

**JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022
6:32 PM**

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

Present: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy, January

Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE – APPOINTMENTS AND REMOVALS:

Alderman Jackson referred to City Code **2-1-3**. Attorney Adam Simon explained Aldermen represent the Legislative and Mayor the Executive branches of municipal government. The Executive branch appoints officials; the Aldermen do not have the authority to remove the power of appointment from the Mayor. The Aldermen had the right to overrule an appointment if Mayor were to bring an appointment before the Council; the city code mimics state law.

Alderman Evans clarified if the Aldermen desired to remove a Department Head would they be able; Attorney Simon said they could not. Alderman Evans asked if the Aldermen could change the ordinance; Attorney Simon said no. He further explained that Council could re-assign duties of those Department Heads.

Alderman January asked for the statute number for review; Attorney Simon cited **65 ILCS 5/3.1-30-5** (appointment) and **65 ILCS 5/3.1-35-10** (removal).

II. DISCUSSION OF ANCEL GLINK REQUEST:

Attorney Simon stated that Ancel Glink had not received a raise since beginning in **2016**. The cost of business was rising and would like to impose **\$215/hr.** (Partners, of Counsel); **\$205/hr.** (Associates) and **\$135** (Paralegal).

Alderman Allen referred to the Chief of Staff noting the Procurement Policy and asked if there were 3 bids for legal services. Chief of Staff David Kilbane said the Procurement Policy didn't fit the category for attorney as the position was similar to an appointed position.

Alderman Allen reiterated the need for 3 bids as it was a contract; there was no idea how much was spent the previous years in attorney fees. Alderman Jackson stated that he would send the totals to the aldermen. Attorney Evans agreed there was no comparison; Attorney Simon explained it was a **\$25/hr.** difference. Alderman Smith also suggested a comparison.

Attorney Simon stated that the Attorney position was an appointed position selected by the Mayor with agreement from Council and was not to be compared as a contractor. Alderman January agreed there be comparisons; there may be an option of a set fee vs. hourly.

Mayor Rockingham noted the difference of firms; Ancel Glink Firm had various specialty lawyers where others may still need to hire an outside firm/attorney. If that were to happen the pricing could be higher or specialty rates. Attorney Simon explained that the fees would be as stated and not higher within Ancel Glink Firm.

Alderman Evans asked if charges were based on 15 minutes; Attorney Simon acknowledged. Alderman Mayfield asked the number of attorneys in firm and their specialties; Attorney Simon said 36 with many different specialties. Mayor Rockingham stated the importance of having specialty attorneys readily available which Ancel Glink provided and gave example of land attorneys for Sheridan Crossing.

Alderman January questioned if there were additional costs of specialty attorney in his firm; he said there were not. Mayor Rockingham said that the previous Attorney Smith became a judge which prompted hiring a new firm; he also raised his rates.

Alderman Smith acknowledged that Ancel Glink could ask for another rate increase next year; no issue with the raise just would like a comparison. Mayor Rockingham did not think it was necessary at the time to search. Attorney Simon reiterated that attorney services were not subject to bidding because it was an appointment by the Mayor; attorney services were not fungible and could not be compared.

Attorney Simon felt Ancel Glink did a good job with the City concerning efficiency and timeliness because of the number of attorneys in the firm; and the rates were competitive for Lake County. Alderman Mayfield clarified that the firm was not up for vote and the only question was if there was going to be a raise. Attorney Simon explained the reason for the timing was budget considerations was approaching.

Alderman January asked how the increase would affect the budget. Interim Comptroller Mike Peterson explained the previous year cost was **\$308,961 (2021)** and currently **\$323,526 (2022)**; Mr. Peterson said that every dollar mattered. Attorney Simon said it was impossible to extrapolate the cost not knowing how much work would be needed.

Alderman January questioned the outcome if the Council decided against a raise; Attorney Simon said they would continue to work and discuss with firm what was affordable to do. Mayor Rockingham asked if the problem was the raise or amount; he said it was agreed to lower \$5/hr. Alderman Evans said it is asked to save in the budget, comparison is not unfair. Alderman Mayfield didn't think it was an inconsiderable request and should vote. Alderman Murphy agreed with vote.

Alderman Jackson questioned amount and if there could be more than 1 year contract. Attorney Simon said that he could not make a promise for long term; no control over that decision. Alderman Jackson said it would be on the next Council Agenda.

III. DISCUSSION OF TITLE 6 HEALTH & SAFETY, CHAPTER 1 PLANTS & WEEDS – ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT:

Economic Development Director Victor Barrera said the proposed amendment was to increase grass height from 5" to 8". Alderman Evans asked the ramifications after 8" and how long before fine; Mr. Barrera explained 7 days. Alderman Allen noted the Ordinance written said 10 days; Mr. Barrera said not to exceed 10 days.

Alderman Smith questioned the number of days to cut once the notice was received; Alderman Murphy clarified not to exceed 10 days was maximum. Attorney Simon noted current **Code 6-1-3** allowed 5 days for curing the excess height.

Alderman Smith clarified the process and how the fine was collected; Attorney Simon said there were 2 ways to enforce the fines: 1) issue a citation for not obeying the ordinance 2) abate the nuisance condition (fine and reimbursement such as lien). Alderman Smith asked process if that timeline was exceeded; Attorney Simon explained the process which would generate another new citation each time violations happened.

Alderman Smith questioned the missed collection of the fines; Mr. Barrera explained that many of the liens weren't recorded within a timely manner. A written process was being reviewed. Alderman January suggested Code 6-1-1 include a description of greenery. Alderman Allen felt \$300 was too steep of a fine, especially for a senior citizen or handicap resident with fixed incomes.

Alderman Smith suggested that the City could help the seniors similar to snow removal program.

IV. DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SALE OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO:

Human Resource Director Elizabeth Black explained there were surplus vehicles to be sold and wanted to use Enterprise Fleet Program to do auction. The vehicles had not been used in 2 years. Alderman Allen suggested that residents get first rights to the bid on the auction; the citizens paid for them. Attorney Simon said through the Fleet Program assured the best financial return.

Alderman January asked if there was an administrative fee for using Enterprise; Mrs. Black agreed there was and said approximately \$375 per car to handle the auction. Alderman Jackson asked if the cars were operable; Mrs. Black said minimally. Alderman Smith clarified purchases were as is.

Attorney Simon asked if there was a suggested minimal price; Alderman January said \$375 was expensive administrative fee. Alderman Smith suggested that in the purchase the purchaser know in detail issues with the vehicle. Attorney Simon assured that information would be included in writing with the sale.

Alderman Murphy felt that with the City acting as the seller caused for more possible liability and legal fees.

Alderman Allen, Evans, Mayfield and Smith agreed that citizens get first opportunity. Alderman Jackson recommended with consensus of Council for \$500 minimum bid and no more than 30days for resident opportunity to purchase first. Alderman Smith donated photography to advertise the vehicles.

Alderman January moved, seconded by Alderman Mayfield that Judiciary Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy, January

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022
8:15 PM**

Alderman Mayfield called the meeting to order.

Present: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy, January

Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION OF FINANCE/AUDIT DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Assistant Comptroller Tawanda Joyner briefed Council on monthly report.

II. DISCUSSION OF JUNETEENTH DONATION:

Juneteenth Pageant Coordinator Vickie Brown of North Chicago; requested **\$1,000**. Funds were needed prior to **April 30, 2022**. Attorney Simon explained that the funds would be paid to the Juneteenth Commission. Mayor asked date of events; Ms. Brown stated **11 a.m. – 1 p.m.** at Foss Park **April 30, 2022**.

III. DISCUSSION OF BONUS PAYMENTS:

Interim Comptroller Mike Peterson expressed gratitude for the diligent work of Assistant Comptroller Tawanda Joyner and Public Works Foreman Clarence “Tommy” Johnson. He emphasized their great efforts with additional duties which exceeded the job requirements and suggested they both be paid a stipend of **\$2,500**. Interim Chief of Staff reinforced the Interim Comptroller’s sentiments. Mayor Rockingham echoed the greatness of their work.

Alderman Mayfield thanked and appreciated them for their hard work. Alderman Evans felt excited for the recognition of those employees. Alderman Allen also commended them; acknowledged their personality and pleasant attitudes.

IV. DISCUSSION OF “BUDGET FY 2023”

Interim Comptroller Mike Peterson briefly discussed the proposed Budget FY2023

Goals:

1. Begin to address Police/Fire Pension Fund Deficit
2. Repair City’s Bond Credit Rating
3. Increase sustainable annual revenues in the General Fund
4. Stabilize the Overall Tax Rate by taking advantage of Increased Property Values and increased EAV

Every year the amount of pension that is not reached extends to the future years. North Chicago’s funding rating for the Fire pension was ranked **273 of 299** (based on Department of Insurance) and Police **343 of 357**. Pension funding policy to be discussed. He stated strongly suggesting that the expected proceeds (**\$2.1M**) from the new casino being built be used for pensions. Property Taxes were used to pay for Debt Services of the pension. He explained the statute that required **90%** funding goal.

Tawanda Joyner stated the progress report of the Budget (budget worksheets, financial forecast, allocations worksheet and fund balance). The City was not going to submit application for GFOA Certification. She also addressed the Allocation Report (line items will be centralized per category). Informed Council how to read the Budget.

Budget Highlights:

Revenue Assumptions – **2%** annual increase

2020 Population – **30,759**

2010 Population – **32,574**

Expenditure Assumptions – **3%** annual increase

Alderman January questioned the revenue assumption with the population decreasing; Mr. Peterson explained the state configuration and how finances are calculated. Alderman Evans questioned why the City would again apply for the GFOA Certificate if there were no real meaning by having it; Ms. Joyner said that it would be deserved once the budget was worth presenting.

Alderman Smith asked the Bond Rating; Ms. Joyner explained that the rating would increase based on the cleaner audit and better funded pensions to expose that the situation was better. Interim Chief of Staff David Kilbane commended the staff with the work on the Budget; checks and balances were in place. It would take about 2-3 years to get the Audit under control.

Alderman Evans clarified the Aldermen's Budget and asked if the remaining funds could be split amongst the aldermen for their Ward. Mr. Peterson said that it could work toward it if requested but the 5-year forecast cost was expensive. Mr. Kilbane suggested the Council speak directly with the Comptroller prior to the next meeting for questions; Mr. Peterson said future budget reviews would be to discuss key subject matters and not go line by line. Mr. Kilbane explained that the City would like to hire full-time employees at the same time minimize overtime.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman January that Finance/Audit Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy, January

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022
9:11 PM**

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

Present: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Murphy
Absent: Smith, January

I. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT (POLICE)

Police Chief Perez reviewed statistics of the Police Department; **32** gunshots fired; 4-year old child shot, narcotics investigation (FBI Task Force) that led to the dismantling of the Maldonado Drug Trafficking Organization (**10** kilos of cocaine, **\$307,000**, **2** vehicles and **4 AR-15** style rifles). **3** officers have completed certified training in Evidence Technician and Truck Enforcement and on NCFOC recently hired 1 officer recruit.

Alderman Smith entered the Council Chambers at 9:12 p.m.

Alderman Allen questioned plans to minimize crime. Chief Perez explained that with different cameras and surveillance; also discussing with other departments to develop a solution because many of the incidents are related between cities. He emphasized that people do not like to tell on one another. Many of the victims know the perpetrator.

Alderman Smith suggested to find a way to reach the parents to help with identifying problems and finding solutions; some parents have lost their way. He also asked if there was a conclusion for issues at Brookstone Housing Complex Chief Perez said there was a surveillance plan was developed for the next (**30**) days at Brookstone Housing Complex. Alderman Allen explained that more security guards were going to be in place.

Alderman Jackson questioned how much of the seized monies would be to the City; Chief Perez said **\$18,000**. Alderman Smith asked if the cameras would help to apprehend perpetrators; Chief Perez said that the cameras would not cost the City anything (grant monies) and software estimated **5** years.

II. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT (FIRE)

Fire Chief John Umek reviewed monthly report; EMS/Rescue; 163 calls, 5 out-of-district calls, February Ambulance collection of **\$12,998.68**, calendar of events and training course review.

III. DISCUSSION OF POLICE DEPUTY CHIEF POSITION:

Alderman Allen suggested that the position be reevaluated to hire in case Police Chief was out. Alderman Jackson asked if the City could afford it, it was needed; Mayor Rockingham clarified that the position was available but not funded and would like to see it filled. Alderman Allen suggested hiring within and possibly only be a nominal cost increase. Alderman Jackson noted that there was a position of Lieutenant open possibly use some of those funds of that position.

IV. PENDING MATTERS

Alderman Jackson asked if there were going to be Shop With a Cop; Chief Perez assured there would be.

Alderman Jackson moved, seconded by Alderman Smith that Public Safety Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy
Nays: None
Absent: January

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022
9:46 PM**

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

Present: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Absent: January

I. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Interim Public Works Director Bob Miller briefed the Council of his monthly report: ordered 1,500 tons of salt for **2022-2023** season (Lake County Consortium purchase), used 850 tons of salt for winter operations, **300** tons on order to complete obligation for **2021-2022** winter season.

Have continued to engage in the repair of water main breaks and hydrant replacement, created an alley maintenance program (included trimming trees and shrubs), street light repairs and revamping. Working to correct staffing issues at Water Plant.

Alderman Smith requested a sign to be placed at 24th and Green Bay Road; Mr. Miller said he would address it.

II. DISCUSSION OF ENGINEER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Trotter Representative Alex Dye reviewed monthly report: **2021** MFT Street Resurfacing (complete in Spring), Sheridan Rd. Diet, Water Tower (acquisition & coordination), .CLBA Demolitions/IHDA (final payout) restoration verified in Spring. Brookstone at Regency Cole Park home building is complete. Argonne Drive Reconstruction Phase I; Civiltech Engineering has submitted to IDOT for review and approval. PW City Storm water continues to work on **FY23** budget and CIP planning; Sanitary Sewer plan to develop Televising and Lining utilizing CDBG Funds.

Buckley & Lewis intersection improvements submitted to IDOT and anticipate Phase II design work starting Spring of **2022**. City Hall Renovation DCEO grant for roofing work by Malcor Roofing in the amount of **\$423,000**.

Alderman Smith asked for details of Argonne Dr., if it was the entire street and if it was just paving; Mr. Dye elaborated. Alderman Allen asked if Argonne and Dugdale area would be repaired; Mr. Dye assured it would be repair for now.

II. DISCUSSION/REVIEW FY 2023 VENDOR LIST FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Mr. Miller explained that the vendors were placed in categories based on amounts general to use; in Not to Exceed group amounts. Alderman Allen suggested that other local vendors be sought as he did not see them on the list, including Advanced Auto and new tire company.

IV. DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF SUPPORT FOR THE STP GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE RESURFACING OF 10TH ST. FROM GLEN DR. TO SHERIDAN RD.

Mr. Dye explained the project cost: **10th** St LAFO Project total cost estimate; **\$1.5** million engineering fees and construction cost to be split between North Chicago and Waukegan. Jackson St. LAFO Project total cost estimate; **\$1.7** million. The City would be responsible for approximately **\$700,000**. Work would begin **2024** or **2025** if grants awarded.

Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman Evans that Public Works Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: None

Absent: January

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

**HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING**
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022
10:13 P.M.

Alderman Murphy called the meeting to order.

Present: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy
Absent: January

I. DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Human Resources Director Elizabeth Black gave monthly report: GPS to fleet vehicles, training for supervisors and customer service, managed **30+** new worker compensation and liability claims, insurance census for annual renewal, OSHA training compliance, March Wellness Challenge, Staffing agency cost: Ajilon **\$16,082** and GovTemps **\$11,818**.

Alderman Smith questioned likelihood of when positions were to be filled; Mrs. Black reviewing applications.

Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman Mayfield that Human Resources Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy
Nays: None
Absent: January

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/ZONING
COMMITTEE MEETING**
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022
10:20 P.M.

Alderman Murphy called the meeting to order.

Present: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Absent: January

**I. DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/ZONING DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY REPORT:**

Economic Development Director Victor Barrera briefed Council: notices sent to non-compliant landlords, proposed commercial center adjacent to Starbucks, **\$450,000** awarded from IHDA, listing blighted structures to be demolished, ordinance review for potential amendment.

II. DISCUSSION OF THE DIEGAN GROUP – PROPOSED WORK AGREEMENT:

Mr. Barrera explained the agreement would be to prepare the IEPA submittal for Sheridan Crossing. The City was reviewing agreement which provides exclusive rights to the property to Narot LLC for a specific period. Mayor Rockingham elaborated and noted that IEPA would be to look at the site.

III. DISCUSSION OF B&F CONSTRUCTION CODE SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWAL:

Mr. Barrera explained that B&F Construction services were to assist with inspections; a portion of the fees are reimbursed to the City if fines were obtained. Alderman Allen clarified the process of reimbursements; Mr. Barrera confirmed.

**IV. DISCUSSION OF N.C. TRAIN STATION – INTERIOR RENOVATION – PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES:**

Mr. Barrera stated the cost to prepare the interior renovation plans was not to exceed \$7,400; performed by Integral Construction.

V. DISCUSSION OF JANITORIAL SERVICES BID RESULTS:

Mr. Barrera explained bids were received for janitorial services and Crystal Maintenance was the lowest bidder. The amount was **\$4,885**/month. Alderman Smith asked if the cost was the only reason for the choice. Facilities Manager Chris Chirikos said he also met with the company and they appear to be qualified and anxious to do the work.

VI. DISCUSSION OF LAWN MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:

Mr. Barrera stated that bids were to be received for Lawn Maintenance and presented a timeline. He noted that the timeline needed an extension of **30** days, there was a lack of pre-bid participation and would like to give more opportunity to gather more bids. Alderman Allen asked if local vendors were given the opportunity to bid; Attorney Simon explained that bids were published in the newspaper for everyone/anyone to bid. Not unusual to solicit bids if not enough bidders. Alderman Murphy clarified there weren't many competitive bids submitted. Mayor Rockingham suggested notifying Michael Coleman of Platinum Landscaping.

VII. PENDING MATTERS:

NONE

VIII. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILC 120 2 (c)(11) – PENDING LITIGATION:

Alderman Jackson moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy that Economic Development / Planning / Zoning Committee suspend at **10:46 p.m.** to Executive Session 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(11) – Pending Litigation.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: None

Absent: January

Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to resume meeting at **11:12 p.m.**

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: None

Absent: January

Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Mayfield that Human Resources stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes Jackson, Mayfield, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: None

Absent: January

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 p.m.