MONDAY
October 05, 2026
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Avenue, North Chicago, IL 60064

Following City Council Meeting

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7:18 p.m.

Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr., called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
Absent: Allen

1. **DISCUSSION OF MEMORIAL RECOGNITION OF NORTH CHICAGO RESIDENT THOMAS BYRNE**

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson stated that he had been in communication with Ms. Byrne, and she was aware of the next steps and the mayoral function, which is an endorsement. He provided some background information on the topic. Stating that Ms. Byrne was a lifelong resident of the city. September of 2025, her son unfortunately died due to a driver under the influence of drugs. Further explaining, Ms. Byrne wanted to place a memorial on Martin Luther King Drive, not a city road, where the accident occurred. However, working with Lake County and the Department of Transportation on the matter, they agreed to a memorial, and there would be a sign that says DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE, it would also bring awareness. This would only require a courtesy endorsement from the mayor.

Secondly, she requested the renaming of the street; there were 4 homes at 21st Place, south of Martin Luther King Drive, where the accident occurred. The request was not for an honorary name but for the street name to be changed. Noting that it had not been done in North Chicago, however, it was worth considering.

The third request was a mayoral proclamation declaring Thomas's birthday as a day of service. Chief of Staff shared some ideas that the community could do to honor her son. No direct action would be required of the city. Stating that her son was active in the city, he shared some of the deeds and services. The Chief of Staff asked the council to consider these requests. However, he did explain to Ms. Byrne that this may not be something the council is inclined to do, as the city had eliminated honorary street signs. Ms. Bryne intended to communicate with the 7th Ward Alderman to share her ideas on the topic.

Alderman Evans asked a clarifying question on the steps needed for a street name change. Alderman Jackson inquired about the cost to the city of renaming the street. Mr. Jackson responded that, from previous experience, it was a minimal cost to the city, but he would research and share that information.

Alderman Jackson inquired whether the residents in that area were in agreeance. Mr. Jackson stated that he wanted to discuss it in detail with the council and gather all the information before taking it to the neighbors. Stating that he did not want to put staff time into those additional actions if it was not something that the council was interested in moving forward with.

Alderman Coleman asked what kind of memorial it would be and its appearance. Recalling a previous situation that occurred and not wanting to brand the city based on a negative situation.

Mr. Jackson clarified that it would be a Lake County memorial, not a North Chicago memorial and decided by them. The city would, in fact, be made aware of what it would be. Reiterated that Lake County planned to designate driving enforcement as a reminder of safe driving practices.

Alderman Evans stated that, whether we do it for them or not, there would be others. Stating that he knew others would want the same. Questioning what would be done for another person. Mayor Rockingham, Jr., stated that Ms. Byrne had been informed of the city's stance and that no promises were made.

Mr. Jackson responded that a permanent street name change required considerable thought and reasoning. It would not be something that the council would take lightly. Things like that would have to be handled on a case-by-case basis. Asking whether the council would like him to take the next steps to research, then bring it back to the council for further discussion.

Alderman Coleman asked whether the council would receive a blueprint of what the memorial would look like. Mr. Jackson responded, " Yes, that would be requested. Mayor Rockingham, Jr. stated that staff would investigate further, report back, and request a review of the memorial.

Mr. Jackson stated that Ms. Byrne would be at the October 19th council meeting to receive the Proclamation honoring her son.

Alderman Coleman mentioned an Honorary Solution, such as a (Stone Memorial) with individuals' names who passed in the community in an honorable way. Mr. Jackson mentioned that he had seen it before and indicated that a memorial bench was a possibility as well.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that after the research was conducted, the topic would be returned to the council.

1. **DISCUSSION OF TRICK-OR-TREAT/HALLOWEEN HOURS**

Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that the previous time was 2-5 and asked whether the council would want the time to remain the same. Stating that there were other community activities going on, and the desire for the community to participate in them as well. Suggesting that Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 2-5 pm, and to be passed on October 19.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans that the Committee of the Whole Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:
Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
Nays: None
Absent: Allen

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY
October 05, 2026
7:35 p.m.

Alderman Wray called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
Absent: Allen

1. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL STANDARDS FOR MURALS BY CITY ORDINANCE

Director of Economic and Community Development Taylor Wegrzyn indicated that there had been much discussion about murals recently. Stating that there was one at Sheridan Rd. / Broadway Ave. and two on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, located on businesses. The current interpretation of the code wording is that these fall into an unregulated space. Perhaps an interpretation going forward was that they were signs and, the city could regulate according to the city's commercial sign standards. However, it is currently a form of unregulated freedom of speech and property improvements. Explaining a few ideas and directions the city could take if it were to pursue the regulation of murals.

Alderman Brooks asked if there were ordinance samples from other municipalities that could be shared via email. Mr. Wegrzyn said yes, some lay of the landscape of what others were doing could be shared.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that he hoped that, prior to a mural being put up, there could be a review and approval to avoid branding the city or offending residents for various reasons.

Alderman Murphy stated that deeming something offensive could be subjective and that content could not be regulated.

Alderman Wray asked what the city's options were to manage the murals.

Alderman Jackson asked if the council had a discussion, and how that would impact businesses that currently have murals? Mr. Wegrzyn responded that those with current murals may not be affected, and if they were, they would be given a reasonable time to make changes. They would be predated.

Alderman Jackson stated that he was not in favor of the murals. Stated that he believed that it was a slippery slope. Alderman Murphy stated that she agreed with Alderman Jackson, as it could be beautiful or bad.

Alderman Coleman asked what the staff saw as a potential problem. Mr. Wegrzyn responded with the example of Broadway and Sheridan Rd. The staff was initially unsure of the mural's meaning. After looking into it, the message was clear. However, the message was confusing. Explaining the would be commercial signage. Another concern could be creativity/creation and maintenance concerns.

Alderman Evans indicated that some murals had improved the appearance of the buildings. Suggesting that the city invest time in discussing building improvements/projects. Stating that he had

inquired about a mural on the railroad underpass; questioned the status. He mentioned that the city should complete projects before starting new ones. Providing suggestions on how this process could look and the possible steps forward. Indicating the need to enforce older building improvements.

Alderman Coleman left the meeting at 8:04 pm and returned at 8:06 pm.

Alderman Wray suggested that everyone think about it and bring it back.

Alderman Brooks moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy that the Judiciary Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:
Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
Nays: None
Absent: Allen

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY
October 05, 2026
8:09 p.m.

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
Absent: Allen

1. **DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF THE FY 2027 PUBLIC WORKS VENDOR LISTS – STREETS AND WATER**

   Interim Director of Public Works Bob Miller provided an update on the vendor list change, explaining that there had been a couple of cost changes and three additional vendors were being added to the list. Those vendors were H. Salas Tree Service- not to exceed $25,000, JJ Henderson for mechanical work at the water plant-not to exceed $20,000, and Red Automation LLC- not to exceed $15,000.

2. **DISCUSSION OF AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BID - 2026 MFT ROAD PROGRAM**

   Interim City Engineer Steve Cieslica informed the council that the streets had been selected. In the process of finalizing the bid packages for all segments of the sidewalk, curb, and gutter. Desired authorization to move forward, indicating that the plan was to be sent to the Illinois Department of Transportation for approval. Indicating the need for approval to begin advertising.

3. **DISCUSSION OF THE APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT WITH CAMPANELLA AND SONS, INC. FOR CONTRACT B - WATER TOWER NO. 1 AND 24-INCH TRANSMISSION MAIN PROJECT IN A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF $96,430.00**

   Mr. Cieslica explained that, as part of the water tower project, there were two contracts: one for installing the water tower itself and the other for installing the main that would run from the existing Green Bay to the new water tower. Explaining that the original assessment was conducted in 2018, and it had taken some time to secure a property. Sharing additional details, including an update of a drainage swale, location, and condition, and the potential concern in the future. Shared the plan to correct the issue before it became one.

   Alderman Jackson asked if it was in the budget. Mr. Cieslica said yes, it was part of the IFPA loan.

Alderman Brooks moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy that the Public Works Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:
Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
Nays: None
Absent: Allen

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

BUILDING/LICENSE COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY
October 05, 2026
8:16 p.m.

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
Absent: Allen

1. **DISCUSSION OF THE BLOCKLIFE FITNESS LLC, WALK INTO FALL 2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY WALK**

   There was no discussion for informational purposes.

   ROLL CALL:
   Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
   Nays: None
   Absent: Allen

   MOTION CARRIED

   The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY
October 05, 2026
8:17 p.m.

Alderman Murphy called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:
Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
Absent: Allen

1. **DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION FOR INTERIM STAFFING-MATTHEWS STAFFING-ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/CLERK- (ECD) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.**

   Human Resources Director Elizabeth Black explained that the Economic and Community Development was understaffed by two , due to one part-time person leaving and a full-time employee on extended leave. The request was to fill the gap in order to continue providing services to the community. The request was to approve the use of the staffing services of Matthews Staffing Agency for a full-time administrative assistant at a rate of $35.42/hour, which was lower than the $40/hour rate previously paid when MGT provided services.

   Alderman Brooks moved, seconded by Alderman Wray that the Human Resources Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

   ROLL CALL:
   Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
   Nays: None
   Absent: Allen

   MOTION CARRIED

   The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.