

# MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:01 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, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith, January

Absent: Murphy

**Alderman Coleman moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to allow Remote Participation of Alderman Murphy in Zoom.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

No Vote: Murphy

Absent: None

4-1 Medal of Valor Award presentation for:

Sergeant Florence & K9 Six  
Officer Mateo Lopez  
Officer Vinay Vellookunnel  
Officer Anthony Sindermann  
Officer Tierro Groves  
Officer Micah Cress

Police Chief Lazaro Perez explained that the recognized officers were on a domestic call with a firearm in the 1100 block of Broadway. The suspect battering his mother, one person was forced outside, the suspect climbed out the window and the suspect shot at Officer Lopez. 2 additional shots were fired, and the suspect was found within 20 minutes. This medal is in honor of protecting the citizens and going above the call of duty. Officer Michah Cress had received this medal previously for also being shot at.

Mayor Rockingham acknowledged these officers' held restraint and commended them for their service. He thanked the Chief and Assistant Chief for training the officers in the right way. Alderman Smith thanked the officers for keeping crime under control.

**V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA**

- 5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **March 4, 2024**
- 5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **March 4, 2024**
- 5-3 Approval of Approval of Ordinance Amending **2-2-2 Section F**; Remote Participation Policy
- 5-4 Approval of the Hutchinson Design Group, Ltd. Proposal **Not to Exceed Amount of \$77,750.00** for Construction Administration Services for the Water Treatment Plant Roofing Removal and Replacement Project

5-5 Approval of Ordinance Amending Title 5 of the City Code Regarding Business License Regulations

**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**

**Rayon Edwards**

He recalled recent news about an alderman in the news for misconduct, and he was innocent until proven guilty. He suggested that the elected officials discuss the situation with the employees to get their views. The elected officials needed to work together and stop the bickering amongst one another. The city would not move forward without working together.

**VII. REGULAR AGENDA**

7-1 PROCLAMATION – ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the Proclamation – Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.**

Alderman January asked the resolution be read; City Clerk Lori L. Collins read the resolution.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL – AWARD OF 2024 DEMOLITION PROJECT TO C-FORCE CONSTRUCTION NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$68,975

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve award of 2024 demolition project to C-Force Construction not to exceed amount of \$68,975.**

Alderman Coleman asked if the demolition was bid. Mayor Rockingham acknowledged that it was.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL – AWARD OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ROOFING REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT TO BENNETT & BROSSEAU ROOFING, INC. NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$5,350,000

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the award of the Water Treatment Plant roofing removal and replacement project to Bennett & Brosseau Roofing, Inc. not to exceed amount of \$5,350,000.**

Alderman Coleman said there needed to further discussion considering the cost and pension obligations. Mayor Rockingham explained that it had been discussed in detail.

**Alderman Coleman moved, seconded by Alderman January to return discussion to Committee Meeting.**

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson elaborated that the cost included air condition and the monies allocated from the Water Enterprise Fund could not be used for pensions.

Alderman Coleman mentioned that there was flooding in the Water Treatment Plant previously and asked if the equipment that caused the flooding was repaired. Interim Public Works Director Bob Miller many of the items were put in the budget for next year. Further noted that there were many leaks causing the building to rapidly deteriorate and needed total replacement (being held by poles); the cost included more intricate details than just the roof.

Alderman Coleman clarified if there was boil order; Public Works Superintendent Clarence Johnson said there was not. He asked if the valves and knobs were repaired on the control board; Mr. Johnson explained that the knobs work. Mr. Miller explained that power was lost, which caused the loss of air pressure.

Mayor Rockingham asked if the roof was more urgent than the valves at the time. Mr. Miller agreed that and that the cost was expensive and if extended would cost more.

Alderman January asked if it was one company to do all the work. Stated confusion as to the work that was included. Attorney Simon stated the items that were included in the bid packet presented. Alderman January stated the amount in the Water Fund the previous meeting as over \$8 million.

Alderman Coleman asked worst case scenario if valves were to go out. Engineer Steve Cieslica explained if power were lost the operators would have to close valves manually. Alderman Smith asked if there was ever an assessment; Mr. Cieslica said there was on in 2019 performed by Larson & Darby. It was presented multiple times and there is much more work to be done. Mayor Rockingham explained that both interior and exterior were both assessed. The suggestion of the staff was his agreed direction.

**Alderman Coleman moved, seconded by Alderman January to withdraw the motion to move to Committee for further discussion.**

**ROLL CALL to approve replacement project:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-4 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS

<b>General Corporate Fund</b>	<b>\$ 174,375.31</b>
<b>Motor Fuel Tax Fund</b>	<b>\$ 47,443.02</b>
<b>Capital Projects Fund</b>	<b>\$ 22,204.20</b>
<b>CDBG Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,061,804.91</b>
<b>Skokit Highway TIF Fund</b>	<b>\$ 321.25</b>
 <b>TOTAL</b>	 <b>\$ 1,306,148.69</b>

**MOTION:**

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to pay the bills of Council Run 03/18/24 the amount of **\$1,306,148.69** 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 **\$8,399,986.85**.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: Coleman, January

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

**VARIOUS CONCERNS AND COMMENTS**

\* Alderman January thanked everyone for continued prayers for her husband who was getting stronger. She questioned Police Chief Perez on many break-in incidents in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward. Chief Perez said cars that were stolen were unlocked and had keys. Notices were put out to remind everyone to lock vehicles; several suspects were captured. Alderman January commended the police for the work in the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward.

\* Alderman Smith announced invitation to 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Meeting, March 30, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at 2300 MLK Dr.

\* Alderman Evans noted that Council packets were distributed on Thursday and if there were questions pertaining to any items on the agenda that Department Heads were available prior to the meeting. There should not be so much discussion about items previously discussed. The elected officials were to perform a job and should be visible in the community.

He announced the +3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Meeting and fashion show, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Foss Park Community Center. The event was free, and all were welcome.

\* Alderman Coleman asked if there could be an Executive Session to discuss disciplinary action of an Alderman. Attorney Simon explained the Council did not have authority to discipline an alderman under 2 (c)(3) of the Open Meetings Act. Alderman Coleman asked Treasurer Wyatt what codes were discussed; he said the same referenced by Attorney Simon. Attorney Simon read the statute.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

9-1 EXECUTIVE SESSION 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(11) – LITIGATION and 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(12) – ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVES OR SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to suspend the Regular Order of Business to Executive Session 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(11) – Litigation and 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(12) – Establishment of Reserves or Settlement of Claims at 6:56 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman January to reconvene the Regular Order of Business at 7:14 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**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 7:15 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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**Lori L. Collins, City Clerk**