Justice Department Rule would go into effect with how accessible websites have to be. The deadline is April 26 (2026). He provided City Clerk Whitbey an item to be filed as a community for the next City Council meeting. The Federal Government budget is not looking good. The city has a pending request for \$2 million to be used towards the Main Street Viaduct. Funding was denied last year; it does not look like it will happen before the end of this year. He asked to include possible matching funds in the 2026 budget. He also asked for funding for an Online Checkbook, which would allow residents access to expenses. Funding/budgeting for a 311 system or some type of workflow to provide repair data throughout the city. Council Member Hamilton said there had been several rezoning requests this year. He asked to bring stakeholders together to talk about growth/a plan. Mayor

Hartwick announced National Night Out events will be held Tuesday, October 7, 2025, across the city.

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 7:06 p.m. (8/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting scheduled for Monday, October 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