RESOLUTION NO. __________

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE RETAIL COMPENSATION POLICY FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLAR CUSTOMERS; TO TRANSMIT THIS SUPPORT TO THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AS IT CONSIDERS DOCKET NO. 16-027-R; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, residential solar power is an affordable option in the State of Arkansas due to the State’s solar power potential and its favorable Net Metering Rates which contain a 1:1 retail compensation rate for residential solar customers; and,

WHEREAS, net metering allows consumers who generate electricity with distributed solar to transfer surplus power to the existing utility power grid in exchange for a credit which can be used to offset the cost of power drawn from the utility when the consumers’ solar panels are not generating power; and,

WHEREAS, Arkansans with solar panels on their own property currently receive a Market Rate Credit for any surplus power that is generated, which affords many Arkansans the opportunity to install residential solar; and,

WHEREAS, the solar industry in Arkansas consistently creates new, high paying jobs; and,

WHEREAS, electric utilities in Arkansas are asking the Public Service Commission to change the longstanding, favorable rates for residential net metering; and,

WHEREAS, numerous studies reviewed by National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) have shown that net metering does not negatively impact utility rates or shift costs at lower penetration levels (under 5%) and Arkansas is nowhere near that level of solar development; and,

WHEREAS, a drastic reduction in the 1:1 rate for kilowatt-hours will significantly increase the amount of time it would take for a new solar customer to amortize the capital investment to use such solar technology, and would minimize subsequent benefits to the residential investor, thus drastically reducing the number of residential customers who would install such technology in the future; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Little Rock recognizes the economic and environmental value gained from residential solar installations; and,

WHEREAS, this issue is now before the Arkansas Public Service Commission in Docket No. 16-027-R;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:
Section 1. The Board of Directors hereby urges the Arkansas Public Service Commission to maintain the current residential net metering rate as the best way to achieve Arkansas’s state public policy goals of more efficiently utilizing our natural resources while preserving low cost electricity rates and promoting economic development.

Section 2. The Board of Directors further requests the City Clerk to file this resolution as a public comment to the Public Service Commission before the December 5, 2019, hearing.

Section 3. Severability. In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the resolution.

Section 4. Repealer. All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

ADOPTED: November 19, 2019

ATTEST:       APPROVED:

______________________________________  _____________________________________
Susan Langley, City Clerk      Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney