

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, April 15, 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, Evans, Allen, Smith, January

Absent: Coleman, Murphy

Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman January to allow Remote Participation via Zoom to Alderman Coleman and Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith, January

Nays: None

No Vote: Coleman, Murphy

Absent: None

Mayor Rockingham asked that Items 7-1 and 7-2 be moved for presentation. Consensus was agreeable to do presentations.

7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CAROL WELSEK FRANK, FRANK'S LOUNGE & DAVE H. NEWSOME, DAVE'S BARBERSHOP FOR 60 YEARS OF BUSINESS IN NORTH CHICAGO

Alderman January moved, seconded Alderman Jackson to approve Resolutions for Carol Welsek Frank, Frank's Lounge and Dave H. Newsome, Dave's Barbershop for 60 years of business in North Chicago.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

City Clerk Lori L. Collins read resolution of Carol Welsek Frank. Mayor Rockingham thanked Alderman Allen for being in the forefront of acknowledging the businesses in North Chicago; he noted Mrs. Frank business was for 72 years in North Chicago. He presented her with a plaque. Mrs. Frank thanked North Chicago for its support through the good times and bad. She acknowledged her staff and appreciated them. Alderman Murphy congratulated Mrs. Frank via Zoom.

City Clerk Collins read resolution of Dave H. Newsome. Mayor Rockingham presented Mr. Newsome with a plaque in recognition of his business in North Chicago of over 60 years. He noted that Mr. Newsome provided opportunities for other barbers and beauticians.

Alderman Allen honored Mr. Newsome for 63 years and encouraged everyone to support local businesses. Alderman Smith congratulated Mr. Newsome for success in North Chicago. Mr. Newsome thanked Alderman Allen and the City for the acknowledgement.

7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR DAVE H. NEWSOME, DAVE'S BARBERSHOP FOR 60 YEARS OF BUSINESS IN NORTH CHICAGO

APPROVED WITH ITEM 7-1

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

- 5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **April 1, 2024**
- 5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **April 1, 2024**
- 5-3 Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Emergency Water Supply Interconnection Between the City of Waukegan and City of North Chicago in Amount **Not to Exceed \$125,000**
- 5-4 Approval of C-Force Construction Inc. to Build a Temporary Pad for Pace Bus Shelter at the James A. Lovell Naval Hospital in Amount **Not to Exceed \$12,000**
- 5-5 Approval to Increase Contract Value of the **2024** Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Painting Project **Not to Exceed** Price of **\$100,000** for BP & T Construction from **\$81,718.30**
- 5-6 Approval of Extension to the Agreement between the City of North Chicago and AMM Enterprises, Inc.
- 5-7 Approval of Professional Service Agreement with Hera Property Registry LLC for Vacant and Foreclosed Properties
- 5-8 Approval of Contract with Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. for Purchase of Firefighting Bunker Gear (PPE) **Not to Exceed \$14,000**
- 5-9 Approval of Microsoft P1 Style Licenses for DUO 2-factor Authentication **Not to Exceed Amount of \$11,880**
- 5-10 Approval of a Maintenance Agreement for City's APC/UPS **Not to Exceed Amount of \$17,858.96**
- 5-11 Approval of Fortinet Firewall/Switches to Replace Old End of Life City Equipment **Not to Exceed Amount of \$5,830**

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: January (did not agree with some items and agenda was not germane)

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rayon Edwards

Concerned with partying on 10th Street and excessive gun violence. Suggested camera surveillance in the front and back of all businesses. He stated that Alderman Coleman owed the taxpayers an apology for cutting the cameras at the Water Plant. He noted that Alderman January continually voted no on City Bills. "Evey champion knows when to step down."

Mayor Rockingham welcomed Mr. Edwards comments and stated that there were going to be new police officers to join the force to help curtail some of the violence. The City would be attempting more surveillance through technology.

Mr. Edwards was upset about dispatch calls; called and rang 10 times another 6 times with no answer. Alderman Coleman stated that everyone is innocent until proven guilty. He asked that everyone reserved judgment until court decision; thanked everyone that had supported him. Alderman January expressed that she fights for the citizens of North Chicago and offered anyone to contact her to discuss the reasons why she votes the way she does.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

- 7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR CAROL WELSEK FRANK, FRANK'S LOUNGE FOR 60 YEARS OF BUSINESS IN NORTH CHICAGO

Moved to after Roll Call

- 7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR DAVE H. NEWSOME, DAVE'S BARBERSHOP FOR 60 YEARS OF BUSINESS IN NORTH CHICAGO

Moved to after Roll Call

- 7-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF FY 2025 BUDGET

Alderman Allen moved, seconded Alderman Evans to approve FY 2025 Budget.

Alderman January asked Comptroller Tawanda Joyner what accounting method was being used in preparing the budget. Ms. Joyner said Governmental. Treasurer Vance Wyatt explained the method was Modified Accrual, basic for most municipalities, Government Account Standards Board compliant.

Alderman January asked if audit recommendations were rectified. Ms. Joyner explained the issues noted were credit cards and pensions, which were both being worked on. Alderman Coleman asked Chief of Staff Greg Jackson if petty cash was placed in City Clerk's Office. Mr. Jackson explained that there was working cash in the Comptroller's Office. Alderman Coleman clarified the conversation was to purchase water and include the Clerk's Office; he thought it was going to be done through petty cash. Mr. Jackson said that it would be taken care of.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: January

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham commended Ms. Joyner for her work on the budget.

- 7-4 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL TO REAPPOINT FIRE CHIEF JOHN UMEK AND TREASURER VANCE WYATT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FIREFIGHTER'S PENSION FUND

Alderman January moved, seconded Alderman Jackson to vote on each person separately.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Smith, Murphy, January

Nays: Evans, Allen

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Jackson moved, seconded Alderman January to reappoint Fire Chief John Umek to the Board of Trustees of the Firefighter's Pension Fund.

Alderman Jackson asked the term; Treasurer Wyatt answered 2 years.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Coleman

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman January moved, seconded Alderman Jackson to reappoint Treasurer Vance Wyatt to the Board of Trustees of the Firefighter's Pension Fund.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

7-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS

General Corporate Fund	\$	374,216.47
General Grnats Fund	\$	108,313.77
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	791,562.84
Debt Service 2007C Fund	\$	100,517.25
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$	294,167.12
Vision Fund	\$	1,159.06
Retiree Premium Funds	\$	18,046.68
Library Fund	\$	6,600.23

TOTAL **\$** **1,694,583.42**

MOTION:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to pay the bills of Council Run 04/15/24 the amount of **\$1,694,583.42 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 **\$8,595,975.96**.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: Coleman, January

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

VARIOUS CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

- * Alderman Evans noted that there was an open policy for Aldermen to discuss any matters on the agenda prior to the meetings with Department Heads, stop “grandstanding.” There were 2 weeks between meetings. He announced the 3rd Ward Meeting Saturday, April 20th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. He noted several City projects.
- * Alderman Coleman explained that he voted NO for bills was because there were bills that did not have receipts, there needed to be checks and balances. Employees were questionable about ethics. There was a need to protect the funds and to make proper decisions. He would continue to vote no until there are those checks and balances. Bills were going to be paid regardless of the 2 aldermen’s vote. Asking for accountability.
- * Alderman January thanked Alderman Coleman and expressed the need for transparency to citizens. She announced that her husband Charles January came home from the hospital Tuesday. Mayor Rockingham was glad to hear that and getting into good health.
- * The Chief of Staff acknowledged he had been working with the City for 8 months, which have been challenging and exciting experience. He also commended the Comptroller for her work and completion of the budget. He announced Legislative Days in Springfield and presented the Council with a packet of information detailing items that were going to be requested priorities for funding.

Mayor Rockingham noted that North Chicago the City used to be funded LGDF at 10%, currently 6.4% lost, needed to be back at 10% for various projects. He noted there was approximately **\$100,000** in grocery tax to be lost; this bill is no benefit back to the State causing a local burden.

Alderman Smith asked reason to remove grocery tax; Mayor Rockingham was not sure of the Governors reason. Alderman Allen said the issues needed to be addressed as a team and suggested if not attending Springfield; email, call, or contact somehow.

Alderman Evans suggested that to the Chief of Staff Greg Jackson to address funding for a leaf truck; Mr. Jackson said that numbers were prepared for discussion.

Alderman Coleman congratulated Ms. Joyner on a successful budget. The Chief of Staff was a breath of fresh air and he did a good job. He commended the Aldermen for passing the budget by the deadline. He agreed with coming together as a unit to present to Legislators. The Mayor noted several grants awarded to the City.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9-1 EXECUTIVE SESSION 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(1) – APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to suspend the Regular Order of Business to Executive Session 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(1) – appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees at 7:11 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 7:39 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 – WAIVING FIRST READING OF BAXTER WOODMAN PROPOSAL FOR STAFF AUGMENTATION

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve waiving first reading of Baxter Woodman proposal for staff augmentation.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Recuse: Coleman

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

10-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF BAXTER WOODMAN PROPOSAL FOR STAFF AUGMENTATION NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$36,000

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman January to approve Baxter Woodman proposal for staff augmentation not to exceed amount of \$36,000.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Recuse: Coleman

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 January that the meeting stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk