

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024

**City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Avenue, North Chicago, IL 60064**

Following City Council Meeting

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEETING

6:15 PM

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy (RP), January (RP)

Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 5 REGARDING BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS:

Taylor Wegrzyn, Economic & Community Development Director explained the Ordinance amendment transfers duties to his department and new fees within the ordinance.

Alderman Coleman addressed to recognize the Building/License Chair. Alderman January expressed her opinion with the procedures. She asked Mr. Wegrzyn what would ensure the businesses follow the hours of operation submitted on the application.

He explained there could be enforcement of the hours; he suggested time educating the business owners during inspections sending a friendly reminder appropriately posting the hours. Alderman January emphasized the City was losing sales tax when businesses are closed especially with liquor license or gaming. She asked if some component could be included to hold accountability to the hours. Attorney Silverman focused more on the closure that affected surrounding properties. The opening hours were dependent upon the owner. He agreed with the proactive approach from Mr. Wegrzyn discussed with the Chief of Staff and attorneys. Attorney Silverman suggested reaching out to the owner(s).

Alderman January partially agreed with the education aspect; reiterated the city was losing revenue and it was the owner's responsibility for any unforeseen occurrences.

Alderman Allen added the business owner paid city taxes and was the owners right to when the establishment opened. Alderman Coleman agreed with concerns of the needed flexibility; echoed Alderman January's sentiments with businesses who opened consistently late. More continuity was needed with the hours and stronger ordinance if chosen to amend it.

Alderman January asked if there was a final attachment for council review before approval.

This will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, March 18, 2024.**

II. DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 2, CHAPTER 4, SECTION 3 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING DUTIES OF CITY TREASURER:

Treasurer Vance Wyatt explained there were (2) Sections: **H** and **I**. Treasurer Wyatt continued he

attended a money management course in **2023**. On **April 19, 2022**, section **H** was approved by Attorney Simon with ordinance amendment, and he had been awaiting since then.

Alderman Coleman asked to reschedule item **II** for further review. City Clerk Collins debated that attachments were sent several times.

This will be placed on the next **Committee Agenda, March 18, 2024**.

III. DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF ORDINANCE AMENDING 2-2-2; SECTION F OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Chief of Staff, Greg Jackson explained the ordinance amending **2-2-2 – Section F** regarding remote participation. It was amended language to the remote participation policy.

Chief of Staff Jackson acknowledged it complied with the State Statute as requested. Alderman January suggested when an Ordinance item was to be reviewed for discussion, that an attachment was provided with final wording before it was approved.

Alderman Coleman had commented that the policy had facilitated those zoom meeting(s). He asked if the council members could receive the final agenda with attachments no later than Thursday before the next meeting. This allowed ample time for everyone's review.

The Mayor would make strong attempts to provide everything by Thursday though there may be hiccups. Chief of Staff Jackson has also informed staff of the changes. Treasurer Wyatt added he may be later since the State confirmed their deposit in the middle of the month.

Alderman Coleman understood there were others with different circumstances of more control. He asked for a collective effort from everyone.

Alderman January agreed to place the item(s) on Council for approval. She just asked for a copy to review if needed.

This will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, March 18, 2024**

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Smith that the Judiciary Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy (RP), January (RP)

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

**FINANCE/AUDIT
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024

6:47 PM

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy (RP), January (RP)

Absent: None

**II. DISCUSSION OF APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024
REALLOCATING \$40,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 115 LINE 50900 “OTHER
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES” TO BE PROPORTIONALLY REALLOCATED TO LINE
65051 TO 65057 “ALDERMANIC EXPENSES”:**

Chief of Staff, Greg Jackson explained the request for **\$40,000** reallocated for aldermanic expenses (Legislative Budget) from the **2024** Appropriation Ordinance. It rested upon the council members vs. staff. In addition, re-evaluating the future expenses for **FY 2025**. This item led to a proposal, and he was asking for a consensus moving forward. He compared other local municipal aldermanic expenses and explained expenditure items, pension obligations, froze the property tax within the **2025** budget. The **\$9,000** for each alderman had already been spent; remaining amount of **\$37,000** was for the fiscal year; he recommended it was utilized for the last (7) weeks of the fiscal year. It would allow for flexibility as needed with spending amongst the council members. All departments have been provided with the direction of free spending.

Alderman Jackson asked why the need of addition expenditures; he won't support it or an amended ordinance. Alderman January agreed with Alderman Jackson; she recalled was unable to attend the conferences and if so, would be overbudgeted.

Chief of Staff Jackson agreed needed an effective mechanism to serve all interests.

Alderman Evans emphasized the aldermen wasn't asking for additional money; funds were already budgeted but not utilized.

Alderman Coleman inquired if **2025** budget would be separate line items and if decision was to pool the money or not. Chief of Staff Jackson explained, the budget would need several options with strict guidelines. It would require due diligence. Alderman Coleman expressed need to spend the remaining amount.

Mr. Jackson strongly stated it was the best solution, based on what was requested and the need of the council.

Alderman Allen suggested the remaining money be placed in the general fund for the police.

Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson that the Finance/Audit Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy (RP), January (RP)

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting stand adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024

8:15 PM

I. DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT POLICY:

NO MEETING WAS HELD