MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, November 2, 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. stated for the record that Alderman Allen was not present due to illness.

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

5-1 A Resolution Recognizing Fire Chief John Umek for His 32 Years of Service to the City of North Chicago.

5-2 A Resolution Appointing Thomas Deinken to the Position of Fire Chief for the City of North Chicago

Alderman Jackson moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve Resolutions North Chicago as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson read Fire Chief Umek's Resolution

Mayor Rockingham Jr. gave kind words regarding Chief Umek. Indicating that he was a good friend and thanked him. He excelled as chief and made sure that the department and staff had everything they needed. Mayor presented Chief Umek with a plaque.

Fire Chief John Umek shared a speech that he had prepared. Stated that it had been an Honor and a Privilege to serve as a firefighter in his own hometown for 32 years. Chief took the opportunity to specifically thank key individuals.

5-3 Swearing-In of Thomas Deinken to the Position of Fire Chief

Mayor Rockingham Jr. administered the oath to Thomas Deinken for the Position of Fire Chief.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that three months prior Mr. Deinken was appointed deputy. Expressing that the promotion happened quickly and that this is the importance of being prepared for the role.

Chief Deinken shared a speech that he had prepared. Thanked the Mayor and Council for confidence in him. Highlighting that he had served with the North Chicago Fire

Department for 22 years to date. Thanked his children for their love and sacrifices throughout the years and all those that had been a part of his journey.

5-4 Swearing-In of Reid Mammoser to the Position of Deputy Fire Chief

Mayor Rockingham Jr. administered the oath to Reid Mammoser for the position of Deputy Fire Chief

Reid Mammoser expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the new position to the city, his family and friends.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. recognized the Police and Fire Board and the attendees for their supportiveness and for being there to witness the promotions of great individuals.

5-5 Swearing-In of Jose Aguilar to the Position of Firefighter/Paramedic

Mayor Rockingham Jr. administered the oath to Jose Aguilar to the Position of Firefighter/Paramedic

Alderman Coleman entered the council meeting at 6:33 p.m.

VI. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

6-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **October 19, 2026**

6-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **October 19, 2026**

6-3 Approval of a **$1,000** Community Grant Award Applied for by the Non-Profit Synergized Communities Thrive, Inc.

6-4 Approval of Joint Funding Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the Argonne Drive Reconstruction Project in the **amount of $25,663,395.60**

6-5 Approval of the Construction Engineering Services Agreement with GFT Infrastructure, Inc. for the Argonne Drive Reconstruction Project in the **Not-to-Exceed amount of $2,433,327.00**

6-6 Approval of a Resolution Appropriating **$1,000,000** in Local Funds for the Argonne Drive Reconstruction Project

6-7 Approval for the City of North Chicago, By and Through Its Fire Department, to Enter into an Agreement with Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital for Student Field Internship Experience.

6-8 Approval of the Agreement for Third Party Claims Administrative Services with PMA Management Corporation (Lodestar)

6-9 Approval of Insurance Risk Management renewal for IML RMA Risk Management

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

Stated that John Umek was the best Fire Chief in Lake County and shared kind words. Expressed concerns about children between the ages of 10-12 on motorbikes in the street, and it was becoming dangerous. Cars were speed down Lewis Ave after 3 p.m. from the VA. Addressed that Curfew and truancy needed to be enforced, and parents need to be held responsible for the actions of their children. He mentioned that the Chief of Staff had been doing an exceptional job. Noting that when the Chief of Staff started his role, there was some controversy, but he had since been doing a terrific job. Mr. Edwards thanked him for his time and patience.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that he was aware of the issue of the motorbikes and that it was currently being addressed.

Vice President of Library Board Carmecia Hawthorn

ANNOUNCMENTS

- November 7th from 10 am to 2 pm for the Library Extravaganza
- November 17th from 12-4 pm and 18th from 10 am-2 pm: Helping Seniors to assist with Medicaid and Medicare Programs… FREE
- Bilingual Family Story Time on November 19th from 5 pm- 7 pm

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

8-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CITY BILLS

General Fund	**$**	**649,516.80**
Capital Projects Fund	**$**	**129,475.83**
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	**$**	**67,834.78**
Retiree Premium Fund	**$**	**17,852.68**
Library Fund	**$**	**11,394.42**
Total		**$876,074.51**
SPECIAL	**$**	**546.00**
TOTAL		**$876,620.51**

Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks, to amend to approve the Regular bills and 1 SPECIAL of Council Run 11/02/26 in the amount of $876,620.51 when funds become available.

ROLL CALL:

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

MOTION CARRIED

IX. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

- Alderman Jackson (1st Ward) announced that he and Alderman Brooks (7th Ward) would be hosting a joint Ward meeting November 7th, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. at City Hall.
- Alderman Evans announced 3rd Ward Meeting December 19th, 11 a.m. at City Hall.

Alderman Evans mentioned that a few aldermen went to the local hospital to support. Stating that Vice President Carmecia Hawthorne was there as well and was on television speaking to the concerns of the hospital. Alderman Evans stated there is a need for a hospital in this area.

Alderman Wray asked where the 3rd Ward meeting was being held. Alderman Evans said at City Hall.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. announced that tomorrow (November 3rd) was election day. Indicating that Senators and Congress look at the number of voters in North Chicago to determine their level of concern and need. Asking everyone to please vote.

Alderman Murphy announced that individuals could go to any polling location in Lake County.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Lori L. Collins, City Clerk