

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023

**City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Avenue, North Chicago, IL 60064**

Following City Council Meeting

FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

8:38 PM

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Murphy, January

Alderman Coleman asked if the Economic Development/Planning/Zoning could follow the Finance/Audit Committee Meeting; the Mayor explained that Human Resources needed to follow sooner.

II. DISCUSSION OF AUDITOR PRESENTATION FROM FY 2022 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Matt Beran (Auditor) presentation from FY **2022** Annual Financial Report; highlighting Audit Report and Management Letter. Alderman Coleman questioned increase of **2 mil +**; Mr. Beran stated could answer with additional details. Alderman Coleman asked if the remodeling of City Council Chambers caused the overage.

Alderman Smith left at 8:44 p.m.

Mr. Beran read the **(3)** Management Letter responses:

- Implemented Capital Asset Policy adopted **November 2022**
- Recommended Actuarial Contributions for Police & Fire Pensions
- Home Rule Tax (**1%**) intention towards higher funding

Attorney Simon added more to follow up; Home Rule Tax was adopted in the spring and pension was accepted; Alderman Allen noted an additional **\$600,000** resulted. Treasurer Vance Wyatt clarified the Police Pension Fund wasn't formally approved; no quorum and Special Meeting scheduled **August 2023**.

Ms. Joyner added the funding would be utilized from the Casino, Home Rule and Property Tax. Adjustments were effective **2023**. She also explained the City Council adopted a **1%** Home Rule Sales Tax effectively **March 6, 2023**;

Mr. Beran commented that it was great collaborating with Tawanda.

I. DISCUSSION OF FINANCE/AUDIT MONTHLY REPORT:

Interim Comptroller Tawanda Joyner provided overview of the Finance/Audit Monthly Report. Previous year of **2022**, was **\$14,060.37+** and collected currently **\$50,575.00**.

Alderman Smith returned at 9:07 p.m.

Ms. Joyner explained had advocated financial numbers from **FY 2023**; Community Days collected **\$14,060.37** of donations; fees of **\$50,575.00**. Community Information Coordinator, Hombre Darby stated that the numbers were changing daily with vendors and new sponsors; **\$32,000** worth of pledges and awaiting payment.

Alderman Smith asked the financial goal for Community Days. Mr. Darby stated no exact number; benchmarked **\$70,000** based on previous years expense; **FY 2023 - \$113,000** money collected of which any unused funds to be carried over for the next year.

Alderman Allen questioned calculation of the numbers; Ms. Joyner explained and would include the Community Days monetary numbers monthly.

The Mayor clarified needed proceed from Community Days carrying over to the following year.

Alderman Coleman commended the Chair.

III. DISCUSSION OF TREASURER'S REPORT – JUNE 2023:

Treasurer Vance Wyatt provided the overview/summary of the Treasurer's report for **June 2023**. Including the accounts and investments. The amount of **\$5.1 mil** was utilized from the City's property tax; total month reports and YTD (Year to Date) would be updated accordingly.

Alderman Allen questioned **pg. 10** of the report why the bonds were held and if there was a plan; Treasurer Wyatt explained.

Attorney Simon added that generally the bonds were held for security purposes; Treasurer Wyatt clarified were paper losses based on the investment policy; **#1834** referred to Old National Bank Acct.

Alderman Jackson asked when both bonds mature; Treasurer Wyatt clarified both had matured as of **June 1, 2023**.

Alderman Coleman questioned if the monthly was part of the investment policy; Treasurer Wyatt explained that he administered the policy; it was approved **December 11, 2022**;

Attorney Simon added there was also an Annual Review of the Investment Policy; Treasurer Wyatt stated the information was located on the city website.

Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman Evans that the Finance/Audit Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023

9:23 PM

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith,

Absent: Murphy, January

I. DISCUSSION OF ENGINEER MONTHLY REPORT:

City Engineer Steve Cieslica provided the monthly report. The project status of **16th & Kemble Ave.** ordering materials and anticipated starting in **August 2023**; location from Abbvie east to west area. The Mayor questioned clarification with location of Sheridan and not impacting Community Days; Mr. Cieslica acknowledged that it would not affect those dates.

Continuing: Received a **\$5 mil** bond issuance will schedule appointment with Mayor; MFT and IDOT for Road Resurfacing he recalled the ramp on Rt. **137; 20th & Kristan Ave.** for Neal Math & Science Academy and **13th & Sheridan Rd. to Glenn Dr.** The Alley Program anticipating **2023** MFT & Alley Program out for bid; Lewis Ave. detention basin; designer surveyor working on storm sewer modeling portion of the project; SMC was leading Skokie River Enhancement Project assisting with the Strawberry condos moving forward with design phase and received 2nd submittal for a consultant.

II. DISCUSSION OF WATER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Consulting Public Works Director Bob Miller provided the Water Department monthly report. There were **(5)** Operators in training that took test and awaiting the results in several weeks; replacing pumps; replaced tubing and pumps were the last phase to be installed and rebuilt.

III. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Public Works Superintendent Tommy Johnson provided overview of the Public Works Department Monthly Report; there were **(3)** interns in process of taking the CDL road test; city-wide tree planting event with total of **(18)** trees and **(40)** more to come; repaired by sealing cracks on the roadway of Sheridan Rd. from MLK Dr. to Buckley Rd; alley cleanups; cutbacks on the Buckley Rd. ramp and diseased trees within the City.

IV. DISCUSSION TO PURCHASE A USED 2013 VACTOR 2100 TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$258,000 WITH TRADE-IN OF 1999 GMC UNIT AND TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING:

Mr. Miller explained the needed replacement of the Vactor **2100** Truck; current one is **24** years old and parts were unavailable. Asked to purchase a used **2013** truck in amount Not to Exceed **\$258,000** with trade-in of **1999** GMC unit and to waive competitive bidding due to difficulty in bidding used equipment.

Alderman Jackson asked the cost; Mr. Miller stated was **\$400,000**; Alderman Coleman questioned if equipment was able to vacuum leaves. Mr. Miller stated the truck was designed purpose for catch basins and sewers. Would consider budget for a leaf vac and would be placed on the curbside.

The Mayor disagreed with extra equipment with creating additional tasks and felt it wouldn't be effective. The citizens are well aware of placing the leaves in a bag for yard waste.

Alderman Coleman clarified wasn't suggesting starting a "leaf program" and commended the Public Works Department.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson that the Public Works Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023

9:40 PM

Vice Chair, Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Murphy, January

II. DISCUSSION OF INSURANCE RENEWAL PRESENTATION FOR MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION AND LIFE INSURANCE BY GLOBAL BENEFITS AND TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING:

Alderman Jackson asked to change the order from **II** as the first item to allow presenter.

Human Resources Director Liz Black introduced Global Benefits presenter; Kurt Schmitke. Met Life renewal was less than Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS); dental insurance for 2-year renewal; negotiable with BCBS if their cost was lowered by next year; no increase for Life or Vision insurance. Mr. Schmitke added no plan design changes for Met Life; a **7.7%** reduction; **\$4,100** credit. For vision insurance there was an administration fee of **\$1.00** monthly to EyeMed and pay the claim cost. The Mayor commended Mr. Schmitke on his presentation.

Mrs. Black asked to waive competitive bidding; Global Benefits was reliable and had consistent quality standards; attentive to city's needs, compared to other communities and received good rating; their vast experience and negotiated on city's behalf.

Alderman Allen questioned clarification with MetLife; Mrs. Black explained was a 2-rate guarantee. She asked if this item could be placed on the next Council Meeting, **August 7, 2023**.

Alderman Coleman asked when open enrollment was effective when approved; Mrs. Black stated **September 1, 2023**; medical was the same with BCBS; dental coverage was the same.

Attorney Simon clarified the Committee Chair procedurally was to move the item to Council Meeting.

III. DISCUSSION OF MANAGEMENT ANALYST ADMINISTRATOR PAYGRADE FROM A-15 TO A-14 FOR NEW HIRES:

Mrs. Black explained the grade of **A-14** for new hires (position of Management Analyst Administrator)

Alderman Coleman questioned clarification and Mrs. Black explained.

Mrs. Black stated the position was vacant within estimated month; she was doing her best; payroll processed etc.

Alderman Coleman provided scenario if position was vacant in 2-years; Mrs. Black was hopeful of filling position within **6** months. Alderman Coleman asked if any plan in the next **30-60** days; the Mayor replied no.

Alderman Smith asked if Mrs. Black had received response for internal prospects and what method were employees informed; Mrs. Black stated via e-mail there was **(1)** that she planned to follow-up with. Alderman Smith could there be a floater; Mrs. Black stated the previous individual started in another department. Alderman Smith stated it may have been overlooked and asked if e-mail communication was the best method and suggested posting on bulletin board in breakroom; reaching out to Department Heads of the position. Mrs. Black agreed with other methods.

Alderman Coleman questioned to maintain the next (90) days; The Mayor chimed in; adding that Mrs. Black would inform him accordingly if she was experiencing difficulty in her department; he would temporarily assist her with someone internally to continue her department functions.

Alderman Smith added was best to be pro-active vs. reactive and encouraged her not to be reluctant to request assistance.

I. DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Mrs. Black provided overview of Human Resources monthly report; 1 DHS Grant; ended walking challenge; 3 new hires in Public Works Department; part-time employee in E&CD assisting with claims; no liability claims; continuing payroll processing; openings for Chief of Staff and Water Operator Class A.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Coleman that the Human Resources Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023

10:15 PM

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Murphy, January

I. DISCUSSION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Fire Chief John Umek provided the overview of the North Chicago Fire Department (NCFD) Report. EMS and Rescue calls were **78%** of Total Call Volume; He reported **(2)** structure fires in the month of **June 2023**; **2023** there were **(22)** overdose count with Narcan and **21%**; North Chicago Fire Department EMS had **98%**, success rate and response time of **3.45** minutes; received a grant for Lucas Device assisting with CPR; EMS system had a **84%** success completion rate with average time of **7.3** and North Chicago Fire Department had a **55%** cardiac arrest statistic rate. There were **(4)** summer youth students employed; they were learning the basic operating drill; experience with computer and a short test.

The Mayor asked if any additional responses with pollution of fires; Chief Umek explained individuals with respiratory issues, he recommended limited time outdoors or wear a mask.

II. DISCUSSION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Police Chief Lazaro Perez provided the overview of the North Chicago Police Department (NCPD) Report. Lowest number of shots fired; conducting in year **2024** will launch interaction with Lake County Law Enforcement, Waukegan, Zion and Park City Police Departments on gang issues; last week (NCPD) Community oriented policing programs; National Night Out; Community Days and Community Watch Group; started gang intelligent programs with **(20)** agencies participated with a few on zoom; **August 1, 2023** hosting National Night Out; **3-8:00 p.m.**

Alderman Smith asked for clarification of parking ticket issues; Chief Perez stated no parking between **2-6:00 a.m.**; parking on the lawns and vehicles to be tagged and towed out of the City.

Alderman Coleman questioned clarification of the canine officer Kapone; Chief Perez explained had retired estimated **(3)** years prior.

Alderman Evans asked location for National Night Out event; Chief Perez stated was in process of finalizing the locations; reduced to **(4)** places throughout the City; not ward specific and last stop was tentatively Safe Place behind Grant Place; food provided and children's bouncy house.

Alderman Coleman asked status of former Lt. Diez; Chief Perez clarified had returned as a civilian and working on issues namely in the 2nd ward.

Alderman Allen returned at 10:26 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023

10:26 PM

Alderman Smith called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Murphy, January

Alderman Jackson left following Roll Call @ 10:26 p.m.

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

Economic & Community Development Director Victor Barrera gave monthly report highlighting the Comprehensive Plan Update; the following week the consultant would be starting stakeholder interviews; Lakota Group would in attendance at Community Days, Saturday and Sunday; Open House, **August 9, 2023; 6:00 p.m.** at the Neal Math & Science Academy; project established for Comprehensive Plan and Community Information Coordinator would be reaching out to social media page outlets; IGA with **\$4 mil** grant received from Brad Schneider Agreement hopeful of placing on the next **Council Agenda, August 7, 2023**; Business List to be established hopeful of following month; Reviewing Safebuilt agreement renewal and hopeful of placing on the next **Council Agenda**; B&F Code Construction Service; 1-year renewal to close project and remaining ones – Matthew Homes Project; after Community Days, Mr. Barrera and Mr. Darby, Community Information Coordinator would be a joint effort discussing initiatives and videotaping the business owners extending appreciation for their commitment to the City of North Chicago.

Alderman Jackson returned at 10:29 p.m.

Alderman Evans questioned clarification reducing inspections from **3** to **1** per week and asked if providing and meeting requirements; Mr. Barrera explained were providing the services, enough personnel with change of efficiency resulting in more plan reviews; permit inspections; with code enforcement. Alderman Evans had high concerns with image of Sheridan Rd. viaduct; Mr. Barrera had no information at this time and suggested covering it before revisiting the problem. He had idea of decorative ornaments and would be discussing it with the consultant about beautifying it.

Alderman Jackson proposed considering both a certificate of appreciation and the video presented to the business owner; Mr. Barrera mentioned they would also be invited to the business steak holder workshop.

Alderman Allen questioned status of Ricky Rockets; Mr. Barrera shared that original developer was selling to another group; meeting with the other group presented their past history experience; reviewing then signing off their rights; any parking or building design changes would require Council approval.

Alderman Smith was troubled with the building near McDonald's franchise; the grass height etc. Mr. Barrera explained the Code Enforcer would send notice to the owner there was broken glass from the windows; Mr. Barrera would follow up with the procedures;

II. DISCUSSION OF THE DONATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE TO FOSS PARK DISTRICT: (720 18TH ST.)

Alderman Coleman clarified had requested Item **II**; he explained property in the 2nd ward; **720 18th St.** wasn't being utilized and requested discussion of donating it to Foss Park District. Previously were

working on it and was returned for continued discussion. There was a new building with estimated **4-5** apartments; no front or back yard. He addressed the Foss Park District Board President Vance Wyatt what was the city's advantage for a park in the area needed; Mr. Wyatt explained it was a property value increase.

The size of the park would be determined within the confines; subject to review from the E&CD department.

Alderman Coleman would be in favor of donating the property providing there is construction within the requested time period. Mr. Wyatt chimed in explained it depended upon the construction time.

Attorney Simon added that in the past conveyance property was approved and explained the procedures of property donation to another entity quoting a property transfer act. Mr. Wyatt explained the property that it was previously council approved **October 7, 2019** and the City approved it first and following was the Foss Park District. Mr. Wyatt explained a delay until their next board meeting in **August 2023**.

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen that the Economic Development/Planning/Zoning Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023

10:54 PM

Mayor Rockingham, Jr., called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Murphy, January

I. DISCUSSION OF LIQUOR LICENSE FOR COCINA TRADICIONAL ESTILO GUERRO, 2302 MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE:

The Mayor allowed Gentlemen, Jonathan Jimenez to discuss his request. Mr. Jimenez mentioned it was a full-service restaurant gearing more towards fine dining with Mexican cuisine. He was requesting a full liquor license. The Mayor asked if he spoke to Finance Department requesting the license and Mr. Jimenez acknowledged.

Alderman Smith commented on their restaurant and encouraged others to attend.

Alderman Coleman questioned clarification if it was located in the 5th ward and if so, he would support the restaurant; Alderman Smith acknowledged it was.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans that Committee of the Whole stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.