ORDINANCE NO. _________

AN ORDINANCE TO DISPENSE WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF COMPETITIVE BIDS AS BEING IMPractical AND UNFEASIBLE TO ALLOW THE RENEWAL OF A LEGAL RESEARCH AGREEMENT WITH THOMSON REUTERS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, it is absolutely necessary for the City Attorney’s Office to have access to a digital legal research vehicle in order properly to deal with the contracts, legal issues, legislation, and litigation, that is handled by their office; and,

WHEREAS, the office has had in place a contract with Thomson Reuters for several years (typically referred to as Westlaw Next) which provides, among other things, access to over thirty (30) times as many Arkansas trial decisions, an exclusive index for Arkansas Statutes (which the office also uses in a hardbound version); and also provides exclusive access to secondary sources that are used by the office including, but not limited to, the Arkansas Model Jury Instructions, and treatises are Arkansas civil practice and procedure, and damages. In addition, it provides access to numerous Federal litigation and regulatory matters that are dealt with daily by the City; and, finally, a platform that all of the attorneys are currently trained to use, and receive continued free training as needed, and which will not have to be relearned in the midst of a significant litigation case load and significant legal issue caseload; and,

WHEREAS, the office has considered numerous other products in the past, and on occasion has reviewed these projects and found that they were not capable of meeting the needs of the office; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to renew the Thomson Reuters agreement, and in the process to receive a partial discount on the current service costs, and it is impractical and unfeasible to exercise formal competitive bids since all of the features, and the familiarity, with Thomson Reuters is not available in any other product, hence use of this product is in the overall best interests of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The Board has determined for the unique research vehicle required for the City Attorney’s Office it is impractical and unfeasible to submit this contract to formal competitive bidding, and that such action with this unique platform is in the best interests of the City.

Section 2. The City Manager, or by his direct delegation the City Attorney, is authorized to enter into an agreement with Thomson Reuters in a form similar to that attached as Exhibit A to this Agreement.
Section 3. Severability. In the event any title, subtitle, section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, subparagraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or work of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of this ordinance.

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

Section 5. Emergency Clause. The ability of to conduct reliable legal research on a number of topics with access to numerous databases, particularly of Arkansas law, is essential to the Office of the City Attorney and the ability to address the legal needs of the Mayor and Board of Directors, the City, and the citizens; the need to renew a contract that provides a digital platform that meets this need is essential to the public health, safety and welfare; an emergency is, therefore, declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage.

PASSED: August 16, 2016

ATTEST: Mark Stodola, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney