

March 11, 2019
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 11, 2019, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Honorable Acting Mayor LINDA ROBINSON.

The roll having been called and the following Council Members answered to their names: DEBI ROSS, BETH WHITE, MAURICE TAYLOR, LINDA ROBINSON, and STEVE BAXTER (5/0), a quorum was declared. Mayor JOE A. SMITH and Council Members RON HARRIS, JANE GINN and CHARLIE HIGHT were absent (all were attending National League of Cities Conference). City Clerk Diane Whitbey and City Attorney Amy Fields were also present.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were led by Acting Mayor/Council Member Robinson.

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, February 25, 2019, were approved, accepted and filed as prepared by the City Clerk (5/0).

On the motion of Council Member Ross and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, communication #1 was not read, but was accepted and filed (5/0).

1. Karen Scott, Finance Director/Chair Energy Risk Management Committee memorandum to City Clerk Diane Whitbey re: Power Cost Adjustment rate (PCA) for March, 2019 (.0001/kwh) negative.

On the motion of Council Member Baxter and seconded by Council Member Taylor, and by consent of all members present, communication #2 was read, accepted and filed (5/0).

2. Mayor Joe A. Smith letter to City Clerk Diane Whitbey and Council Members re: attending National League of Cities 2019 Congressional City Conference, Mayor 9 – 13, 2019. Council Member Robinson will preside over City Council meeting, March 11, 2019.

Acting Mayor Robinson announced citizen public comment on legislation. No one signed in to speak on legislation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

O-19-27

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND ABANDONING A STREET-RAILROAD CROSSING ON 14TH STREET OVER THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ENTER INTO A RAILROAD

R-19-50 (RESOLUTION NO. 9633 – MAYOR SMITH)

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 5502 CHIQUITO ROAD IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was read. Acting Mayor Robinson convened a public hearing. There being no one present wishing to be heard, the public hearing was adjourned. On the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Baxter, and by consent of all members present, the resolution was adopted (5/0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council Member Ross announced a (second) Saint Patrick's Day Color Run will take place (Saturday, March 16, 2019) in Levy and Park Hill. Registration is from 7:30 until 9:15 a.m. at Levy Baptist Church. There will be a mini-mile down the Levy Trail and a Family Fun Run for more experienced participants. The event will include a Health Fair. Council Member Taylor asked for an update on negotiations with the (North Little Rock) Fire Union. Chief of Staff Danny Bradley said the Mayor presented a letter last week. The Union responded with a letter late Friday. Mayor Smith is out of town and has been unable to review it. Chief Bradley said the city has had two (recent) meetings with the Union and an agreement has not been reached at this time. Mr. Lynn Dereuisseaux, President of the International Association of Firefighters (North Little Rock) said (the Union) responded to the Mayor's letter. As a result of the (Mayor's) letter they are at a stalemate at this time. There were issues from November that were being discussed. Mr. Dereuisseaux said the Mayor asked that they review the remainder of the contract which resulted in approximately 15 additional issues. Council Member Ross said the council just passed legislation regarding Police contracts for a period of two (2) years and asked if the Firefighters were considering a two (2) year or one (1) year contract. Mr. Dereuisseaux said the Mayor offered two (2) or three (3) years. They (the Union) will be looking at the Police Department contract to see what kind of raise was included. They (the Union) will want the same amount if not more. Negotiations are for other items within the contract at this time. Employees have been getting overpaid and underpaid for the last few months that needs to be resolved. It isn't clear if the issue is with payroll or the software. Council Member Ross asked Emergency Management Director Leonard Montgomery questions regarding the (Emergency) Warning System issues (delay) from last Saturday. Mr. Montgomery said the way the system operated previously is how it operates now. When a warning is received, an operator has to manually activate the system. The city has new software that will automate the process which will be activated tomorrow (March 12, 2019). Once the system is automated, when a storm warning goes out affecting North Little Rock, the system will activate automatically, without operator intervention. The dispatcher will still maintain manual control for activation if necessary. Council Member Ross said there were also delays in Sherwood and Little Rock.

There being no further business to come before the Council, and on the motion of Council Member Taylor and seconded by Council Member Ross, and by consent of all members present, the meeting

was adjourned at 6:14 p.m. (5/0), until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, March 25, 2019, 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