

# MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular Council meeting, Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6:07 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

- 4-1 Presentation of Proclamation Declaring **September 25** through **October 1, 2023**, “Blue Star Welcome Week” in the City of North Chicago

Mayor Rockingham gave a brief overview of the Blue Star Families Organization. He announced a Blue Star Family Bash on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at Forrestal School 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The City Clerk Lori L. Collins read the Resolution.

**Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve the Proclamation Declaring September 25 through October 1, 2023, as Blue Star Welcome Week in the City of North Chicago.**

## **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

Mayor Rockingham said that Alderman Murphy and January were ill; Alderman Coleman said he was unable to attend.

- 4-2 Proclamation Declaring **October** “Domestic Violence Awareness Month” in the City of North Chicago

Mayor Rockingham gave a brief statement concerning domestic violence; the City Clerk read the Resolution. Mayor Rockingham presented the resolution to Abbie Lambert Americo Vista Outreach Coordinator Abby Lambert gave statics and expressed the importance of protecting/supporting victims.

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the Proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of North Chicago.**

## **MOTIN CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

### **Bostòn De Mando**

Information Coordinator Hombre Darby gave a brief history of the bostòn de mondo (baton of command) tradition. The baton represented authority and respect of the people. At the Fiestas Patrias celebration Raul Alvarez presented the baton to the City and Mayor. Mayor Rockingham said he was unable to attend but was excited to hear the event was a great success; was grateful for coming together.

Fernando Bahera of Fiesta Patrias asked for any feedback and/or suggestions from the City. He especially thanked Mr. Darby for his assistance. Alderman Allen said he had a great time at the event, looking forward to the next celebration. Alderman Jackson gave kudos to the entire event, recognized the togetherness of the people. Alderman Smith “awesome, everything next level”, thank you for

choosing North Chicago. Alderman Evan said he was unable to attend but he did see on social media, looked forward to next year.

## **V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA**

- 5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **September 05, 2023**
- 5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Minutes, **September 05, 2023**
- 5-3 Approval of Treasurer's Report – **July 2023**
- 5-4 Acceptance of the FY2023 Annual Treasurer's Report
- 5-5 Approval of Resolution for Adoption of Lake County SMC (Stormwater Management Commission) Watershed Development Ordinance
- 5-6 Approving Resolution for SafeBuilt Contract Renewal

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

### **ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

### **MOTION CARRIED**

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Fernando Bahera – Fiesta Patrias

Mr. Darby announced that the organization would be donating \$1,000 to Foss Park District as thanks for allowing them use of Foss Park. Mr. Bahera said there were donations to the organization and wanted to share.

Police Chief Lazaro Perez said there were 6 new officers, one was a lateral but introduced the 5 newly sworn officers: Alex Fellenz, Jordan Kopf, Silvestre Delgado, Carlos Fraticelli and Jeanette Reyes.

Mayor Rockingham welcomed the officers. He was proud of North Chicago's Public Safety (Police and Fire) for protecting the citizens

## **VII. REGULAR AGENDA**

- 7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF STEPHANIE DUTY TO THE NORTH CHICAGO HOUSING BOARD FOR A 5-YEAR TERM, REPLACING EZZIT WILLIAMS

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the appointment of Stephanie Duty to the North Chicago Housing Board for a 5-year term, replacing Ezzit Williams.**

### **ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

### **MOTION CARRIED**

- 7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF M.E. SIMPSON CONTRACT IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 FOR CALIBRATION OF LARGE WATER METERS

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to the M.E. Simpson contract in amount not to exceed \$150,000 for calibration of large water meters.**

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

**MOTION CARRIED**

- 7-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR – WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO RE-ATTACH WIRES TO BUILDING (AT&T REQUESTING PRE-PAY)

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to approve emergency repair – Water Treatment Plant to re-attach wires to building (AT&T requesting pre-pay); not to exceed \$16,422.28.**

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

**MOTION CARRIED**

- 7-4 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF TRI-STATE PLATINUM CONTRACT RENEWAL (3-YEARS) FOR SNOW REMOVAL IN ALLEYS AND CITY-OWNED LOTS – 5% 1<sup>st</sup> YEAR, 4% 2<sup>nd</sup> AND 3<sup>rd</sup> YEAR

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve Tri-State Platinum Contract renewal (3-years) for snow removal in alleys and city-owned lots – 5% 1<sup>st</sup> year, 4% 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year.**

Attorney Adam Simon explained that Tri-State Platinum won a competitively bid contract a few years ago; when advertised it was for one year with opportunity for 2 one-year renewal terms. The coming year is one of the 1 year renewal terms; allowable under the first bid. Beyond that there was no new multi-year contract bid; could one. The requested approval was beyond the competitive bid terms; would require 2/3 vote of the entire Council (5) and waive competitive bid. Therefore, the approval should only be for the 1<sup>st</sup> year with 5%.

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to amend motion to approve the Tri-State Platinum renewal for snow removal in alleys and city-owned lots for one year with 5% increase.**

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

**MOTION CARRIED**

- 7-5 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE LAKE COUNTY HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to execute Lake County HOME Investment Partnerships Consortium Agreement Amendment.**

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7-6 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>490,774.80</b>
<b>General Grants Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,863.59</b>
<b>Water, Sewer&amp; Refuse Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>260,080.73</b>
 <b>TOTAL</b>	 <b>\$</b>	 <b>753,719.12</b>

**MOTION:**

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to pay the City Bills of Council Run 09/18/23 in the amount of **\$753,719.12** when funds available.**

Alderman Allen questioned bills from Mike's Pizza (Police Department); \$166.20 and \$74.15 and requested to have them removed. He asked why the local pizza restaurant was not used. Police Chief Perez said that it was purchased by the gang unit. Treasurer Vance Wyatt said that the bill was paid with City credit card, in essence the request was to not pay the credit card bill. Alderman Allen suggested the credit card be paid and the city be reimbursed for that payment.

Alderman Evans said that it would have to be done with all departments; he did not agree with doing it. Attorney Simon said that there was a budget for the Police Department; it was a permitted expense. Could only remind them to shop locally but it was a lawful expense. Mayor Rockingham said that he would continue to instill the importance of shopping locally. Alderman Smith expressed that if a product is not desirable people have the right to go other places.

Alderman Jackson asked the Police Chief why the local venue was not used; Chief Perez said the gang unit used them and he was unsure why. Alderman Evans agreed that it was taxpayers' money, but people had the right to decide.

Alderman Jackson questioned balance of Water Fund end of week; Comptroller Tawanda Joyner stated the amount was **\$7,881,560.42**. Alderman Jackson asked if there were sufficient funds and when checks would be disbursed. Ms. Joyner explained there were sufficient funds, checks out Wednesday.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evan, Allen, Smith

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

**MOTION CARRIED**

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

**VARIOUS CONCERNS AND COMMENTS**

- Alderman Evans announced the Annual 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward yard sale at corner of Kristan & Martin Luther King Ave, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. He also said tickets were on sale and available for the Fel Davis concert November 3.
- Alderman Smith announced the Fall 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Meeting, September 30, 11 a.m. – 2p.m.
- Alderman Smith said he was hosting a Senior fishing trip October 22, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. (partnering with Foss Park).; the age for senior was not specific. Guaranteed to catch a fish.
- Alderman Allen questioned the event that closed Greenfield Ave.; Mayor Rockingham said that he approved the event and was unaware of the pantry that day.
- Alderman Jackson stated question from resident about the meetings being televised; he explained that people could not hear via Zoom if speakers were not talking into a microphone. Mayor Rockingham said there will be review of getting meetings viewable after the meeting and he would assure people speak in microphone.

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

9-1 Executive Session 5 ILCS 2 (c)(12) – Establishment of Reserves or Settlement of Claims

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to suspend the Regular Order of Business at 7:05 p.m.**

### **ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

### **MOTION CARRIED**

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to resume the Regular Order of Business at 7:29 p.m.**

### **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

9-2 OPEN SESSION: Possible Action on Executive Session Items

**There were no items for a vote.**

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

### **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

### **ATTEST:**

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**Lori L. Collins, City Clerk**