

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

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

Following City Council Meeting

**JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

8:21 PM

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION OF ATTORNEYS:

Alderman Jackson explained that Alderman Evans had requested item **I**; Attorney Welch explained determined what item was to be discussed; he questioned clarification for the attorney's presence at the Committee discussion; Attorney Welch explained there was a retainer fee involved; Alderman Evans agreed and suggested reviewing it more thoroughly; Alderman Jackson asked for a copy of the attorney contract for council review.

Alderman January suggested the last **(2)** years of attorney invoices for their charges and the contract for comparison to the contract; the Mayor clarified that the invoice information wasn't in the contract excluding council meetings and would verify it accordingly.

Treasurer, Vance Wyatt explained the process to Alderman January.

Alderman Coleman suggested an Attorney representation as Speaker of the House in the council chambers; Alderman Jackson called "Point of Order;" the discussion had nothing to do with Speaker of the House; Attorney Welch was represented as the City Attorney. Alderman Coleman continued Suggesting a second opinion from another attorney due to possible conflict of interest; Attorney Welch Offered a general consensus of the council members moving forward and explained the process.

Alderman January suggested the existing ordinance to review at the next meeting, **August 21, 2023**. She ensured the council members that they could terminate the Mayor's appointment at any time if felt done wrongly and needed to be mindful with discussion of attorneys; Attorney Welch explained his tenure as an attorney since year **1997**; allowed to practice law in Illinois and never put himself in jeopardy; he volunteered to substitute for his fellow attorneys; he recused himself and accusations made; he had an ethical obligation; Alderman January explained there was no intention towards Attorney Welch; she disagreed with the partners and was provided misinformation from other attorneys. She appreciated his ethics statement.

Alderman Coleman apologized if Attorney Welch perceived as being personally attacked; he stated only today was to discuss aldermanic spending; Attorney Welch clarified it was a separate role as an attorney representing council in the most ethical way possible.

II. DISCUSSION OF CELL PHONE POLICY:

Alderman Coleman requested to hold the Cell Phone Policy until the next **Committee Meeting, August 21, 2023**.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

**BUILDING/LICENSE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

8:46 PM

Alderman January called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

I. Discussion of Special Event; Ms. Cassie Gray Family Reunion, August 12, 2023

Alderman January discussed and explained Special Event for Ms. Cassie Gray's Family Reunion, hosted Saturday, **August 12, 2023** moving forward.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson that the Building/License Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

8:48 PM

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION/REVIEW CORRECTIVE ASPHALT PROPOSAL IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$24,394.84:

Consulting Public Works Director, Bob Miller request for corrective asphalt proposal in Amount Not to Exceed **\$24, 394.84** (last year **2022** project). He was asking to utilize the same company competitively bid.

Alderman January left at 8:50 p.m.

This will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, August 21, 2023.**

II. DISCUSSION OF AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR THE BID – 2023 MFT ROAD PROGRAM:

City Engineer Steve Cieslica provided briefing concerning the streets and asked to view the map; he requested authorization to advertise for the **2023 MFT Road Program**. Once IDOT approved, will place it for bid.

Alderman Coleman questioned road to Foss Park; Mr. Cieslica explained was a private access roadway; only city easement; needed to elevate the road; rebuilding it so no water leaks into the water plant. He questioned warrantee work for any grading and no drain at **16th & Seymour Ave**; Alderman Evans Recommended discussing strictly the items and suggested speaking with the City Engineer.

Alderman January returned at 8:55 p.m.

III. DISCUSSION OF AUTORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR THE BID – 2023 ALLEY REHABILITATION PROJECT:

City Engineer Steve Cieslica requested authorization to advertise for the **2023 MFT Alley Rehabilitation Project**. Trying a new technique with the alleys to save cost; and explained the procedure with existing asphalt weather permitting would solidify into a pavement; the alleys were mainly utilized for garage access; Alderman Smith questioned clarification with feedback concerning plow trucks; Mr. Cieslica stated the ground would be frozen as a general rule and no problem.

IV. DISCUSSION/REVIEW AMENDMENT (1) TO THE CDBG BLOCK GRANT IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$829,878.00 FOR SANITARY SEWER CLEANING AND CIPP LINING:

City Engineer Steve Cieslica explained 1st Amendment to the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant in Amount Not to exceed **\$829,878.00** for Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and CIPP lining. The project is for the purpose of Argonne Dr. and Jackson; needed to repair the sewer initially to then rebuild the sewer.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

9:00 PM

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION OF ALDERMANIC EXPENSES:

It was suggested; a Legislative Council Ordinance for the aldermanic expenses; Alderman January questioned if the constituents could be assisted financially needing assistance from the City as a whole; Attorney Welch explained to seek guidance first for expending the money; question of a non-profit entity; for purposes of a shelter needed for that individual and if money was directly for them personally and if so, he suggested non-city taxpayer funds for their assistance. It could also be perceived for political purposes.

The Mayor disagreed with campaign funding; he directed Alderman January to discuss the issue with the Comptroller or Attorney if it was appropriate.

Alderman Coleman explained the alderpersons were reporting to an employee for credit card purchases and asked if the policy could be changed directed to the Treasurer; Attorney Welch explained that the City was a home-rule municipality with authority recommended other ordinance and once approved he acknowledged it could; Alderman Coleman questioned if ear apparatus could be purchased for during the zoom council meetings; Attorney Welch advised to seek guidance first and he didn't recommend it; Attorney Welch reiterated seeking guidance initially and if personally, he recommended city reimbursement. Alderman Coleman emphasized the reason for changing direction to the Treasurer's Office.

Comptroller, Tawanda Joyner explained and the Mayor added and elaborated further.

Alderman Coleman strongly stated the unfairness.

Alderman Evans questioned what was the memo based on; Attorney Welch explained per State Statutes and knowledge of the law; He mentioned was just receiving the memo attachment of the aldermanic budget; had a **\$9,000** budget and had to be scrutinized; Attorney Welch reiterating advising to seek guidance; taxpayer's money and direction of the comptroller if questionable before any expenditures. He agreed with Alderman January; Attorney Welch explained an example that needed to follow procedures for donations etc. Alderman Evans clarified the council were the decision makers yet were scrutinized; he would follow the directions if necessary. He questioned clarification of the memo and Attorney Welch explained was a guide for all elected city officials.

Alderman Coleman suggested the memo pertained to all elected city officials vs. aldermanic; he provided previous documentation, flyers to Attorney Welch.

Alderman January recommended across the board rules; she requested, disagreeing that employees have credit cards and to directed to the treasurer; need council review that the ordinance that it was germanely followed and she stated was unaware of the change.

Alderman Coleman called point of clarity and chair didn't acknowledge him; he asked to speak then asked for a parliament question and then addressed Attorney Welch with no response; the chair stated wasn't recognized

Alderman Coleman moved, seconded by Alderman January to recess the meeting until the next meeting, August 21, 2023.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

II. DISCUSSION OF I.T.

There was no discussion and will be rescheduled at another time.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.