

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:05 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, Murphy

Absent: Coleman, January

Mayor Rockingham stated that Alderman Coleman had not given the proper 2-hour notification for remote participation and Alderman January had not informed him that she would be absent.

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **January 16, 2024**

5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **January 16, 2024**

5-3 Approval of Contract Amendment #2 – SafeBuilt (Amendment to the SafeBuilt Service Agreement)

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evan, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman, January

MOTION CARRIED

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carmecia Hawthorn

Ms. Hawthorn stated concern of removed stop sign at the corner of Kristan Ave. and Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. in front of TeePee store. She was concerned for the safety of the children and others. Mayor Rockingham explained that Martin Luther Jr. Dr. was owned and maintained by Lake County and North Chicago had no more jurisdiction over that road. The County decided that the children should cross the street at Lewis Ave.

Dora King & Amelia Gonzalez

Mayor Rockingham allowed extra time to speak due to the subject matter.

Mrs. King announced that the North Chicago School Board was returning to an elected Board of Directors. It had been 11-12 years since the last elected Board. She thanked the Mayor for his participation in the efforts. Starting in 2025 the Board would be elected. She invited everyone to “a celebration and support of the District’s transition to an Elected School Board” March 19th, 6-7 p.m. at North Chicago High School. Ms. Gonzalez interpreted in Spanish.

Alderman January entered the Council Chambers at 6:12 p.m.

District 187 School Superintendent Price elaborated that there was intention to build a net zero energy efficient project at Forrestal School by way of grant monies. He appreciated the North Chicago staff with all their assistance. Planning for more students once the project is complete because the school would be bigger. Alderman Allen asked how more students would be allowed to attend. Mr. Price explained that if the student has an address in North Chicago, they would be able to attend that school.

Mayor Rockingham expressed his appreciation for Mr. Price's efforts toward the betterment of North Chicago. He also thanked Mrs. King and Ms. Gonzalez.

Bryan Oglesby

Mr. Oglesby concerned with litter along Lewis Ave. between Audrey Nixon Boulevard and 16th Street. He contacted Alderman Allen about the Dollar store that has all the garbage outside. He also mentioned the problem with graffiti. Alderman Allen thanked him for addressing the City Council and promised that the area would be cleaned up. Alderman January also appreciated him bringing to the City.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL – APPOINTMENT OF JAZMINE WRAY TO THE POLICE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the appointment of Jazmine Wray to the Police Citizens Advisory Committee.

Alderman January asked the term; Mayor Rockingham would inform.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor thanked her for taking time to serve on the Committee.

7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL – RESOLUTION FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF 211 DAY

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to approve the Resolution for Special Recognition of 211 Day.

Alderman January asked that the Resolution be read, City Clerk Lori L. Collins read the resolution. United Way of Lake County Gale Graves thanked everyone for their contributions. North Chicago was in the top 4 cities that utilize 211; they could be contacted by internet Click, Call or Text. Provided for all of Lake County residents.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham thanked them for their services and immediate assistance.

7-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL – RESOLUTION HONORING MICHAEL L. TAYLOR

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the Resolution Honoring Michael L. Taylor.

City Clerk Lori L. Collins read the resolution.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham recognized Mr. Taylor as a great renowned musician from North Chicago and gave a brief history.

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

General Corporate Fund	\$	499,591.77
General Grants Fund	\$	7,500.00
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	298.04
Skokie Highway TIF Fund	\$	26,211.91
Capital Projects Fund	\$	14,225.00
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$	148,711.53
Vision Fund	\$	4,540.62
Retiree Premium Fund	\$	16,554.69
Library Fund	\$	6,600.23
SPECIAL		
Economic Incentive Hamptons	\$	7,500.00
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TOTAL	\$	731,733.79

MOTION:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to pay the bills of Council Run 02/05/24 the amount of \$731,733.79 when funds become available.

Alderman January asked if the total included the Special Bills. The Attorney said that it did and should be stated in the motion.

Alderman January asked Comptroller Tawanda Joyner if there were sufficient funds, also when checks would be cut and sent, also amount in Water Fund. Ms. Joyner said funds were available, checks would be mailed and sent Wednesday; the amount in the Water Fund was **\$8,574,922.21.**

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

VARIOUS CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

*Alderman January thanked everyone for their continued prayers to and for her family in the time of husband Charles A. January, Jr. illness. Infection had spread to his heart.

*Alderman Smith asked that Aldermanic spending be placed on the Finance Committee. Alderman Allen (Chairman of Finance) replied he would not place it on Committee Agenda. Attorney Silverman explained that there was no ordinance that the states City Council on its own initiative can force an item to be placed on the agenda. Mayor Rockingham explained that it was up to the Chair. Alderman Allen suggested it be discussed offline.

*Alderman Evans thanked everyone for their prayers during the time of his illness. He announced that there would be a 3rd Ward meeting in April and suggested that everyone get involved. The Elected Officials were available any time.

*Alderman Smith asked if a motion could be made to put discussion of Aldermanic Expenses on an agenda. Attorney Silverman said that he could but suggested that he discuss with Finance Chairman first before it appeared on a Council agenda.

Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman Evans for Aldermanic Expenses be placed on Council agenda for discussion.

Alderman Jackson asked the reason for further discussion in Council and not Committee; Alderman Smith said due to some discrepancies about Aldermanic expenditures.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Evans, Smith, January

Nays: Jackson, Allen, Murphy, Mayor

Absent: Coleman

MOTION DENIED

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9-1 **EXECUTIVE SESSION 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(11) – PENDING OR PROBABLE LITIGATION AGAINST AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC BODY**

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy to suspend the Regular Order of Business to Executive Session 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(11) – Pending or Probable Litigation against Affecting Committee at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman January to reconvene the Regular Order of Business at 7:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk