

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, May 20, 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, Smith, January

4-1 Exchange Club of North Chicago Presentation; North Chicago Student of the Month and North Chicago Student of the Year *

October – Trenton Taylor

November – Danayla Sibert

December – Jabbari Sparkman *

January – Alison Maldonado

February – Leslie Diaz

March – Evelyn Ortega

April – Kymari Daniels

Alderman Smith entered the Council Chambers at 6:02 p.m.

Mrs. Vicki Estes–Brown President of the Exchange Club and 1975 graduate of NCCHS, announced the Students of the Month from October 2023 thru April 2024. Also included was Jabbari Sparkman recognized as Student of the Year who would receive a \$1,500 scholarship for further education.

Alderman January entered the Council Chambers at 6:05 p.m.

4-2 Oath of Office Administered to Members of the North Chicago Fire Department:

Ayman Reffat – Firefighter

Thomas Williams – Firefighter

Ryan Marcotte – Firefighter

Mayor Rockingham felt it was appropriate to recognize the servicemen, noting that Police and Fire serve the community. They put their lives on the line not knowing what to expect from every call. He thanked all emergency personnel. He swore in the newest firefighters.

Fire Chief John Umek stated his pride in the new firefighters.

Oath of Office Administered to Members of the North Chicago Police Department:

Matthew Decowski – Police Officer

Anthony Sindermann - Police Officer

Ese Davis – Police Officer

Tierro Groves – Police Officer

David Mando - Police Officer

Alan Taylor - Police Officer

Matteo Lopez - Police Officer

Jordan Kopf - Police Officer Police Officer

Carlos Fraticelli - Police Officer

Silvestre Delgado - Police Officer

Vinay Vellookunnel - Police Officer
Kevin Healy - Police Officer

Alexander Fellenz
Jeanette Reyes

Nicolas O'Donnel
Fernando Gomez
Joseph Cole
Alberto Mendoza
Jorge Ruiz
Hewad Wardak
Ben Wells

Mayor Rockingham thanked the police and swore them in.

Police Chief Lazaro Perez recognized Officer Ryan Brown for raising over \$1,700 for the Illinois Special Olympics.

4-3 Proclamation Recognizing **May 19-25, 2024**, as National Public Works Week

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the Proclamation Recognizing May 19-25, 2024, as National Public Works Week.

City Clerk Lori L. Collins read the Proclamation.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

Mayor Rockingham recognized Bob Miller (Contractor), Tommy Johnson (Superintendent) and Robert Freeman (Head Foreman); he presented the proclamation. Public Works Committee Chairman Alderman Carl Evans thanked each of them for their hard work and dedication. He noted that there were several Public Works employees that completed the Illinois Road Scholar program: Wanda Evans, Lawrence Jackson, and Reggie Clark. Robert Freeman studied at the Midwest Advance Public Service Institute and Alderman Evans gave him special recognition.

Mayor Rockingham recognized the Police and Fire Commission Board; Gerald Coleman, Bonny Mayfield, LaSha Brown and David Weil for their service selecting the officers and firemen.

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **May 6, 2024**

5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **May 6, 2024**

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rita Turman and Amias Turman

Mrs. Turman gave a statement of their property being taken by the City including \$100,000 construction money. She felt the City's approach was aggressive and punitive; no one deserved to be treated that way.

Mr. Turman explained he and his wife were lifelong residents of North Chicago and married 40 years. After the news about the taking of the property he contacted the Mayor, Alderman Allen and Alderman Smith. When he spoke to the Mayor, he was told it was a City Council decision, Alderman Allen referred him to Chief of Staff of less than a year and was not answered by Alderman Smith. He referenced the Tulsa massacre relating to a predominantly black community taking his property and money. He noted that he had also previously worked for the City.

Kejuan Hodge

Mr. Hodge thanked the Council for approving his business at the previous Council meeting (1611 Audrey Nixon Blvd.)

Dora King – President Independent Authority

She asked for volunteers to post banners in their yard or major areas to notify and prepare for the elected School Board in 2025. The

John Price – Superintendent of North Chicago Community School District

He firstly thanked the City for the Police and Fire Department, especially with their growing relationship with the school. He gave an overview of all the many projects going on in the school district. Highlighted demolishing and replacing the tennis courts, strong growth in academic testing and awarded 25 full-ride scholarships of 2024 class to attend College of Lake County through North Chicago Education Foundation.

Mayor Rockingham congratulated him on the number of high school graduates; Dr. Price said 191 crossed the stage. Alderman Smith asked how many of the graduates were attending CLC; Dr. Price said last year was 55 but did not have final numbers yet. Alderman Smith suggested getting that number. Alderman Evans offered to have a banner placed in his yard.

Janice Haye

Ms. Haye announced the Sounds of the Caribbean July 28th at Foss Park and requested a donation beyond the amount of previous year.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS

General Corporate Fund	\$	311,788.39
General Grants Fund	\$	30,775.78
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	264,735.27
CDBG Fund	\$	175.00
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TOTAL	\$	607,474.44

MOTION:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to pay the bills of Council Run 05/20/24 the amount of 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 **\$9,170,897.40**. Alderman January asked the amount of liquid cash vs. investment; Ms. Joyner it was all liquid. Treasurer Vance Wyatte explained **\$1,343,516.29** was not liquid.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: January

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

VARIOUS CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

- * Alderman Evans announced the 3rd Ward yard sale June 1st at corner of Sheridan Rd. and 18th St. starting at 8 a.m. Also, June 8th at 11 a.m. annual picture day for the 3rd Ward but all were invited. There would be pray time June 8th event.
- * Alderman Jackson announced the 1st Ward Meeting June 1st at the North Chicago Community Resource Center, 910 10th St, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- * Mayor Rockingham wished everyone a safe, joyful and happy Memorial Day.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk