

January 10, 2010
Seven 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, January 11, 2010, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the honorable Mayor PATRICK HENRY HAYS. The roll having been called, and the following Aldermen answered to their names: DEBI ROSS, BETH WHITE, MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, SAM BAGGETT, CHARLIE HIGHT, and MURRY WITCHER (7/0), a quorum was declared. City Clerk Diane Whitbey and City Attorney, C. Jason Carter were also present.

The invocation was given by Alderman Taylor, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Alderwoman Robinson.

On the motion of Alderman Hight, and seconded by Alderman Witcher, and by consent of all members present, the minutes of a regular council meeting held on Monday, December 28, 2009, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (7/0).

On the blanket motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson, and by consent of all members present, communications #1 and 2 were accepted and filed (7/0).

1. Glinda Craigmyle, Mayor's Office - memorandum re: *Private Club - Change of Manager from Jesse Zakrzewski (PC 732)* for US Pizza Company Grill, 5524 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, by Drew Weber.
2. Glinda Craigmyle, Mayor's Office - memorandum re: *Restaurant Mixed Drink - Transfer of Location from 5500 MacArthur Drive & Change of Trade Name from Hay Chihuahua (142 Min)*, for Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant (fka Hay Chihuahua), 4716 Camp Robinson Road, by Laura Loya.

Mayor Hays asked Ms. Telisa Hadley, (teacher) North Little Rock School District to come forward and presented her with a day proclamation in honor of her being one of only 50 teachers nationwide to receive the Milken Family Foundation Award.

Mayor Hays asked Mrs. Vandy Nash, (teacher) North Little Rock School District to come forward and presented her a proclamation in honor of being named the Arkansas Department of Education Teacher of the Year Award for 2010. Mrs. Nash's husband Greg, is a North Little Rock Firefighter. Mayor Hays thanked Mrs. Nash, her husband and Ms. Hadley for their service to our city and community.

Mayor Hays asked if anyone had signed up for Citizen Public Comment on numbered agenda items. Ms. Mary Ann Conley spoke regarding the upcoming appointment of an Alderman in Ward 3. She then said why she thought Mr. John Parker should not be appointed. Ms. Conley said Mr. Jimmy Phillips is also an applicant for Alderman in Ward 3 and he has a towing contract with the city. Mr. Phillips said he does have a contract but it has nothing to do with him being appointed to the city council. Mr. Bill Yeates said he is a candidate for Ward 3 Alderman.

He said the selection should be made by council members, not the mayor. Mr. Charlie Knott spoke regarding O-10-01, Electronic Changeable Copy Signs. Regulating these signs is not a simple process. He encouraged council members to support the proposed legislation. Mr. Patrick Stair said the proposed ordinance represents a good balance of the issues. Mr. James Ard asked the council to use the process used by the North Little Rock School Board (in replacing a board member) to select a replacement alderman for Ward 3.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

O-09-83

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF LANDS COMMONLY DESCRIBED AS LANDS TO BE TITLED THE "DEER MEADOWS ANNEXATION" TO THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, AND MAKING DEER MEADOWS ANNEXATION A PART OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read one time November 23, 2009, was called. Alderwoman Robinson asked about the proposed use of the property. Mr. Robert Voyles, Planning Director said a metal building would be erected for storage. Alderwoman Robinson expressed concern regarding this type of structure in the area. Mr. Voyles said there are screening requirements. Other property in the area is zoned for light industrial use. After discussion, the legislation was read a second time and held.

NEW BUSINESS

R-10-01 (RESOLUTION NO. 7574 - MAYOR HAYS)

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A LONG TERM INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN FOR THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Baggett. Mr. Mike Russ, North Little Rock Electric Department General Manager came forward and presented a power point presentation regarding the plan which would allow the city to not be at the mercy of the energy market place. Considerations included costs to ratepayers, costs to the city, technical feasibility and Green House Gas emissions. Meeting North Little Rock's power supply needs and managing peak load for efficiency were also discussed. Reducing transmission constraint is key to providing lower-cost power. North Little Rock should pursue generation diversification. Smart Grid technology would provide ways to assure that all customers are given a greater ability to manage their own bills. Mr. Russ introduced Mr. Garrett Cole, GES Consultants who assisted with this plan. Alderwoman Ross thanked Mr. Russ for going over the plan with each council member one-on-one. On the previous motion, and all members present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

R-10-02 (RESOLUTION NO. 7575 - MAYOR HAYS)

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN ELECTION PROCEDURE TO FILL THE VACANT POSITION OF ALDERMAN REPRESENTING THE THIRD WARD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Mayor Hays advised 10 applicants had qualified by filing all required paperwork by the deadlines established in previous legislation. One of the applicants candidacy will be considered shortly due to him filing his Statement of Financial Interest after the deadline. Alderwoman Ross received an email from applicant Aaron Sarlo who was withdrawing his name from consideration. Mayor Hays then reviewed the proposed process which includes a Special meeting of the city council to be scheduled for the purpose of candidate interviews. The

special meeting will be televised and candidates will be interviewed individually. Members of the public will be encouraged to contact the sitting council members and mayor with their remarks regarding the applicants. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderwoman Ross. On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the candidacy of Mr. Darrell Montgomery will be supported (7/0). On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Taylor, the resolution was amended as follows:: Section 2: insert 6:00 p.m. on January 14, 2010 (7/0). On the motion of Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution (and certification of all 11 candidates) was adopted as amended (7/0). The City Clerk's Office will notify each applicant and advise of the date and time of the meeting, along with the process of drawing a number to determine the order in which the applicants will be interviewed.

R-10-03 (RESOLUTION NO. 7576 - MAYOR HAYS)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO PURCHASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 122 EAST 4TH STREET IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; APPROPRIATING FUNDS (\$330,000.00 - ~~Sales Tax Capital Improvement~~ SPECIAL PROJECTS Fund); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Mayor Hays said the city had been contacted by Mr. B. J. McAdams who represents his brother's interests in this property. The property appraised last year for \$303,000.00. This is a key location in the development of the downtown area. The city already owns two segments of the property now being used for public parking. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderwoman Ross. On the motion of Alderman Taylor and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was amended as follows:: *substitute copy provided this date striking through ~~Sales Tax Capital Improvement~~, and inserting SPECIAL PROJECTS* (7/0). On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Taylor, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was again amended to attach the original signed copy of the Offer and Acceptance to the resolution (7/0). On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted as amended (7/0).

R-10-04 (RESOLUTION NO. 7577 - MAYOR HAYS)

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK FOR FUNDS THROUGH THE ARKANSAS OUTDOOR GRANTS DIVISION TO UPGRADE AND ADD EQUIPMENT FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS (\$70,087.00); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by Alderman Hight, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

R-10-05 (RESOLUTION NO. 7578 - ALDERMEN HIGHT AND ROBINSON)

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF THE DOWNTOWN POST OFFICE BUILDING BY THE WILLIAM F. LAMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. A motion to adopt was made by Alderman Hight and seconded by Alderwoman Robinson. Mr. Jeff Baskin, Director William F. Laman Public Library said this resolution will let the U S Postal Service know the library is interested in this location. On the previous motion, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (7/0).

O-10-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 7697 (THE ZONING ORDINANCE) TO RESTRICT THE PLACEMENT OF NEW ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE COPY SIGNS TO CERTAIN DISTRICTS WITHIN THE CITY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. On the motion of Alderman Witcher and seconded by

Alderwoman Robinson, and by consent of all members present, the rules were suspended and the ordinance was placed on its second reading (7/0). The ordinance was read a second time. A public hearing will be held on Monday, January 25, 2010, at 7:05 p.m. Alderman Taylor said he would like to see (some) districts established on the front-end as it would be difficult later. After discussion among council members regarding their concerns, Mayor Hays suggested council members submit proposed amendments to Mr. Carter prior to the next council meeting. The legislation was then held by sponsor, Alderman Witcher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-----

Alderwoman Ross said the leaf trucks are running on-call only. The deadline for this season is Friday, January 29, 2010. After that, bagged leaves will be picked up weekly. Mayor Hays said a lot of leaves were washed into the storm drain systems which causes problems. Alderman Baggett said there was a fatality in Ward 3 during 2009 flooding. Alderman Taylor said next week is Restaurant Week in Argenta and encouraged everyone to come downtown for lunch or dinner and take advantage of this opportunity. Alderman Hight thanked City Clerk Whitbey for helping council members with our green initiative by going paperless on the council packages. Mr. Knott asked that the council consider another extension on the electronic changeable copy sign moratorium. Mr. Steve Baxter is an applicant for the Ward 3 Alderman seat. He is pleased with the process the council has set up to interview candidates. Mr. Bobby Taylor said leaves continue to be a problem stopping up drains. Regarding electronic lights, a better job needs to be done on this issue than what was done regarding dumpsters. Mr. Taylor wants to know who is responsible for enforcing some of the issues he has in Rose City. Mr. Ard asked if city council meetings could be broadcast over the City's radio station. A lot of people in the city have Charter Cable TV and can't watch the council meeting. Mr. Alfred Bauldwin asked if there was any money left in the sidewalk fund. He lives on 36th Street. Students from the college use his road as a shortcut and sidewalks are needed. Mrs. Jo Melton spoke about Section B of proposed ordinance O-10-01. Many people are concerned about the impact electronic signs have on traffic safety, aesthetic appearance, and lights shining into homes.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Alderwoman Robinson and seconded by Alderwoman Ross, and by consent of all members present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. (7/0), until a Special meeting to be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. and the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, January 25, 2010, at seven o'clock p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 300 Main Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

APPROVED: MAYOR PATRICK HENRY HAYS
ATTEST: DIANE WHITBEY, CITY CLERK