

March 9, 2020
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, March 9, 2020, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor Joe A. Smith.

The roll having been called and the following Council Members answered to their names: BETH WHITE, MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, STEVE BAXTER, RON HARRIS, and JANE GINN (6/0). Council Members DEBI ROSS and CHARLIE HIGHT were absent. City Clerk/Treasurer Diane Whitbey, Deputy City Clerk/ Enforcement Officer Shannon Carroll, and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were led by Council Member White's husband, Tom White.

On the motion of Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor and by consent of all members present, the minutes from the North Little Rock City Council meeting held on Monday, February 24, 2020, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (6/0).

No communications filed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

O-20-10 (ORDINANCE NO. 9223 – COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON)

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY; AMENDING AND REPEALING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK CODE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read one time February, 10, 2020, was read a second time this date. On the motion of Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the remaining reading was suspended (6/0).

Mayor Smith announced citizen public comment. Mr. Patrick Stair supports aspects of the legislation. However, there are some signs such as yard sales, lost pets and Master Gardener markers which help residents sell goods, find pets and promote gardening. The city has been cluttered with commercial signs. A compromise may be needed to allow useful signs. Mr. James Ard asked who was going to enforce the legislation. Code Enforcement and police do not have time. It's a great idea but needs more work. Mr. Ard referenced political signs that are not picked up after elections. He suggested people have to get permission to put signs in yards. Mayor Smith asked Mr. Joe Reynolds to come forward who had comments regarding O-20-25. Mr. Reynolds has lived on Aspen Drive for 40 years.

The property owners in the area would like to see the zoning as an R-1, not R-2. It is his understanding that the applicant wants to build a two-car garage.

Mayor Smith returned discussion to O-20-10. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member Taylor. Council Member White referenced enforcement and asked if it is realistic. Mayor Smith said this legislation is fair and enforceable. Council Member Baxter said the city has residential right-of-way from the (street) centerline to the residential property. Mayor Smith said if there is a sidewalk in the neighborhood, the sign should be to the inside of it. Mayor Smith referenced the (Arkansas State) Highway Department and their sign enforcement. There have been occurrences where signs are placed on private property and in medians without permission. Regarding “feather signs” staff will talk to the business owner before removing them. On the previous motion, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted (6/0). Emergency clause adopted (6/0).

CONSENT AGENDA

On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and by voice vote and all members present having voted “aye”, consent items R-20-36, R-20-37, R-20-38, and R-20-40, were adopted (6/0). R-20-39 was pulled and called under new business.

R-20-36 (RESOLUTION NO. 9838 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KAREN BRYANT TO THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (6/0).

R-20-37 (RESOLUTION NO. 9839 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN CITY-OWNED ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS; PROVIDING FOR AUCTION THEREOF; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (6/0).

R-20-38 (RESOLUTION NO. 9840 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS TO ADOPT AND APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNITED STATES BIKE ROUTE 80 (USBR 80) WITHIN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (6/0).

R-20-40 (RESOLUTION NO. 9841 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE WITH RECOVERY CENTERS OF ARKANSAS, INC. AND TO SELL CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NEAR PIKE AVENUE IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was adopted (6/0). (\$3,000.00)

NEW BUSINESS

R-20-39 (RESOLUTION NO. 9842 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR THE LEVY JUMP START PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING FUNDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member White and seconded by Council Member Taylor. On the motion of Council Member White and seconded by Council Member Baxter, the legislation was amended as follows: *attach maps provided this date* (6/0). On the motion of Council Member Robinson and seconded by Council Member White, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted as amended (6/0). (\$80,000.00)

R-20-41 (RESOLUTION NO. 9843 – MAYOR SMITH)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND CERTIFYING THE 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. A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Robinson. Mayor Smith 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 adopted (6/0).

O-20-23 (ORDINANCE NO. 9224 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE LOSS AND BUSINESS INTERRUPTION INSURANCE FOR THE MURRAY HYDROELECTRIC PLANT; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN INSURANCE AGREEMENT; 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 (6/0). On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Robinson, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted (6/0). Emergency clause adopted (6/0). (\$230,186.00)

O-20-24 (ORDINANCE NO. 9225 – MAYOR SMITH)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ELECTRIC SYSTEM REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS; AUTHORIZING A TRUST INDENTURE SECURING THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF THE BONDS; PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, was read. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (6/0). On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Harris, and by consent of all members present, the ordinance was amended as follows: *page 2, Section 4, insert 1.95%; page 3, Section 5, insert 1.55%* (6/0). On the motion of Council Member White and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and the roll having been called and

all members present having voted in the affirmative, the ordinance was adopted as amended (6/0).
Emergency clause adopted (6/0).

O-20-25 (ORDINANCE NO. 9226 – COUNCIL MEMBER BAXTER)

AN ORDINANCE RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7123 SERVICE ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, FROM C-3 ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO ~~R-2~~ R-1 ZONING CLASSIFICATION BY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 7697; ADOPTING AN AMENDED LAND USE PLAN FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (6/0). Mayor Smith asked if the applicant was adding a second house. Council Member Baxter said he is adding a two-car garage to the back side of the house. The applicant was aware of the change. On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Harris, and by consent of all members present, the legislation was amended as follows: *R-2 to R-1* (6/0). On the motion of Council Member Baxter 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 as amended (6/0). Emergency clause adopted (6/0). (*applicant: John Jacoby*)

O-20-26 (ORDINANCE NO. 9227 – COUNCIL MEMBER HARRIS)

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A WAIVER OF SECTIONS 14.19 AND 14.109 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW AN ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE COPY SIGN ON CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4601 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 Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the readings were suspended (6/0). A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Harris and seconded by Council Member Baxter. Council Member White asked Planning Director Shawn Spencer if this location is in a “changeable copy sign district.” Mr. Spencer said it is in a district. The issue is the height and (overall) size of the sign. On the previous motion, and the roll having been called, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, with the exception of Council Member White, who voted no, the ordinance was adopted (5/1). Emergency clause adopted (6/0). (*applicant: Jared Coleman of Bluefin Development*)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council Member Harris commended the Amboy Neighborhood Association for their hard work cleaning up the neighborhood. Kevin Miller, Randy Naylor and their team did a great job. Mayor Smith has visited with the Police Chief and District Court Judge regarding enforcement of littering laws. Mayor Smith referenced the Amboy Food Pantry and said the building is in disrepair. He asked the council to consider a new location.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Harris, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m. (6/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, March 23, 2020, 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 JOE A. SMITH

ATTEST: _____
DIANE WHITBEY, CITY CLERK