MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, June 01, 2026, at 6:06 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: Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Absent: Jackson, Coleman

4-1 PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH-JUNE 2026

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks, to approve the Proclamation Gun Violence Awareness Month-June 2026 as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

4-2 PRESENTATION OF A RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF LARETIA LYNN WILSON
postponed until June 15, 2026

4-3 PRESENTATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE NORTH CHICAGO GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAM

Alderman Brooks read the resolutions. The athletes were present. The coach praised the students for doing what they are supposed to do academically and athletically. *Photos were taken.*

4-4 PRESENTATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE NORTH CHICAGO NEAL MATH AND SCIENCE TRACK TEAM

Alderman Brooks read the resolutions. The athletes were present. The coach stated they ended with a great year. Sharing their motto, “We Start. We Finish”. Which means when you step on the track, you are expected to give your best, whether it’s first or last place. *Photos were taken.*

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to approve the Resolutions for the North Chicago Girls High School Track Team and the North Chicago Neal Math and Science Track Team as presented.

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

Alderman Coleman entered at 6:21 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham Jr. apologized to the citizens of North Chicago, Council, and guests for his actions during the May 18th Council meeting, stating that he lacked decorum. Felt that he fell short in honor of the seat as Mayor; his actions were not appropriate. Decorum goes both ways. People are watching. Trying to attract economic development and businesses to the community would not be successful if there was disruption.

Alderman Coleman asked whether that meant that Robert's Rules of Order would be followed. Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that Robert's Rules of Order were always practiced.

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **May 18, 2026**

5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **May 18, 2026**

5-3 Approval of the Treasurer's Report- **April 2026**

5-4 Approval of an Ordinance Approving Certain Variations for the Property at **1105 Jackson Ave**

5-5 Approval and Authorization of a Joint Agreement Between the County of Lake and the City of North Chicago FY 2027 – 2029

5-6 Approval and Authorization of HOME Investment Partnerships Program Consortium Agreement

5-7 Approval of a Contract Renewal with Lauterbach & Amen, LLP for Audit Services for **FY26 at $72,675 and FY27 at $75,100**

5-8 Approval of Lewis Avenue Detention Basin - Phase II Work Order from Trotter and Associates, Inc. for Construction Engineering Services in the **not to exceed amount of $389,697.00**

5-9 Approval of **$13,200** in Additional Funds Towards Lease for the Sub-Station

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Courtney & Kathy

- Marrisa Jones stated that she grew up in North Chicago, and what kept her coming back was the wonderful after-school program - Drama Club. She had been involved in the Drama Club for the several years, and it would remain a long-term commitment. The Drama Club was designed to be an outlet for children, not just about theater, the arts, and talent. The purpose of attending the council meeting was to ask for continued support. Stating that the Drama Club was at LEARN, seasonal, and after school, the children would like it to be year-round. They often lack positive activities to keep them engaged. It would be helpful to have access to the community center to meet with children in the summer. As well as potentially being a part of the North Chicago Community Days. Understanding that, the purpose was to highlight and showcase North Chicago, and one of the major parts was the youth.

Looking to expand in the summer through different entities to help extend their reach to all interested children in the community. Seeking assistance with the possible usage of the park district or another available space.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. thanked them for their work and for the beautiful show he saw. Stated that the City would be more than happy to support. Suggested doing more performances so others could see the wonderful work they were doing; he believed they would get the support needed. This is a good program not only to help the children achieve, but also to expand their minds, not just through books but also in the Arts. Stating that Community Days would be a great opportunity for other children and parents to see what work they were doing and want to get involved. Mentioning that it would be helpful to be introduced to the School Board Member, Mr. Gerald Coleman, and the Foss Park Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorne. Further stating that the city is willing to do its part to assist.

Alderman Allen said he was at the Christmas program, and that was the reason he suggested that they speak to Mayor Rockingham Jr. and Chief of Staff Greg Jackson at a City Council meeting to possibly be added to Community Days, because that would be a great opportunity for the youth to showcase their talents.

Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorn

Foss Park District Announcements

- Board Meetings were held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 pm, to be informed with activities of the Foss Park District
- Ribbon cutting ceremony June 10th for Hamlet Park at 2 pm
- Juneteenth celebration, June 13th at the Foss Park District from 2 pm - 6 pm
- The Foss Park beach is open. Security arrives daily at 11 am.

Call the Park District if you would like to participate or have questions.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

7-1 APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE REDISTRICTING THE WARDS OF THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, PURSUANT TO THE ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CODE

Alderman Coleman suggested to tabled again, as the full Council was not present and a full vote could not be held, given its importance. Stating if not tabled, he would begin with his questions.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. granted Alderman Coleman permission to proceed with his questions.

Alderman Coleman stated that he provided the Alderman with a packet upon his arrival, which include information with the requirement that an Alderman live in the Ward they represented. Alderman Coleman read the Illinois Municipal Code section referencing that detail. Stating that a person was not eligible to represent a Ward in which they do not reside. Alderman Coleman defined what a resident was by providing two definitions. Stating that if a person moves from their original ward to another, they abandoned the ward they previously lived in, per the shared definition. Alderman Coleman shared the voter registration information for the Alderperson in question to verify when that person changed residency through documentation. Indicating the consequences of an Alderman representing a ward they do not live in, as well as the obligation of the City of North Chicago and the Council to address the matter. Stating that, by law, the seat of that Alderman of said ward is vacant. Alderman Coleman indicated that those facts provided were relevant because it would be improper for an Alderman to vote representing a ward they no longer live in. Saying that by state statute, that person is no longer an Alderman. Putting on notice that evidence had been provided to the city's attorney and council to investigate, understanding this matter should be tabled due to a voting issue. Explaining that if the Alderman voted representing that ward, it would invalidate the voting process. Mentioning that because he had just provided everyone with the information, he felt they would need time to research and read thoroughly. Therefore, reiterating that the matter should be tabled.

Alderman Coleman continued to explain what he believed was the proper course for the council to take.

Attorney Megan Mack stated that a representative was available to speak about the matter and provide some clarification.

Attorney Dan Bolin (via Zoom participation) stated that he was from Ancel Glink and had been working directly with the consulting firm handling the redistricting. Attorney Dan addressed Alderman Coleman's questions about an Alderperson living outside their ward and the qualifications required. Agreeing that, under the Municipal Code, the cooperative authorities have the power to determine whether a vacancy has occurred. That usually happens after a notice and an opportunity to be heard, which has not happened. This would need to be determined when said term expires in 2029.

Attorney Dan explained that the matter of Aldermanic qualifications is a separate issue and has no direct effect on the other. The redistricting concerns the federal housing policy, population shifts, and the university housing policy. This ordinance will help create a fairer balance in the city's elections going forward. Stating that questioning anyone's qualifications as it pertains to this ordinance of question for the night is not related.

Alderman Coleman stated that the Alderman's seat is legally vacant. Further reading and explaining additional information from the document he provided.

Attorney Dan Bolin stated that he agreed with the facts that Alderman Coleman was stating. However, the ordinance applies to future elections, and the questions regarding the Alderman's residency had nothing to do with the current matter and could be reviewed later, if the corporate authorities so desired. He further explained the purpose under the law and why redistricting was necessary.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. explained that this change was made because of the loss in population of Halsey Village, thirty-nine homes in Forrestal, and the Woodlands, which were no longer part of the jurisdiction. When the ward lost population, it affected its balance in all seven wards. Stating that Alderman Coleman's issue was different.

Alderman Coleman spoke about the conditions and vacancies at Halsey Village that have persisted for years. Stating that Halsey Village had dissolved previously.

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson stated that residents still lived there at that time, but not currently. Mr. Jackson further explained that the data had been shared with the council previously, giving everyone an opportunity to understand the necessity of the specific change.

Alderman Coleman stated that no one spoke to him, and he needed an opportunity to review the numbers and talk to Mr. Kehm (the consultant from EDS), who provided support in the redistricting plan. Asking all the Aldermen if they had seen the data.

All Aldermen said they had.

Alderman Murphy stated she met with the consultant and understood the purpose for the change.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that all Aldermen spoke to Mr. Kehm about the data, except Alderman Coleman.

Alderman Allen stated that he was aware that civilians still lived in Forrestal. Given the information Alderman Coleman provided, it raised concerns for him, and he wanted to do what was right and follow the law.

Mr. Jackson questioned, Alderman Coleman's concern, if the seat was vacant and that Alderman should not be allowed to vote, then what is the difference in the map changes?

Alderman Coleman suggested that because the seat was vacant, he should not vote.

Attorney Megan Mack stated that Alderman Coleman's concern would be raised when said Alderman's term ended in 2029. The ordinance pertains to, looking forward, not looking backward to where the Alderman previously lived when elected.

Alderman Coleman and Attorney Mack discussed whether the Alderman currently lived in the elected ward. Attorney Mack reiterated that "said" Alderman is entitled to a separate hearing concerning what Alderman Coleman suggested; which had nothing to do with the current redistricting ordinance.

Alderman Coleman questioned the rush to move this matter forward before determining whether the Alderperson had the right to vote.

Alderman Murphy stated that there were two different issues. Explaining that there was an imbalance in the population, which is the matter that is being rectified. Which she was satisfied with.

Alderman Coleman continued to ask data questions, and Mr. Jackson said that it can be provided later, as it was not readily available because the available aldermen had previously reviewed. Mayor Rockingham Jr. emphasized that the data was provided months prior. Stating that Alderman Coleman had access to the information as well.

Mr. Jackson stated that, given the facts from Alderman Coleman, even if that Alderman did not vote 'because his seat was vacant," the vote should still pass due to the purpose of the redistricting. One person, one vote.

Alderman Coleman said correct… Let's not let the person vote and see if it passes.

Attorney Mack stated he had the right to vote because he had not been removed from office. Explaining in detail the legal reasons why "said" Alderman still had rights. Alderman Coleman asked if Attorney Mack was aware that the Alderman had moved prior to the redistricting. Asking if anyone knew that information.

Alderman Coleman asked whether he could request a meeting with Mr. Kehm and inquired about the rush to move this forward. Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that the council was ready to move forward. Mentioning that at the previous meeting on May 18th, Alderman Coleman asked for more time.

Alderman Coleman said he previously needed time to prepare the documents, which he did. Stating that everyone needed an opportunity to review the information provided and conduct an investigation based on the information, and he needed to communicate with Mr. Kehm because he had that right. Mayor Rockingham, Jr. said he had that same opportunity when everyone else did.

Alderman Murphy “called the question”. Stating there was already a motion and a second on the floor. Meaning it was time to move forward with the voting process per the Robert’s Rules of Order.

The voting process proceeded…while Alderman Coleman was still staying, he had “a point of order”.

Alderman Coleman directly stated his issue and his opinion of the lack of fairness or illegality. Sharing other details on why he felt it was unfair. Stating that Mayor Rockingham Jr. was endorsing Alderman Brooks to be mayor. Stating he would leave the information on the back table for anyone who was interested.

Additional dialogue was exchanged between Alderman Coleman and Attorney Mack

Alderman Brooks stated that he was against his personal information being made available to the public.

Alderman Coleman and Alderman Brooks exchange dialogue. Alderman Brooks advised that an alderman not share his information. Alderman Coleman said it was a voter registration card. Alderman Brooks repeated that it was advised not to pass out his information and that residents and gain the information on their own.

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Murph to approve the Agenda Item 7-1, as presented.

ROLL CALL:
Ayes: Evans, Murphy, Wray, Brooks
Nays: Allen
Non-Vote: Coleman
Absent: Jackson

MOTION CARRIED

7-2 AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MCKENNA ASSOCIATES PLANNING GROUP, LLC, IN AN AMOUNT **NOT TO EXCEED $142,000** FOR CODE CONSULTING SERVICES (UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE)

ECD Director Taylor Wegrzyn explained it had previously been presented to enter into an agreement with McKenna Associates who would help consolidate multiple zoning ordinances. It was presented under the terms discussed previously.

Alderman Brooks moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy to approve the Agenda Item 7-2 as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

7-5 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CITY BILLS

General Fund	**$**	**421,018.40**
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	**$**	**277,971.22**
Capital Projects Fund	**$**	**7,864.91**
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	**$**	**170,225.64**
Reiree Premium Fund	**$**	**17, 612.56**
Library Fund	**$**	**8,914.30**
TOTAL	**$**	**903,607.03**
SPECIAL		**$20,665.00**
TOTAL		**$924,272.03**

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to pay the Regular and SPECIAL bills of Council Run 06/01/26 in the amount of $924,272.03 when funds become available.

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

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

- Alderman Wray-5th Ward Meeting on June 6th, 11am at City Hall.
- Alderman Evans announced on June 6th annual yard sale at 22nd and Kristian after the Ward Meeting,
- Alderman Allen recognized the Deputy Police Chief Gary Lunn and team on a successful Car Show and Food Truck event.
- Mayor Rockingham Jr. expressed Kudos, thanks, and success on the Car Show & Food Truck event. Recognizing Stephanie Rivera, Assistant Deputy Chief Lunn, Public Works, and City staff efforts
- Alderman Allen thanked the Mayor for the Brookstone at Coles Park grass cutting.
- Mayor Rockingham Jr. expressed the lighting issue and the need for residents to feel safe. The City was in support of the residents to keep them safe. Thanking the Police Department for the additional efforts in that area.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9-1 EXECUTIVE SESSION- 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11) LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICULAR PUBLIC BODY HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING BEFORE A COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to suspend the Regular Order of Business and enter Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to resume the Regular Order of Business at 7:55 p.m.

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

MOTION CARRIED

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Lori L. Collins, City Clerk