

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

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

Following City Council Meeting

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEETING

7:12 PM

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Smith

I. DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE APPROVING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES FOR VIDEO GAMING TERMINALS PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 5, CHAPTER 33 AND CLASS G-P LIQUOR LICENSES PURSUANT TO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 8, CHAPTER 13:

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson explained the ordinance for the moratorium on the issuance of Licenses for Video Gaming Terminals. There were (53) liquor licenses issued with (199) gaming terminals in the City of North Chicago. He recommended a 1-year moratorium or sooner depending upon the data.

Alderman Coleman questioned if the City was freezing the number of video gaming licenses. Chief of Staff Jackson acknowledged it was. He asked if the city council could have the option and the Chief of Staff reiterated it rested upon the council decision. The numbers wouldn't change unless "grandfathered in." Chief of Staff Jackson added or until the moratorium was lifted.

This will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, August 5, 2024.**

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

7:19 PM

Alderman Murphy called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Smith

I. DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

There was no discussion.

II. DISCUSSION OF INSURANCE RENEWAL PRESENTATION FOR MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION AND LIFE INSURANCE BY GLOBAL BENEFITS:

Human Resources Director Liz Black provided an annual presentation for the insurance renewal, medical, dental, vision and life insurance. The initial renewal rate from Blue Cross Blue Sheild Medical was negotiated from **14.5%** to **3.2%** by Global Benefits. There was no increase for dental, vision and/or life insurance. It was budgeted for **\$10,000**. Mark and Kurt were present from Global Benefits for any questions addressed.

Alderman Coleman was appreciative of Mrs. Black's assistance in resolving his issue.

The Mayor commended her on the reduction from **14.5%** to **3.2%**. All efforts for quality insurance at a lower rate. Mrs. Black clarified it was the partnership of Global Benefits. Alderman Murphy added was appreciative on behalf of the North Chicago employees.

Alderman Allen moved seconded by Alderman Jackson that Human Resources Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

7:24 PM

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Smith

I. DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Alderman Coleman commended the Public Works Chair Alderman Evans and Chief of Staff Greg Jackson with assisting a 2nd Ward constituent.

Interim Public Works Director Bob Miller recognized Water Department intern Jamear Tolbert, North Chicago resident, was previously a Water Operator C. The following year applied for the Water Operator A license and was notified less than a year later he became a Water A Operator.

II. DISCUSSION OF WATER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

There was no discussion.

III. DISCUSSION OF ENGINEER REPORT:

There was no discussion.

Alderman Allen moved seconded by Alderman Jackson that Public Works Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

7:27 PM

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Smith

I. DISCUSSION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

There were no questions for Items **I** and **II**.

II. DISCUSSION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans that Public Safety Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

**BUILDING/LICENSE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

7:28 PM

Vice Chair, Bobby Allen called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Smith

I. DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL EVENT; MATTHEW HOMES FAMILY CONNECT BLOCK PARTY, SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024; 5:00 AM – 6:00 PM. THE PARADE ROUTE WAS FROM 19-8TH ST. TO ARGONNE DR:

There were no questions for Items **I & II**.

II. DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL EVENT; 5TH WARD MEETING AND BLOCK PARTY, HELD AT 2300 MLK DR., SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024:

III. PENDING MATTERS:

SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE APPLICATION

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson explained was in the process updating the language/fees for the Special Event application. Alderman January questioned its completion. Chief of Staff Jackson stated no later than **August 15, 2024**.

Alderman January moved, seconded by Alderman Evans that Building/License Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

7:32 PM

Vice Chair Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Smith

I. DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/ZONING DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT:

There was no discussion.

II. DISCUSSION – ADOPTION OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Chief of Staff Jackson clarified the Zoning Board staff recommended moving forward with the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan final draft.

Alderman Coleman clarified that he reached out and didn't receive a return call. Lakota Representative Siraj Asfahani questioned any specifics, Alderman Coleman explained had a vision for Sheridan Rd., attempted to arrange a meeting with the business owners and was unsuccessful. He elaborated further. He acknowledged the Mayor, Chief of Staff Greg Jackson and the Aldermen. Mr. Asfahani elaborated further with the vision of the Comprehensive Plan being reflective of the community etc.

Alderman January questioned clarification with the slide presentation. Mr. Asfahani explained there were (2) versions of the presentation and elaborated further with the vision.

Alderman Evans questioned vision with the downtown area. Mr. Asfahani explained the focus of attracting businesses. It currently was dangerous for pedestrians and deterred opening of any new businesses; the main ones weren't food related. Alderman Evans asked the next step. Mr. Asfahani explained the need to narrow the streets.

Chief of Staff Jackson chimed in and explained the plan vision was derived from the gathered data, Staff's responsibility with the support of City Council members to implement the plan or city guidebook. Alderman Evans questioned when it was effective. Chief of Staff Jackson explained the previous plan was a baseline, the plan changed upon community needs and desires providing examples. It should be reviewed in accordance with the changes. The previous comprehensive plan wasn't properly implemented.

Alderman Coleman explained the previous comprehensive plan was questioned (12) years previous by the late Dr. Wadell Brooks. He clarified council members had a downtown vision for North Chicago. It included the necessary funding and bike paths, he echoed the Chief of Staff's sentiments with an appearance code for downtown Sheridan Rd., bringing businesses to the city, beautifying the current contractor's landscaping etc. Chief of Staff Jackson clarified the Comprehensive Plan was a baseline. He suggested a mixed-use development including an entertainment venue, cleaning up the appearance of Sheridan Rd., trash bins were ordered. He clarified the need of the plan as a tool.

The Mayor explained that moving forward with the plan was the roadmap for North Chicago. He directed Council members to study the Comprehensive Plan thoroughly for more understanding.

Mr. Asfahani clarified additional focus with partnerships, The current plan had action strategies in a timeline vs. the previous **2016** plan. Mailers were sent to each individual household. Themes, Goals and strategies were the plan structures for downtown Sheridan Rd. A better tree selection, improved building facades, ADA accessibility, maintaining parking, more pedestrian friendly and beautifying the landscaping. Cross thematic Implementation was new for the Comprehensive Plan and he explained. Chief of Staff Jackson commended the Lakota Group. He emphasized the need of implementing the plan. A draft of the Comprehensive Plan was placed on the city website.

Alderman Murphy added that the plan was provided as possible for the residents, businesses etc. Mr. Asfahani explained during the transaction, there was concern with loss of communication.

Economic & Community Development Director Taylor Wegrzyn (via Zoom) was very excited as he commented on the pairing that was very intuitive.

Item II will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, August 5, 2024.**

III. DISCUSSION OF 1-YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT EXTENSION REQUEST FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1501 ELIZABETH AVE:

Mr. Wegrzyn requested a 1-year service agreement extension request for property located at **1501** Elizabeth Ave. He explained was a home sold to J&J Homes and was seeking an extension.

Item III and IV will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, August 5, 2024.**

IV. DISCUSSION OF 1-YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT EXTENSION WITH SAFEUILT:

Mr. Wegrzyn requested another 1-year service agreement extension request with SafeBuilt. There was no financial change. The City termed agreement with B&F Technical when chosen SafeBuilt. They would handle the planning review services and inspections.

Alderman Coleman left at 8:04 p.m.

Alderman Coleman returned at 8:10 p.m.

V. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF CREATING A RFP/RFQ FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CITY-APPEARANCE CODE:

Chief of Staff Jackson suggested creating a RFP/RFQ for the development of a city-appearance code due to the freshened appearance needed for Sheridan Rd.

Alderman Smith had asked consideration for staff to gather a consultant etc. He clarified there was no cost to budget for **2025** to move forward.

Item V. will be placed on the next **Council Agenda, August 5, 2024.**

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy that Economic Development/Planning/Zoning Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**FINANCE/AUDIT
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

8:18 PM

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Smith

I. DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

There were no questions.

II. DISCUSSION OF TREASURER'S REPORT – JUNE 2024:

There were no questions.

III. DISCUSSION OF REQUEST TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING – REBRANDING CAMPAIGN:

Community Information Coordinator Hombre Darby requested to waive competitive bidding for the rebranding campaign. There were previously more questions to be discussed. A rebrand assist to stimulate growth in investment for businesses, community and tourism. There was focus on events that raised the profile of North Chicago, differentiated the City from other communities, instilling a positive perception of the City, a sense of pride and belonging within the community. He asked if Studio North, a local business of 40+ years at 1616 Green Bay Rd. would be chosen to waive the competitive bidding for the rebranding campaign. He clarified was advocating for a local business who were active and their knowledge of the community who had a vested interest in the commerce. He named the former clients that won various awards. The power of the brand and its benefits. He spoke of the history in Dubai who was once a poor fishing community in year of 1963 and rebranded as a wealthier community. He was asking to support the local business of Studio North, a capable business allowing North Chicago to move the City forward.

Alderman Allen and Coleman appreciated Mr. Darby's game plan and strategy. Attorney Mack clarified could waive the bidding. Alderman Jackson questioned if the dollar amount had changed; Mr. Darby said it had not.

This will be placed on the Next **Council Agenda, August 5, 2024.**

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Murphy that Finance/Audit Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Smith

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

8:31 PM

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Smith

I. DISCUSSION – DESIGNATION OF AN HONORARY ROADWAY – DEBORAH “DEBBIE RICHARDS – SHERMAN AVENUE BETWEEN MARTIN LUTHER KING DR. AND 23RD ST:

The Mayor spoke on behalf of the Chair for the designation of Honorary Roadways and acquiring proper procedures for both **Items I** and **II**.

II. DISCUSSION – DESIGNATION OF AN HONORARY ROADWAY – GLENN S. JOHNSON – 20TH ST. AND LEWIS AVE:

Alderman Coleman asked if the items could be tabled due to the absence of the Chair.

Alderman January noted the address locations were incorrect for both Items I and II they were opposite.

The Mayor would rediscuss the items on the return of the Chair, Alderman Smith.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy that Committee of the Whole stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

Alderman Smith was absent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.