

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

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

Following City Council Meeting

**JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**7:30 PM**

Alderman Jackson explained that the discussion was postponed.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

**I. DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF ELECTED OFFICIAL CELL PHONE POLICY:**

Alderman Jackson introduced Item I to be reviewed. Attorney Simon explained the Elected Officials should apply the same term of conditions as the employees. The summary of changes would include the following: It would also need to be budgeted accordingly and he offered a suggestion cost from the aldermanic budget.

Alderman Smith clarified that initially was informed he had the option of receiving a cell phone and then was told differently; Attorney Simon stated the policy wasn't approved at this time. He explained policy if he used his personal phone for city business, there could be a reimbursement share of the service money.

The mayor asked if this was something additional in the budget and then he asked if the policy would state from the Aldermanic budget; Attorney Simon clarified laptop and hotspots utilized from the cell phones.

Alderman Smith asked if the hotspot would be separate charge; Alderman Jackson asked if charged for international callers if out of state; Attorney Simon explained; Alderman Jackson mentioned to be mindful that the city phone was subject to FOIA.

Treasurer, Vance Wyatt stated that personal phones were subject to FOIA concerning city business and provided an example; Attorney Simon specified under certain circumstances. He elaborated further by utilizing personal devices for business and city device for business relating to the city.

Attorney Simon asked to strike the first line Section 3; indicating no reimbursement for expenses related to International data use.

The mayor questioned clarification of reimbursement for international location and receiving call concerning city business. Treasurer Wyatt added a Canadian Conference and Mayor echoed the same attending Canadian Conference though with Great Lakes next Year. Attorney Simon restructured language to read: no issuance of city cell phones outside United States without prior approval.

Alderman Jackson suggested case by case basis; The Mayor agreed with the language for international Location receiving calls city business related.

Attorney Simon again restructured language to read without eligibility of prior approval.

This will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, October 2, 2023**.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

The meeting Adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

**7:46 PM**

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

**I. DISCUSSION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:**

Fire Chief, John Umek provided the overview of the **August** Fire Department Monthly Report.

There was a total of **(9)** fires.

Alderman Evans focused question on the majority of opioid crisis with specific areas; there was a group soliciting; Chief Umek stated at 10<sup>th</sup> and Prescott; receiving calls throughout the city and unaware who was using.

Chief Umek continued; there were **(9)** emergency aid incidents locally; public outreach hosted first responders Internationally from Switzerland comparing similarities and differences between the fire departments; acknowledged officer Chris Buehler as translator.

The mayor questioned clarification of their sizes; Attorney Simon explained.

Training in process; continuing education; increased successful efficiency rate from **84%** to **90%**.

Alderman Smith questioned clarification of any fire department candidates; Chief Umek indicated 1.had interviewed and awaiting **(4)** others.

**II. DISCUSSION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:**

Police Chief, Lazaro Perez provided the overview of the Police Department Monthly Report.

Received **(11)** calls for naval housing; hired **(6)** new officers; received **\$9,500** from Lake County and hired **(1)** officer; conducting prayer for the officers **October 2, 2023** in the police parking lot; he was informed that a family household was trying to call **911** and unsuccessful of resolving the issue; he suggested routing the calls; a 3-year ShotSpotter agreement was forthcoming at **\$39,000** annually. Reported **(8)** shots fired resulting in reduction.

Alderman Smith questioned statistics; Chief Perez indicated **5-10%**; status of camera on **14<sup>th</sup> & Green Bay Rd.** Chief Perez spoke to IDOT and will place another on **Green Bay Rd & Rt. 137.**

Chief Perez explained had a series of meetings on zoom with the States Attorney Office.

The Mexican Independence Parade, largest at Foss Park, estimated **5000** with no law enforcement incidents; he suggested a combined effort with Community Days attracting more people.

Alderman Allen acknowledged Chief Perez.

Continuing: the substation would discourage the opioid users and be impactful.

Alderman Jackson questioned status with the kennel; Chief Perez there were no complaints and he stated had taken (3) canines.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

**FINANCE/AUDIT  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**  
**8:07 PM**

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

**I. DISCUSSION OF FINANCE/AUDIT DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:**

Tawanda Joyner, Comptroller provided the overview of the Finance/Audit Monthly Report.

The finance department had collected **88%** of the revenue; transfer stamps sales were slightly lower. Expenditures lowered; inspecting remaining items for Community Days; proceeds in amount of **\$21,058+**; T-shirts sold after the event; credit cards changed from Visa to Master Card effective **September 2023**; received partial payment of grant for camera and security to Brookstone amount of **\$102,198.98**.

Alderman Smith asked when audit and city rating; Ms. Joyner suggested an informational reading. Treasurer Wyatt clarified it would be a city cost with bond rating. Attorney Simon wouldn't change the rate.

**II. DISCUSSION OF TREASURER'S REPORT – AUGUST 2023:**

Treasurer Wyatt provided the **overview of the Treasurer's Report for August 2023**.

The highest earned monthly interest amount of **\$146,157.72**; interest rates should drop; on track for seed projection of Home Rule Tax and Casino.

**III. DISCUSSION – RENEWAL OF COMCAST TELEPHONY AND NETWORK SERVICES AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED APPROXIMATELY \$58,000 OVER THE LIFE OF THE 3-YEAR CONTRACT:**

Chris Franco, I.T. Network Administrator explained the renewal of Comcast Telephony and Network Services Agreement in the Amount Not to Exceed estimated **\$58,000** over the life of the 3-year Contract. The City would result in faster computer service; the new contract would save estimated amount of **\$6,500** savings over the 3-year period.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

# **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

**8:20 PM**

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

**I. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:**

Public Works Superintendent Clarence Johnson said the department continued to replace residential sidewalks, repaired awning on Audrey Nixon Blvd, trimming trees, cutting city owned lots and placed flashers on various stop signs.

**II. DISCUSSION/REVIEW EXTENSION OF EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH AMM ENTERPRISES TO PROVIDE PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH APRIL 30, 2024, NOT TO EXCEED AGGREGATE OF \$115,000 FY24:**

Mr. Johnson expressed the extensive knowledge and resources. He was a cost savings for engineering also; he was an asset to the department.

**III. DISCUSSION OF WATER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:**

Mr. Johnson gave an overview of the water pumped and the amount of water treated. Reconnected at the water plant completely and thanked the other suppliers that assisted while the plant was inoperable.

**IV. DISCUSSION OF ENGINEER MONTHLY REPORT:**

Engineer Steve Cieslica gave an overview of work that was being done on the streets in the city and various projects. The alley program was out to bid; due September 27<sup>th</sup> and approval at the next council meeting. Asphalt was going to be repurposed; was going to try a new process to pave the alleys. Lewis Ave. detention basin was being worked on. He gave an overview of several other projects being worked on. PW Storm Water – cleaning storm sewers; was using the Vactor truck.

Mayor Rockingham asked if the problem at 16<sup>th</sup> Street situation was handled. Mr. Johnson explained that the drain in the alley was packed and was sucked out. City Clerk Lori L. Collins asked about the gas markings on 20<sup>th</sup> St.; Mr. Johnson explained they were putting in fiber optic lines.

Mr. Cieslica explained that once all the sewers were cleaned there would be a schedule to keep up with cleaning to help prevent flooding.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

**8:33 PM**

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

### **I. DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:**

Human Resources Director Elizabeth Black gave an overview of Human Resource functions. New insurance and addressing employee matters. Alderman Evans asked if there were any internal positions; what was Clerk II position for. Ms. Black said Economic Development.

Police Chief Perez commended Ms. Black for her efforts with bringing the new police in and getting to the academy.

Alderman Allen moved seconded by Alderman Evans that Human Resources Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

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

**Alderman Coleman, Murphy and January were absent.**

The Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/ZONING  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

**8:38 PM**

Alderman Smith called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

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

ECD Director Victor Barrera gave an overview of the monthly work. Highlighted a ribbon cutting for Nia's (previously Rocky's). Compass gas station (formally Ricky Rockets on Skokie Hwy) discussions of the development. There were less than 50 participants in the survey for public input. He showed the permits issued and proposed. Alderman Smith asked if the interior of the train station was complete; Mr. Barrera said that Facilities Manager Chris Chirikos was working on that project.

**II. DISCUSSION OF SEECO ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACT RENEWAL:**

Mr. Barrera said that SECCO does the ground water testing at Sheridan Crossing; it had to be done and the report would go to IEPA. Would like to continue the relationship with them; had been doing the testing for the last 15+ years. The contract was for 1 year.

**III. DISCUSSION OF 2300 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR. – SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A  
BANQUET:**

Mr. Barrera explained one of 3 units in the building, the applicant was Alderman Smith. The floor plan was provided, parking would be agreed with property owner across the street. Alderman Jackson asked the capacity; Mr. Barrera said 150. Alderman Evans asked if there would be a crossing guard provided for people going to hall; Alderman Smith said no. Alderman Jackson asked if there was a liquor license needed; Alderman Smith said he was not requesting one at the time.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, Murphy, January

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.