

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular Council meeting, Monday, October 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 1850 Lewis Avenue with Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr. presiding.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. ROLL CALL

Upon roll call being taken, the following members were present:

Present: Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy, January

Absent: Jackson, Coleman

Mayor Rockingham was notified by Alderman Jackson and Coleman unable to attend.

Alderman January moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to allow both Alderman Jackson and Alderman Coleman to participate remotely.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson (RP), Coleman (RP), Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy, January

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

4-1 Recognition of Public Works Foreman, Robert Freeman

The Mayor commended Mr. Freeman on his work ethics for the betterment of the city. Mr. Freeman explained he graduated receiving a certificate from the Illinois Public Service Institute as Class President. He was appointed to a committee for the next (3) years and extending an additional 3-year advance school in Michigan. As Class President, he gave a speech on accountability, and he was honored to represent the City of North Chicago. Alderman Evans, Public Works Chair congratulating him with an excellent job performance, attending further education and a great Supervisor exceeding all his expectations in the Public Works Department. Alderman Smith, Vice Chair echoing his sentiments and adding awesome response time. Mr. Freeman acknowledged the Mayor, Elected Officials and Special Thanks to Bob Miller, Consulting Public Works Director and Superintendent Clarence (Tommy) Johnson, both allowing him with his method to operate.

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **September 18, 2023**

5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Minutes, **September 18, 2023**

5-3 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **October 2, 2023**

5-4 Approval of Special Council Meeting Minutes, **October 5, 2023**

5-5 Approval of Treasurer's Report – **August 2023**

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda Items 5-1 thru 5-5 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson(RP), Evans Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman (Inaudible)

MOTION CARRIED

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diane Kelley – Oak Park (Behalf of Fisher House Foundation) Representative

Ms. Kelley explained the Fisher House was the “Ronald McDonald House for Veterans.” She said the organization was constructing a new house located on Buckey Rd. in the vicinity of the Great Lakes Naval Base. She was seeking a board of approximately **12-15** members. The Mayor inquired number of board members;

Representative Kelley, stated **15** if possible and would settle with **10**.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF GREGORY JACKSON AS ALTERNATE DIRECTOR TO SWALCO

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the appointment of Gregory Jackson as Alternate Director to SWALCO.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson (RP), Evans, Allen, Murphy, Smith, January

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-2 CONSIDERATION /APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO AND SEEKO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC., NOT TO EXCEED \$23,060

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement between the City of North Chicago and SEEKO Environmental Services Inc., Not to Exceed \$23,060.

Alderman January asked for a briefing of item 7-2; Victor Barrera, Economic & Community Development Director, explained the company preformed semi-annual groundwater testing at Sheridan Crossing the last **20+** years. They also performed annual reporting as needed to the IEPA.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-3 CONSIDERATION /APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE – SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 2300 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR. FOR A BANQUET FACILITY

The Mayor clarified no liquor.

Alderman Smith recused himself. Mr. Barrera explained that Alderman Smith was the owner of the establishment. He was seeking to operate a banquet facility adjacent to the photography studio on Martin Luther King Drive. All permits were granted and unaware of the health department. Has met building code specifications. Alderman Murphy questioned clarification to the Special Use Permit; Mr. Barrera explained granted a parking agreement to ensure no impact

to adjacent property. Alderman Jackson added it was previously approved as a brewery with spirits etc. and currently no liquor license; the Mayor acknowledged. He clarified the brewery never materialized and allowed **30-60** person occupancy. Alderman January asked why it took longer for the license; Mr. Barrera explained was waiting on the state.

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the Ordinance for the Special Use Permit at 2300 Martin Luther King Dr. for a Banquet Facility.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson (RP), Evans, Allen, Murphy

Nays: January

Recused: Coleman, Smith

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

The Mayor congratulated Alderman Smith on the Special Use Permit.

7-4 CONSIDERATION /APPROVAL OF 2023 HALLOWEEN PROCLAMATION

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the 2023 Halloween Proclamation.

Alderman Coleman and January expressed their disagreement with Halloween on a sacred day of worship. Next Year considering on a different day.

The Mayor announced Annual Proclamation on Sunday **October 29, 2023**; from **2-5 p.m.** for the event. It was safer for the community.

Alderman Murphy clarified hours with the Proclamation of **3-5 p.m.**

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson (RP), Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: Coleman, January

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

7-5 CONSIDERATION /APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve the amount of \$830,361.92 when funds become available.

Alderman Allen amended motion, seconded by Alderman Evans with amount of \$860,361.92 when funds become available.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson (RP), Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: January

Abstain: Coleman

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

General Fund	\$ 599,618.63
General Grants Fund	\$ 25,000.00
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$ 19,068.81
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 30,782.00
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$ 136,185.43
Vision Fund	\$ 2,538.65
Retiree Premium Fund	\$ 33,901.52
Library Fund	\$ 13,266.88
 TOTAL	 \$ 860,361.92

MOTION:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy to pay the City Bills of Council Run 10/16/23 in the amount of **\$860,361.92 when funds available.**

Alderman January asked if there were sufficient funds available. Comptroller Tawanda Joyner acknowledged there were; Alderman January questioned balance of Water Fund end of week, Ms. Joyner stated the amount of **\$7,260,455.02** prior to bills posted and following; Alderman January asked if there were any late fees; Ms. Joyner said there weren't.

Alderman Allen questioned Alderman January's vote of no and didn't understand; Alderman January strongly stressed questioning what was in the accounts; Alderman Coleman replied accountability; Comptroller, Tawanda Joyner strongly stated there was a proper system & policy in place and explained the process. The current cash value in the account is \$29,411,182.89. Mayor Rockingham asked if the auditors had problems with the method; Ms. Joyner said they had no problem. Alderman Coleman explained there was a conflict of interest with the Mayor and secretary approving his bills. He suggested that the Treasurer approve the Mayor's bill; Mayor Rockingham disagreed and said that the Comptroller was in charge of day to - day operations of the city.

Alderman January questioned bill in of Thomas Reuter for Legislative; City Clerk Collins explained that it was for Statute books in Aldermanic office.

Alderman Coleman stated that he could not vote because he had remaining questions. Mayor Rockingham explained that if he did not vote he was abstaining.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson (RP), Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: January

Abstain: Coleman

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

VARIOUS QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Alderman Evans announced the Annual 3rd Ward Halloween Party, **October 28, 2023; 2-7 p.m.** at Foss Park District; **November 3, 2023**, concert at Paris Banquet Hall announcing the headliners Fel Davis and Shaun Mo; fee **\$35**

Alderman Smith – Thanked all that attended the Fall 5th Ward meeting.

Alderman Coleman asked the City Attorney if the Mayor could abstain vote for him and if it were legal. Attorney Simon explained the Mayor did not vote for him but informed the Clerk how to characterize/ record because he refused to vote. Alderman Coleman asked why he wasn't recused and did not agree to pay the bills. Attorney Simon said he participated in the deliberations and did not ask to be recused. Alderman Coleman said he should be clear what he was voting on; the debate was closed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk