

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular Council meeting, Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 6:04 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: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

The Mayor announced that Alderman Murphy could not participate due to her illness and asked to attend remotely

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to allow Alderman Murphy attend remotely.

Per ordinance **2018 - 26** allowing to attend remotely; personal illness, employment purpose or business of the City and family or other emergency.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

MOTION CARRIED

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

Alderman January entered after Roll Call

5-1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, **June 20, 2023**

5-2 Approval of Minutes of Standing Committee Meetings, **June 20, 2023**

5-3 Approval of Treasurer's Report – **May 2023**

5-4 Approval of Approval of TAI Work Order Not to Exceed **\$244,800** - Design Engineering for **2024** Lead Service and Water Main Replacement Project

5-5 Resolution Approving HOME Consortium Agreement (**FY 2024-2026**) (Amount is determined by HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development))

5-6 Approval of Ordinance for Subdivision and Variance at **2301** Green Bay Road

5-7 Approval of Management Analyst Not to Exceed **\$75,000** Annually

5-8 Approval of Lauterbach & Amen, LLC for Auditing Services with an Amount Not to Exceed FY23 **\$68,700**; FY24 **\$69,250** and FY25 **\$71,300**

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda from item 5-1 thru 5-8 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janice Haye – Sounds of the Caribbean

Ms. Haye announced the Sounds of the Caribbean event, held at Foss Park lake front, North Chicago, IL; from **10 a.m.-8:00 p.m.** She explained the event and asked for sponsorship. Secondly, she encouraged others for the Golf Outing Fundraiser, Sunday, **July 16, 2023** for Multiple Myeloma Awareness Foundation she had experienced and was a survivor. The event was located at the Foss Park Golf Course, **3124 Argonne Dr.** Registration was at **10:30 a.m.**; dinner and prizes issued at **4:00 p.m.**; sign-up deadline was **July 7, 2023** and she provided her contact information.

Alderman January commended Ms. Haye with her confidence of sharing the experience of Myeloma.

Ted Wilder – Former Fire Chief

Mr. Wilder asked to consider an Honorary Street in honor former Fire Chief Robert E. Sandahl Jr. and posted at **17th** & Victoria St. He added Chief Sandahl was the first President with the Lake County Fire Chief Association when it was established.

The Mayor stated it was located in the **2nd** Ward.

John Price – School Superintendent

The Mayor had extended Mr. Price time for public comments. Mr. Price expressed his gratitude of working with the City Staff and with communication. He gave a brief construction update: completing Phase **III**; demo external brick wall of the gym at Neal Math & Science Academy; interior rehab of the gymnasium; site restoration planting new athletic field weather prevailing targeted date of **August 21, 2023**. Internal additions; removable wall for additional security and LED Wall; NCHS closed while roof was rehabbed including spaces for art, business and special needs life skills room; HVAC update; Abbvie volunteered their services with black chain-link fence to be replaced this summer; new parking lot ADA accessible; Yeager & Alexander Schools working at Forrestal School; defense grant was **80%** rehab and construction cost; general contractor selection by next month. Strong naval support; former Lindberg preschool demo; **10-11** new classrooms including special education to offer pre-k preparation for kindergarten.

Alderman January appreciated Mr. Price's leadership and offered her assistance in the Forrestal Village area as Aldermen. The Mayor echoed sentiments of Alderman January and commended him for doing a great job with the students in District **187**; he added that education started before kindergarten and a better chance of education.

Alderman Evans questioned status of Hart and Novak Schools; Mr. Price explained they were unusable. Rehabbed or demolished were options; gaining new ideas from the community; in process of Economic Development plan to partner with the City of North Chicago and Lindberg School was to be demolished with designs in process.

Rayon Edwards

Mr. Edwards asked why the aldermen were unaware of what was occurring; should already know; lack of communication in the community; attorney mistakes and high concerns of seniors at retirement home weren't safe. He expressed his disappointment.

Quanisha Lewis – Head Cheerleading Coach North Chicago High School

Ms. Lewis explained she was trying to purchase new uniforms with the growing team; only financially able to purchase uniforms every 3-4 years and district provided the cost with smaller number of cheerleaders; asking for donations. This was her **4th** year as the coach; engaging youth in something more positive. The Mayor asked if any flyers; she acknowledged there were.

Alderman Smith questioned if she needed all new uniforms or additional (**6**); she would need new and different looser fitty flowing uniforms due to the complaints from visitors from the games. They

complied the support and respect from the community wishes for more appropriate uniforms; the final number needed was ~~\$250x15~~= \$3,750.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF FIREWORKS CONTRACT WITH FIRE ALARM FIREWORKS IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 AND WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to approve the fireworks contract with Fire Alarm Fireworks in amount not to exceed \$20,000 and waive competitive bidding as presented.

Alderman January questioned clarification if citizen funds would be used and asked what is being voted for. Alderman Jackson explained that it was discussed in committee. Community Information Coordinator Hombre Darby explained the costs was paid by fundraising.

Alderman January asked amount raised; Mr. Darby explained **\$50,000** was collected thus far but continually collect daily. Alderman January asked why there is a vote if it fundraising dollars. Attorney Silverman explained that money had been deposited in City accounts and if out of City account it needed to be voted.

Alderman Allen stated that the Council was previously provided information of monies being raised and spent; currently nothing and would like to see the verification. Mayor Rockingham said that he initiated Community Days and felt North Chicago deserved it. The event was for North Chicago, not him personally.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF STAGE CONTRACT WITH SOUND WORKS PRO IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$11,650 AND WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the Stage contract with Sound Works Pro in amount not to exceed \$11,650 and waive competitive bidding.

Alderman January stated that her vote was because there was no documentation of fundraised monies or account it would be withdrawn from.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF TENT CONTRACT WITH JK RENTAL IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$14,158.71 AND WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the Tent contract with JK Rental in amount not to exceed \$14,158.71 and waive competitive bidding.

Alderman January questioned the Mayor voting with waiving competitive bidding. Attorney Silverman explained he was to vote based on the waiving of competitive bidding.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-4 **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS**

General Corporate Fund	\$	243,877.14
General Grants Fund	\$	68,661.19
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$	93,307.01
Retiree Premium Fund	\$	17,558.86
Library Fund	\$	6,296.44

TOTAL	\$	429,700.64
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MOTION:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to pay the City Bills of Council Run 07/05/23 in the amount of \$429,700.64 when funds available.

Alderman January asked if there were sufficient funds also when the checks would be cut and sent. Interim Comptroller Tawanda Joyner explained there were sufficient funds with the exception of the grant fund; checks were already printed and would be sent the following day. Alderman January questioned balance of Water Fund; Ms. Joyner said as of Thursday the amount was \$6,767,216.22.

Alderman January asked how much of the revenue was generated from water bills. Mr. Joyner explained that she would provide that information on monthly report. She also noted that the Comptroller Office tracks the Community Day dollars and would also be provided in the report.

Alderman Allen asked that 2nd Ward phone bill, Verizon Wireless, in the amount of \$35 to be pulled.

Alderman Allen amended motion, Alderman Jackson amended second to pay the City Bills of Council Run 07/05/23 in the amount of \$429,665.64 when funds available.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

VARIOUS CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

- Alderman Evans clarified that the City Council has no control over all the Boards. Felt nothing was being accomplished by those that attempt to embarrass the City. Comments were supposed to assist in bettering the City. The people voted for those elected. He announced an Old School Extravaganza, August 12, all were welcome and the cost was \$35.
- Alderman Allen agreed with Alderman Evans regarding negative comments about North Chicago and said there were many positive projects in process.

- Alderman Smith commended the Fire and Police departments for assisting with a great fishing event in Zion. The children are the adults of tomorrow. He announced the 5th Ward 3rd Annual Block Party July 8th, 12p.m.-8p.m.
- Alderman January said the perception of her is she's negative but expressed that this was the 1st set of aldermen that work together. She respect the Mayor's seat, may not agree with everything but tries to stand firm on her beliefs and what is best for the City. There were issues.
- Alderman January questioned if the 911 issue with Forrestal had been resolved. Police Chief Lazaro Perez explained there were still calls being sent to Norfolk, Virginia because of the location of being on federal land (G.O. fenced); continuing to work toward a resolution.
- Janice Haye strongly expressed that North Chicago was making great improvements. Her aunt was a resident of Broadway Ave, previously drug infested; was now able to sit outside and feel comfortable. North Chicago is a beautiful place. Alderman January stated it was a team effort.

Mayor Rockingham agreed that it takes a team; the staff and Council work to make sure that things happen in North Chicago. Commended staff especially for making sure everything operates effectively.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk