

**MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024**

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

Following City Council Meeting

**JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**6:55 PM**

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: None

**I. DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF AMENDING TITLE 2; CHAPTER 4; SECTION 3 – DUTIES OF TREASURER:**

Alderman Coleman provided his opinion with amending duties of the Treasurer; it protected the taxpayers with more neutrality and transparency. He asked that item **I** be moved to Council Meeting.

Alderman January suggested the wording exception of Mayor changed to all elected officials.

Alderman Allen questioned clarification of the state law.

Chief of Staff, Greg Jackson mentioned had spoken with the auditors, not only complying with State. Though the U.S. Code, the credit card were tools and the purchasing agent currently was the comptroller. His survey indicated that only (2) municipalities have credit cards for the legislative body. Lauterbach and Amen clarified should be affiliated with the Comptroller's Office for checks and balances.

Treasurer, Vance Wyatt compared City of Waukegan with the same system in the County as North Chicago's. He distributed their credit card policy. The administration of the credit and fuel cards was the Treasurer's duty and he referred to previous e-mails. The credit card for an alderperson was forcefully removed from his office. He clarified that the Ordinance amendment indicated no changes to the procurement ordinance or purchasing agent etc. This would resume the same procedures when in office year of **2021**.

Alderman Coleman gave accolades to the Comptroller on her wonderful job. He trusted her professionalism and decision-making process. Treasurer Wyatt clarified the issuance of credit cards and increased amount was the treasurer's duties. The actual charges were from the Comptroller's duties. Section **H** was stricken from the Ordinance and he suggested striking word agent for other persons. Lake County Treasurer, Holly Kim networked with Old National Bank and Great Lakes Credit union for some of the financial classes. There were federal programs that allowed cities to apply for grants and networked with the non-for-profit organizations and administered appropriately within the community.

Attorney Silverman directed the city council accordingly.

Alderman Jackson asked if there were other treasurers affiliated with the programs. Treasurer Wyatt mentioned Lake County Treasurer, Holly Kin was very active. He clarified there was no state code or county ordinance. Alderman Jackson asked if the State Treasurer or other organization had programs. Treasurer Wyatt replied there were programs in the Illinois Treasurer's Association annually or will partner with the local banks. Alderman Jackson questioned if he had foreseen any liability. Treasurer Wyatt clarified that it was for the purpose of financial education. He taught financial education classes at CLC and the documents needed the language as such so it didn't result in any city liability.

The Mayor had liability concerns and provided a scenario. Treasurer Wyatt explained he served as a commissioner and could be threatened with a suit. Alderman Allen agreed with possibility of a suit and preferred no more cost on the taxpayers. Alderman Coleman clarified less exposure from someone suing the City for a class. Accolades to the Treasurer, while he was a teacher in classes, there was an opportunity to teach the next generation.

Alderman Jackson had concern with the language proposed with the State Statutes. Attorney Silverman explained it would resume his duties. He had concerns with the language when introduced in **2022**. There were many qualified organizations that the treasurer office could refer to programs. Should consider potential liability, suggested no change, confusion with Comptroller's powers and no need to change auditors.

Alderman Coleman disagreed with Attorney Silverman. He recommended to financially educate ourselves, need to use common sense adding transparency to the system.

Alderman Evans added there was no current ordinance for comparison. Treasurer Wyatt explained he drafted an ordinance and sent for attorney review. Alderman Jackson explained was comparing to the **2022** ordinance that was placed on the desks in the council chambers. The amendment was to **H** and **I**.

Alderman Jackson advised to table **Item I**.

Alderman January understood contradictions, no full “checks and balances.” in the City. She agreed with the Chief of Staff suggesting extra balances in the finances with possible language. Possibly comparing it with City of Waukegan. She agreed with placing item **I** on hold and continual discussion.

The Mayor disagreed, he recognized Ms. Joyner doing an excellent job.

Alderman Coleman addressed a credit card purchase from the Executive office and asked if she received the receipt. Comptroller Tawanda Joyner explained it wasn't a detailed one. He questioned in detail and Mayor elaborated further with complications that arose. He was detained for many hours at the airport that included a meal. Alderman Coleman needed to secure accountability and transparency. Ms. Joyner stated that generally a detailed receipt was provided. Alderman Coleman added it was to insure the proper checks and balances.

Alderman January asked for continued discussion of **Item I** until finalized for approval. Alderman Jackson agreed. He asked that the Chief of Staff and attorneys provide the necessary language needed for the amendment.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman January that the Judiciary Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024**  
**7:32 PM**

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: None

**I. DISCUSSION TO APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR  
EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN THE CITY OF  
WAUKEGAN AND CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED  
\$125,000:**

Interim Consulting Public Works Director Bob Miller explained the City of Waukegan and City of North Chicago had a cost share of **50%** of an Intergovernmental Agreement **Not to Exceed Amount of \$125,000.**

**Alderman Smith left at 7:32 p.m.**

**Alderman Smith returned at 7:36 p.m.**

Alderman Evans questioned that City of Waukegan had the same access to the valve. Mr. Miller clarified it was the city's jurisdiction.

Alderman January questioned clarification. Mr. Miller explained it was the city's cost not to exceed the amount of **\$125,000.**

**II. DISCUSSION TO APPROVE 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:**

Mr. Miller stated had collaborated with PACE for a temporary pad for bus shelter until future intersect improvement and permanent shelter.

Alderman Evans asked when the construction would commence. Mr. Miller explained estimated **(2)** years. The Mayor added that it may be longer.

Alderman January questioned clarification of additional cost and why a temporary pad for the shelter; Mr. Miller explained it was utilized as a bus stop until the permanent one was placed. There were disabled veterans that used the bus stop and would install a temporary pad for the shelter until a permanent one was placed. Chief of Staff, Greg Jackson added the City was paying for the PACE Shelter and laying concrete. PACE Bus was paying for the cost of installation and purchase of the shelter. Alderman January asked if it was a state road. Mr. Miller stated that Rt. **137** was a state in conjunction with IDOT. She asked if an IGA was needed with IDOT. Attorney Silverman explained. Alderman Evans would ensure the Veterans were cared for.

**III. DISCUSSION TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT VALUE OF THE 2024 WATER  
TREATMENT PLANT (WTP) PAINTING PROJECT TO NOT TO EXCEED PRICE OF  
\$100,000 FOR BP & T CONSTRUCTION FROM \$81,718.30:**

Mr. Miller explained the previous cost of **\$81,718.30** was approved, there was additional painting needed at the water plant. It was budgeted for **\$100,000.**

**IV. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTION OF AN EXTENSION TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO AND AMM ENTERPRISES, INC.**

Chief of Staff Jackson explained was an extension to the agreement. He highly commented Mr. Miller on an exceptional work. Now focusing more on the water department.

Alderman January asked for a summary update Chief of Staff Jackson would gather information of Projects Mr. Miller was involved etc.

Alderman Murphy received feedback from the 6<sup>th</sup> ward constituent clarifying the need of North Chicago signs in disrepair. Chief of Staff Jackson was aware and proposal currently focusing on all **(7)** signs in the next **(60)** days. Alderman Coleman agreed was the gateway signs for the City. Alderman Coleman explained.

Alderman January was happy moving forward. Throughout the City was a concern. Alderman Jackson noted on **10<sup>th</sup> & Green Bay Rd** was included in the (7) signs. The Mayor added there was funding allocated to replace the signs in the next budget. Alderman Allen echoed Alderman January that it was throughout the City.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman January that the Public Works Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

# **BUILDING/LICENSE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024**  
**7:52 PM**

Alderman January called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: None

**I. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR VACANT AND FORECLOSED PROPERTY REGISTRATION:**

Economic & Community Development Director, Taylor Wegrzyn explained the city code required all foreclosed and vacant city property within the Economic & Community Development Department and its cost. It needed to be registered on a semi-annual basis.

He elaborated what had occurred with former Pro-Champs; currently handling manually; the goal was to bring properties in compliance. Registering them would assist with the monitoring. He requested a service agreement with HeraRegistry.

Treasurer, Vance Wyatt questioned the new property registration company. Mr. Wegrzyn explained was an online basis, a competitor and more technical.

Alderman Jackson inquired if City owned former company registry or vice versa. Mr. Wegrzyn explained was no cost.

Alderman Coleman expressed was against charging landlord fees for vacancies and could be discouraging. There should be some mechanism. Mr. Wegrzyn explained preferred moving forward with the new company, had the option of a 60-day notice to terminate the contract. It was more accessible

with online components. He was seeking feedback from the users. Alderman Coleman questioned the registry cost and if they could option to pay annually. Mr. Wegrzyn explained (\$300) and acknowledged could option on an annual basis.

Alderman Evans asked how the new company was chosen. Mr. Wegrzyn stated had reached out to (2) most notable firms that offered similar service; HeraRegistry was the most responsive, had local municipalities in the City of Waukegan and Rockford IL

The Mayor explained a house that was boarded-up at Martin Luther King Dr. and Lewis Ave. would soon to be demolished in May for a recent purchase from Lake County for additional easements.

Alderman January questioned if comparable cost to former registry. Mr. Wegrzyn acknowledged there was a slight increase in the base; negotiated with the new company reducing late fee. She asked if he had or city employee's interest with HeraRegistry. Mr. Wegrzyn had no interest and was unaware of any employee. She was ensuring no conflict of interest.

**II. PENDING MATTERS:**

There were no pending matters previously discussed.

Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy that Building/License Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024  
8:06 PM**

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: None

**I. DISCUSSION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES, INC. – PURCHASE OF FIREFIGHTING BUNKER GEAR (PPE) NOT TO EXCEED \$14,000:**

Fire Chief Umek requested to forward **item I** for approval.

Alderman January asked for listed items in the agreement. Chief Umek explained the Firefighter bunker gear that fit in the uniform pants and coat.

This will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, April 15, 2024.**

Alderman January moved, seconded by Alderman Coleman that Public Safety Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

## FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024  
8:07 PM

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: None

**I. DISCUSSION OF FY 2025 BUDGET:**

Tawanda Joyner, Comptroller provided **2025** budget highlights; tax rate was remaining the same as **2022**; there was a surplus of **\$1.9 mil** after transfers for the year, listed General Capital Projects should start in the fiscal year, the scheduled **2025** Proposed Road Programs possibly in the fiscal year and she discussed the Facilities Plan Items.

Alderman Coleman questioned if Foss Park was in the budget. Ms. Joyner acknowledged it was. His focus was more on the development of Sheridan Rd, needing additional funding in the budget for the downtown Sheridan Rd. area.

**Alderman Jackson left at 8:13 and returned at 8:14 p.m.**

Trotter Engineer, Steve Cieslica explained a **\$400,000** corridor study on Sheridan Rd with IDOT that would include the landscaping improvement items. Alderman Coleman suggested that the light poles curbs and storefronts were painted, facia updated, surrounded by wildflowers. He suggested a special tax for downtown businesses networking and joint effort with the storefront owners.

**Alderman Jackson left at 9:17 p.m. and returned at 9:19 p.m.**

Ms. Joyner continued, explaining there was decrease in **2025** Budget due to the Grant Place Debit of **\$966,000**.

She provided an ongoing overview of the **2025** Budget. Alderman Jackson asked for a copy of the overview on behalf of the council members. Ms. Joyner acknowledged she would.

Alderman Evans asked for itemized items for increase of lobbyist from **\$40,000** transferred to the Mayor's Budget with increase of **\$110,000**. Ms. Joyner explained for a Full-Time position – Chief of Staff including health benefits and insurance, the lobbyist amount increased from **\$40,000** to **\$150,000**. Alderman Evans had concerns with the increase.

The Mayor elaborated further for a "true" lobbyist in Springfield and Washington D.C., State or Federal would be requesting grants. The estimated money needed was **\$150,000**. The City had lost revenue without a lobbyist.

Chief of Staff Jackson had experience with lobbying. The intent was to bring more money, the key roles of lobbyists were accruing the grants for the municipalities and ensure as priority. He encouraged council members to act upon it. It was an accurate amount for **\$150,000**. He highly recommended a contract for a lobbyist.

Alderman Smith questioned clarification of initial amount of **\$40,000**. Ms. Joyner explained last year attempted that amount for seeking a part-time individual. Secondly, he asked why the item was moved from the legislative to the Mayor's budget. Chief of Staff Jackson stated he was from the Mayor's Office and would be managing it. He, Alderman Smith asked who selected the lobbyist, Chief of Staff Jackson clarified the council members. It would follow the same procedures as any interview, it would be contractual and the Council could name the terms.

Alderman January questioned clarification with lobbyist compensation, asked if the council members could have a base pay with a compensation type of package. Chief of Staff Jackson indicated couldn't be due to ethics laws.

Alderman Coleman suggested balancing amounts in both Executive and Legislative Accounts. Chief of Staff Jackson elaborated further that the lobbyists worked with Executive, Legislative and Bureaucracy. He elected to place in administrative account which was neutral. Clarified was working with the council members and Mayor's Office.

Alderman January asked for a job description of a lobbyist. He, Chief of Staff Jackson explained it would be returned for discussion. She questioned if there would be a certain annual dollar amount required. He stated keeping it ethically with performance measures and could be non-monetary. There were no percentages accrued for grant writers or lobbyists.

Treasurer Wyatt mentioned a reduction from **\$7,000** to **\$5,000** for Travel & Training including the gasoline allowance. It would result in being unable to afford the IML Conference. Alderman Jackson asked to add **\$2,000**. Alderman Coleman requested the gas cards. Ms. Joyner added needing to confirm the business mileage. There was no method of legally tracking the miles. Treasurer Wyatt did follow calculated miles and was reimbursed. Ms. Joyner asked Clerk Collins if she was suffice with her budget. Clerk Collins drew attention to the software needing adjustment.

Alderman Allen asked why certain amounts in the treasurer budget. Treasurer Wyatt explained needed that information if liquidated. It was in the category of revenue. Ms. Joyner stated was on page **6**. Treasurer Wyatt reiterated was no city loss. The amount was available if it was liquidated. The bonds affected the interest rate. There was more “cash on hand” than investments. Currently was buying higher interest bonds. The City had an amount of **\$1.4 mil** including investments and bank accounts. There was **\$207,000** in actual investments. The amounts would be higher if not changed in Year **2022**. Alderman Coleman suggested that each Department Head presented their need. Ms. Joyner clarified had met with the Department Heads since **October 2023** and exception of the Clerk’s Office and Treasurer. Chief of Staff Jackson chimed in that he had exchanged e-mails and conversations accordingly. The Clerk mentioned would need software adjustments. Every municipality managed it differently and he was deferred to the Comptroller’s Office for North Chicago. Chief of Staff Jackson would explore other potential methods for delivering the budget accordingly.

Ms. Joyner explained the Water Revenue category; there was **10.1 MIL** in revenue expected and **10.7 mil** in expenditures, **2024 \$6 mil** projected for IEPA Loan at **16<sup>th</sup> & Kemble Ave.**, Water Department; she highlighted projects for the water expenditures. Alderman Coleman asked if any painting on the wall at the beach. Engineer, Steve Cieslica mentioned that area was referred to the the next phase. The General Grant Fund listed grants for various projects. Sheridan Crossing was expected **to be 2 mil** and DECCO; **4 mil** for Federal Grant. Ms. Joyner explained the MFT Fund. The CDBG Fund was related to a grant of lead sewer lining. The Federal Forfeiture Fund involved the Substation and police equipment. Seizure Fund an its amount, The TIF District had no activity due to closing. The Skokie Hwy TIF was the most active currently. The City was to receive property tax increment and expenditures etc. No activity in the Grant Place operating or Capital Fund. There are remaining fund balance for **2023**. It still needed to be listed until council approved to close it. It was required to be filed with the County. Alderman January asked for the anticipated timeline of closing. Ms. Joyner explained need contract signed to close with Phil McKenna and no more than **(3)** months. She explained the Vision Fund and Retiree Fund including the revenue and expenditures. The Library Fund had its own bank account. Alderman January noticed police overtime and asked how it would be eliminated. Assistant Chief Lunn explained the **(4)** lateral transfers would decrease the overtime. She suggested that the overtime was monitored. Assistant Chief Lunn elaborated more on the reduced number of police officers. Attempting to hire within the North Chicago Community.

Any additional questions were to be addressed to the Chief of Staff and Comptroller.

This will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, April 15, 2024**.

**II. DISCUSSION WITH PURCHASE OF MICROSOFT P1 STYLE LICENSES FOR DUO 2-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$11,880.00:**

This will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, April 15, 2024**.

**III. DISCUSSION OF A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR CITY’S APC/UPS NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$9,891.05:**

Chief of Staff, Greg Jackson explained on behalf of the I.T. Department that **Item III** was needed if a power outage occurred needed for a back up. The amount increased from **\$9,891.05** to **\$17,000**.

This will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, April 15, 2024**.

**IV. DISCUSSION – PURCHASE OF FORTINET FIREWALL/SWITCHES TO REPLACE OLD END OF LIFE EQUIPMENT FOR CITY NETWORK NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$5,830.00:**

Chief of Staff, Greg Jackson explained on behalf of the I.T. Department that **Item IV** was already budgeted.

Alderman Jackson moved, seconded by Alderman January that Finance/Audit Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024**

Mayor Rockingham, Jr., called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: None

**I. DISCUSSION OF REQUEST FOR SPECIAL A LIQUOR LICENSE – CANTINA MANAGEMENT AT 2004 MLK DR. – KARIM MERCHANT:**

**There was no meeting held.**