

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, May 6, 2024, at 6:00 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, January

Absent: Coleman

Alderman Jackson moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to allow Remote Participation via Zoom for Alderman Coleman.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

No Vote: Coleman

Absent: None

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **April 15, 2024**

5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **April 15, 2024**

5-3 Approval of Treasurer's Report – **March 2024**

5-4 Approval of Procurement Ordinance Amendment for Department Purchases from **\$50 to \$100**

5-5 Approval of Resolution for Reallocation of **2024** Volume Cap; **\$3,811,250.00** to Village of Buffalo, Grove, IL

5-6 Approval of FY **2025** Public Works & Facilities Management Vendor List

5-7 Approval of a Contract with CDS Office Technologies for the Purchase of (4) Panasonic Toughbooks (Complete with Mounting Brackets and Applicable Warranties) in Amount of **\$17,621.00** to Replace the 2018 Models Currently Used for Patient Reporting

5-8 Approval of I.T. Surplus Equipment Destruction

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: January

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joel Williams – Executive Director Habitat for Humanity, Lake County

Announced that Habitat for Humanity would be building 3 new homes in North Chicago. There were going to be many volunteers from Abbott for 2 weeks (Week of Possibilities) to build the homes. The homes would be 1014 Lincoln St. and 1016 Wadsworth Ave. 1st Ward. The homes would be purchased and occupied by North Chicago residents. 1428 Hervey Ave. would be built by federal funds with different requirements.

Critical Repair Program for North Chicago would be working to obtain more federal funds to continue the program.

Phyllis Spencer

Concerned with parking at her home on Grove Ave. Her son received several tickets; there was not enough driveway to accommodate the number of vehicles; per ordinance they could not build another driveway. Mayor Rockingham agreed there were ordinances but also suggested that she speak with the Economic and Community Development Department. Ms. Spencer asked there be “no parking” signs placed on the streets; Mayor Rockingham said “no parking 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.” was posted at the main entrances of the City and it would not be feasible to place on every street.

Mayor gave an open invitation for her to speak to him or the Chief of Staff regarding other concerns.

David Hood

Mr. Hood asked if there were background checks for contractors who work for the City. Stated that Contractor Bob Miller was fired from previous job for excessive spending of City funds. As a citizen of North Chicago, he felt Bob Miller should not be working as a contractor in North Chicago. Asked for accountability and leadership.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF GP LIQUOR LICENSE – GAMING PARLOR AT 1611 AUDREY NIXON BLVD.

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve GP Liquor License for Gaming Parlor at 1611 Audrey Nixon Blvd.

Alderman Coleman clarified that the license was for proprietor Kajuan Hodge; the Mayor said that it was.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: Jackson, January

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS

General Corporate Fund	\$	557,099.53
General Grants Fund	\$	87,512.39
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	42,044.53
CDBG Fund	\$	150,559.45
Skokie Highway TIF Fund	\$	52.50
Capital Projects Fund	\$	311,379.26
Retiree Premium Funds	\$	609,735.18
	\$	870.12
	\$	11,984.21
Library Fund	\$	6,645.89
TOTAL	\$	1,777,883.06
SPECIAL RUN		
Community Days (Howard McGee)	\$	1,500.00
General Fund (Bio-Key)	\$	3,000.00
TOTAL	\$	1,782,383.06

MOTION:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to pay the bills of Council Run 05/06/24 the amount of \$1,782,383.06 (including special bills) when funds become available.

Alderman January asked Comptroller Tawanda Joyner if there were sufficient funds, when checks would be cut and sent, also amount in Water Fund. Ms. Joyner said funds were available, checks would be cut the following day and sent Wednesday; the amount in the Water Fund as of Thursday was **\$8,883,687.94**.

Alderman January questioned how much of the \$8,883,687.94 was liquid cash vs investments. Ms. Joyner was not sure at the time and would inform the Council.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: Coleman, January

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

VARIOUS CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

- * Alderman Evans congratulated and expressed excitement for Mayor Rockingham obtaining radio personality Crazy Howard McGee to attend the Community Days events 2024. He commented as Public Works Committee Chairman concerning allegations about Contractor of Public Works Bob Miller; the allegations may not be true. Stated that the City of North

Chicago previously had workers who mismanaged funds and suggested being careful when speaking about situations.

- * Alderman Jackson announced 1st Ward meeting, June 1st at the 10th Street Police Resource Center, 10 am – 12 pm
- * Alderman January concerned with safety at roundabout on Audrey Nixon Blvd. She was curious to the number of accidents at that location; Deputy Chief Gary Lunn stated that he would get information. Suggested education to the public on how to maneuver through roundabouts.
- * Alderman Smith said North Chicago was doing great things and number 2 city in the state of Illinois for having a business.
- * Chief of Staff Greg Jackson gave a recap of Springfield conference. Noting interest of Broadway Avenue and Public Safety. Project Commonwealth to conduct inspections of the buildings and businesses in that area. Mayor Rockingham explained that the Code Enforcer would focus on Commonwealth and the area behind Dunkin Donuts.

Alderman Coleman suggested considering (downtown) Sheridan Rd. Mayor Rockingham explained efforts/project was specifically for code enforcement and bringing buildings up to code. He agreed with looking at the businesses on Sheridan Rd. Alderman Coleman stated concern of new business owners being notified after being established that they were not up to code.

Alderman Smith questioned if street sweeping could be done on Sheridan Road. Mayor Rockingham explained that it was a State road. Public Works Director Tommy Johnson said the business was responsible for keeping the area clean; he noted that cars are always present and unable to sweep with the truck. He would investigate scheduling earlier. Alderman Smith asked who was responsible from the door to the curb for maintenance; Mr. Johnson said the property owner was responsible. Economic Development Director Taylor Wegrzyn explained that the City did some outreach and tried to afford the opportunity to allow the business to clean the area before ticketing. Many complied during that time; Alderman Smith suggested continuing to focus on that area.

Alderman Coleman questioned if fines/pressure could be applied to the property owner (landlord) and tenant for the clean-up and maintenance. Attorney Simon said both landlord and business are pursued with more emphasis on the landlord. If there was a judgement lien issued to the landlord, notice is given and they have an opportunity to cure the problem. If the landlord is not the focus it is harder to enforce the judgement. Alderman Coleman stated concern of absent landlords, looking for solution to address the tenant directly. Attorney Simon explained that a fine could be given to the tenant but once they are no longer in business the judgement would be hard to enforce. He referred to City Code 14-6-1 saying “the City had no obligation to issue permit or license to anyone who is indebted to the City.”

- * Mayor Rockingham acknowledged for condolences to Police Chief Lazaro Perez in the passing of his mother. Any Police matter should be directed to Assistant Police Chief Gary Lunn.
- * Mayor Rockingham wished Human Resource Director Elizabeth Black a Happy Birthday the previous week.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9-1 EXECUTIVE SESSION 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(11) – PENDING LITIGATION

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman January to suspend the Regular Order of Business to Executive Session 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(11) – Pending Litigation at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to reconvene the Regular Order of Business at 6:51 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

X. ACTIONS RELATED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

10-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT TERMS FOR 2nd AND MAIN CASES (19 ED 20; CH 237)

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the settlement terms for 2nd and Main cases (19ED 20; CH 237) in the amount of \$415,000.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk