MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, October 05, 2026, at 6:02 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 1850 Lewis Avenue with Mayor Rockingham Jr. presiding.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. ROLL CALL

Upon the Roll Call being taken, the following members were present:

Present: Jackson, Evans, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Absent: Coleman, Allen

Mayor Rockingham Jr. indicated that there was a quorum to proceed with the meeting; however, he announced that Alderman Allen was unable to attend.

V. <u>RECOGNITIONS AND HONORS</u>

5-1 Mayoral Proclamation Declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to approve the Mayoral Proclamation Declaring October Domestic Violence Awareness as presented.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>
Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Murphy, Wray, Brooks
Nays: None
Absent: Coleman, Allen

MOTION CARRIED

City Clerk Lori Collins read the Proclamation.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. presented the proclamation to Michelle from North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic.

Michelle thanked the city for the proclamation and the partnership with North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic. Michelle read a brief explanation of North Suburban, sharing facts of domestic violence awareness and services that North Suburban Legal Clinic provides. She provided contact information.

Item 5-3 was moved

5-3 Swearing in of Officers

Chief of Police Lazaro Perez introduced the officers and asked them to come forward.

- Officer Trejo- Absent
- Officer Joel Sarabia
- Officer Guerro Corpes

Mayor Rockingham Jr. administered the oath and congratulated the officers. He noted that they were already working; he witnessed them and found them professional and part of the community.

Officer Sarabia said that his father was also an officer.

Item 5-4 was moved

5-4 Recognition of the Distinguished Service Ribbon

- Officer Jose Sarabia
- Officer Ryan Brown
- Officer Mike Muller

Chief Perez shared facts of the investigation concerning the rare occasion and the ongoing abuse of the missing child, Damari Perry. The child was tortured to death by family members, and the body was disposed of in Gary, Indiana, in an abandoned house, which was then set on fire. Stating that family members of the Perry family were sentenced to 45 years in prison for the role they played in the case. Chief Perez shared the heavy lift and the stress these took on many officers on the force. He thanked three of the officers who supported the efforts to complete the case. They were then presented with the Distinguished Service Ribbon.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. commended the officers

Item 5-5 was moved

5-5 Recognition of the AAIM (Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists)

- Officer Mendoza – Commendable DUI Enforcement
- Officer Wardak – Commendable DUI Enforcement

Chief Perez explained that the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists annually recognized officers for exemplary service in DUI enforcement. Stating that there were two officers who had been selected to be recognized. Further, expressed the seriousness of their role and offered congratulations.

Agenda item 5-7 was added following 5-5

5-7 Presentation of Letter of Recognition for Mental Health Crisis- Man with a Knife

- Officer Grayer
- Officer Joel Sarabia
- Officer Wells (Absent)
- Officer Wardak
- Officer Gomez-Cruz
- Officer Decowski (Absent due to training)

Chief of Perez presented letters of recognition to the officers explaining that on August 4, 2026, at approximately 5:19 am, the above-mentioned responded to a call on Jackson Street regarding a subject experiencing a mental health crisis. Sharing details associated with the incident and steps the officers took to assist family members to safety, involving a former member of the military who suffered from PTSD and armed with a large knife. Chief Perez explained the professionally trained methods used by the officers to de-escalate the situation, and how the officers successfully resolved the incident without using force or causing injury. Chief Perez expressed gratitude for the officers' amazing teamwork. Chief Perez stated that Officer Muller was also involved.

5-6 Recognition of Officers for Shooting Incident on Sheridan Rd.

- Officer Jordan Kopf – Life Saving Award

- Officer Castro Chavez – Letter of Recognition

Chief Perez stated that on July 12, 2026, at approximately 9:03 pm, officers were dispatched to 1610 Sheridan Rd. for an incident concerning a subject who had been shot. He indicated that Officer Kopf was a Navy corpsman and the first officer to arrive on the scene who had experience in matters such as this. Officer Kopf immediately located the victim and the urgent need for medical intervention. He immediately initiated life-saving measures, providing emergency medical care as taught in the training received. Officer Kopf continued to care for the victim until rescue arrived, and the victim was taken to the local hospital for treatment. Chief Perez stated that Officer Kopf's actions were in the highest standards of police professionalism, courage, and dedication to the preservation of human life. The victim survived the shooting. Chief Perez stated that Officer Chavez, a new officer, was also present and remained calm, composed, and professional while assisting Officer Kopf. Indicating that Officer Chavez's role played a significant role in the successful emergency response. Office Chavez's actions, composed under pressure, teamwork, and dedication to preserving life, reflected the high standards of the City of North Chicago Police Department.

5-2 Presentation of the Lifesaving Award

- Julissa De Lara Flores
- Froylan Emiliano Barajas Hernandez

Chief Perez presented the Lifesaving awards. Sharing information of an incident that occurred June 6, 2026, at approximately 3:47 am. Officers responded to a report of a traffic crash on Skokie Highway and Buckley Road. The accident involved three vehicles; one was ablaze. Ms. Flores used a shovel from her vehicle while Mr. Hernandez broke the car window, risking their lives, pulled the female victim out of the vehicle to save her life. Chief Perez indicated that was a tremendous act of bravery. All those efforts were captured on video via a cellphone, which was ultimately recovered. Their actions happened prior to officers arriving. He noted that the two individuals risked their lives to help someone they had never met. After rescuing that victim, they went back to see if there were any other victims.

The video was played for the council and residents to observe.

Chief Perez, on behalf of the mayor, expressed thanks for their life-saving actions

Miss Dickson was the victim, and she was present. She expressed gratitude and appreciation for saving her life.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. shared comments, expressed gratitude, and congratulations to all who received an award. It was very meaningful know that these individuals were serving the community and saving lives. While conducting themselves with respect, in situations where they were putting their lives on the line.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. recognized and expressed thanks to representatives from NCIS. Stating the love for being able to work with the Navy and the police department. Also recognized present a representative from Sheriff Idelberg's Office.

Mayor Rockingham Jr., announced that Alderman Coleman had arrived at 6:42 pm.

VI. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

6-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **September 21, 2026**

6-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **September 21, 2026**

6-3 Approval of the Treasurer's Report - **August 2026**

6-4 Approval of the End User Workstation Refresh (IT) in an **Amount Not to Exceed $23,619.85**

6-5 Approval of Trotter and Associates, Inc. Work Order for Wallace Avenue Water Main Replacement Construction Engineering Services in an **Amount Not to Exceed $178,000.00**

6-6 Approval of the 5-year Contract Renewal with Health and Family Services (HFS) for GEMT services

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rayon Edwards (Community Advocate)
Mr. Edwards indicated that sometimes his presentation wasn't nice, but it came from a place of hurt and passion combined. Stating that he loved the people in the community, he mentioned a shooting incident in both North Chicago and Waukegan. Expressing that, since he was an advocate, the victim's family reached out to him for assistance. Because of an incident while having a balloon release, he believed it caused fear in the community. He said that the family reached out to him to assist them in locating a church for the funeral and a hall for the repass. Mr. Edward stated that many of the churches told him no. Further sharing a personal story of his father, who lost his legs and was dealing with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Mr. Edwards stated that he worked to build a bridge for the community and asked the city and council to work with him. Stating that he loved this community.

Vice President Commissioner Carmecia Hathorne

Announcements for Foss Park District

Youth Fall Basketball League for boys' and girls' division, registration ended October 17, 2026. The league was for children in grades 1st through 6th.

Soccer league registration is currently open.

Spooktacular Movie Night on October 24th at 8:30

The Halloween event is on October 30th, free and included face painting, a magician, a haunted house, and more.

Please call the district with additional questions.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

8-1 **PRESENTATION OF FY25 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT BY LAUTERBACH & AMEN FOR ACCEPTANCE**

Comptroller Tawanda Joyner announced that Courtney Mohr from Lauterbach & Amen was present via Zoom.

Courtney Mohr, Audit Principal from Lauterbach & Amen, presented the audited financial statements of April 30, 2025. Tawanda Joyner and the team were thanked for their hard work in successfully completing the audit. Explaining the purpose of an audit, was to perform various tests and procedures, to ultimately form an opinion. The city was provided with an unmodified opinion, known as a clean opinion. Unmodified Opinion was the highest opinion that could be given, stating that the financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects. Indicating that the city could be relied on for the internal control environment. Stating in the Status (SAS) 114 letter, which is the communication with the city, those charged with governance of the city. It was noted that there were no difficulties or disagreements with management without the process. Brought attention to page five of the provided packet, the executive summary, which provided a good financial overview in non-financial terms. Recommending that was a good place to start, while the report is being reviewed to gain an understanding of the financial statement. Indicating the General Fund was the main operating fund, reporting that the city ended with a fund balance of about $24 million, an increase of about $962,000 after various operating transfers. Of that $24 million, $1 million was considered non-spendable, while the remainder was unassigned to meet the city's future needs as necessary. *She elaborated more details.*

Treasurer Vance Wyatt inquired about the $69,000 "other expenditure" line item and what it referred to. Indicating that he did not have $3,000 in that line item. Mr. Mohr said she would need to review to see what was transferred into the account and inform Tawanda Joyner.

Alderman Brooks questioned the $24 million mentioned on page five, stating that he could not locate the information. Ms. Mohr indicated that she was referring to the fund's financial statements and provided the pathway to locate that information.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. expressed thanks and appreciation for Lauterbach & Amen and the Comptroller's Office for the report. Mayor Rockingham Jr., expressed in detail the amount of work and sacrifice that Tawanda and staff did to make it successful process.

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to withdraw Item 8-1 as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

8-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CITY BILLS

General Fund	**$**	**335,023.28**
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	**$**	**843.00**
Federal Forfeiture Fund	**$**	**8,500.00**
Capital Projects Fund	**$**	**58,030.52**
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	**$**	**876,371.67**
Library Fund	**$**	**14.99**
TOTAL		**$1,278,783.46**

Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve the Regular Bills of Council Run 10/05/26 in the amount of 1,278,783.46 when funds become available.

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

MOTION CARRIED

IX. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

- Mayor Rockingham Jr. acknowledged the concerns of Rayon Edwards, indicating that, as the mayor, sometimes had to make difficult decisions. Making awareness of the initial shooting, followed by a balloon release shooting that left individuals injured, as well as being aware of things that were not publicized. Sharing that when it was brought to his attention that the family wanted the repass at the youth center, the concern was not just gunfire erupting there, but children in the area. Expressing that he understood Mr. Edwards' concerns and appreciated him. As the mayor of 30,000 residents, he considered all possibilities to ensure everyone's safety. He announced that he attended the Cancer Walk on October 3 for the City of Hope. Stating October was Breast Cancer Month, and he was fully supportive of the cause and supported all the efforts.
- Alderman Brooks announced that he attended the Illinois Black Alliance Chamber of Commerce kickoff event. They support black entrepreneurship in Lake County and the surrounding areas. Encouraged others to get involved. Also announced the opening of a new business in the city, Pressley's Treasurers, a thrift store on Sheridan Road owned by Vaughn and Andrea Presley. They sold low-cost items to the community.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Alderman Evans, seconded by Alderman Jackson that the meeting stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Lori L. Collins, City Clerk