

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, October 20, 2025, at 6:03 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 1850 Lewis Avenue with Mayor Rockingham Jr. presiding.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. ROLL CALL

Upon the Roll Call being taken, the following members were present:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Absent: None

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **October 6, 2025**

5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **October 6, 2025**

5-3 Approval of Resolution Approving and Authorizing Financial Commitment of an Amount **Not to Exceed \$250,000** for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant in Support of a District #187 Multi-School Crosswalk/Sidewalk Improvement Project

5-4 Approval for Authorization for Execution of Thompson Elevator Contract for Elevator Inspection Services

5-5 Approval of the Sub-Recipient Agreement in the Amount of **\$332,804** for Community Development Block Grant Implementation

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

Alderman Murphy questioned the date of document for Item 5-3 and City Clerk Collins explained that was the date first presented and would reflect October 20th as the approval date.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Abstain: Coleman

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6-1 Know Your Rights Presentation by the North Chicago Community Think Tank

Rayon Edwards

Thanked the Mayor for the Executive Order against ICE. He disagreed with the actions taken against former Alderman Kenneth Smith for one incident. He acknowledged City Treasurer Vance Wyatt for being present.

Superintendent John Price – School District #187

Thanked the Mayor for the Executive Order. Federal actions have affected the community and instilled fear of doing their daily activities. Thanked the City for exemptions for the South School project.

Mr. Price stated the School District had for years attempted to reach a contract with L.E.A.R.N. Charter School and they refused. District #187, in 2025, tried again to negotiate but several areas still lacked agreement. Alderman Allen asked the next meeting of the 2 schools, to hear both sides; Dr. Price said there was no meeting set possibly because of Federal Government shutdown.

Alderman Brooks asked if there would possibly more North Chicago public schools. Dr. Price said that would be a possibility. Alderman Coleman was information that the elected School Board was reluctant to agreement and that was the City's voice, both sides needed to be heard.

Mayor Rockingham thanked Dr. Price for his work in the School District. He would like to also hear from L.E.A.R.N.

Dulce Ortiz – Executive Director of Mano a Mano

Stated Mano a Mano serviced all of Lake County. Appreciative of Executive Order. ICE was performing unlawful arrests and kidnapping.

Fiestas Patrias

ICE was performing acts against not only immigrants but citizens and voters and not just criminals. The operatives were a violation of constitutional and human rights. Commended the Mayor to take the lead with an Executive Order. She also recognized Alderman Jackson; she asked for his insight because he also worked for Homeland Security of Lake County.

Carmecia Hawthorne

Announced events of Foss Park.

6-1 Know Your Rights Presentation by the North Chicago Community Think Tank

Alderman Coleman left the Council Chambers at 6:33 p.m.; returned at 6:34 p.m.

Mayor Rockingham explained that the presentation was to attempt to inform people that may be approached or detained by ICE, including people that were legal.

William “Billy” Coleman of Think Tank said many people do not know their rights. The training was developed with many organizations within Lake County.

The Know Your Rights Program outlines: Why the conversation is important, what's happening, your rights, how to stay protected (1st and 5th amendment), some next steps and ways to help. By the end of the training, you will know: current political moment, legal rights and risk, realistic safety strategies, localized next steps and ways to help.

He highlighted that White Supremacy and Slavery have never been abolished. The 13th Amendment states that slavery has not been abolished except in cases when someone has been convicted of a crime. Mass Deportations / Incarcerations have happened before. Violence is all around and the “Big Beautiful Bill” would be reviewed in the training.

Mr. Coleman announced that the North Chicago Think Tank meetings were every Tuesday at the North Chicago Public Library, 6:00 p.m. He requested every alderman to contact him to schedule a time for the Think Tank to present in their ward.

Alderman Coleman thanked Billy Coleman for the work that he had done in the community, Alderman Allen also thanked him. Alderman Brooks recognized Mr. Coleman and encouraged the other aldermen to talk to him. Alderman Evans was appreciative for his work and presentation.

Mayor Rockingham hoped the community would participate in the Think Tank training and meetings; he thanked him for all his work. Alderman Jackson asked how long the training was; Mr. Coleman said 60 minutes in person or virtually.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE NEW NORTH CHICAGO CITY LOGO

Representative of Studio North said the logo represented the identity of the North Chicago community. There were 1,135 total votes. The community owns the logo and shows North Chicago as a welcoming community. There would be a documentary of North Chicago November 4th.

Mayor Rockingham, Jr., thanked them for their work, it was one his top 3 and if the citizens chose as a majority, it should be embraced.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve the new North Chicago logo.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Evans, Allen, Wray Murphy, Brooks

Nays: Jackson

Abstain: Coleman

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL TO WAIVE FIRST READING AND APPROVE ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE IEPA FORM LETTER FOR CREDIT AND TRUST AGREEMENT FOR SHERIDAN CROSSING ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION.

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve waiving first reading and approve Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute IEPA form letter for Credit and Trust Agreement for Sheridan Crossing Environmental Remediation.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Abstain: Coleman

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

7-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT HOURS IN NORTH CHICAGO

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to approve Resolution for Halloween Trick or Treat hours in North Chicago, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None
Abstain: Coleman
Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

- 7-4 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE FIRST READING AND APPROVE GOVHR/MGT CONTRACT FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AT A RATE OF \$43.50/HOUR

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy to approve waiving first reading and approve GovHR/MGT contract for an Administrative Assistant in the Economic and Community Development Department at a rate of \$43.50/hour.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray Murphy, Brooks
Nays: None
Abstain: Coleman
Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

- 7-5 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE FIRST READING AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION FOR HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION OF “PASTOR ERNESTINE SMITH DRIVE”

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Wray to table the approval of a Resolution for Honorary Street designation for “Pastor Ernestine Smith Drive.”

Mayor Rockingham, Jr., asked if table was until next meeting. Alderman Evans said until there was more discussion of process and previous applicants. Alderman Brooks clarified that it was to be discussed in committee; Alderman Evans agreed.

ROLL CALL TO TABLE:

Ayes: Evans, Allen, Wray Murphy, Brooks
Nays: Jackson
Abstain: Coleman
Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

- 7-6 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS

General Fund	\$	264,050.81
General Grants Fund	\$	17,172.90
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	7,811.10
Capital Projects Fund	\$	45,535.06
Debt Service 2007C Fund	\$	887,529.00
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$	260,376.72
	\$	1,482,475.59
SPECIAL 1 - Kevin Riggs - GOV Relations	\$	10,000.00
SPECIAL 2 - Closing Cost for Property	\$	50,000.00
TOTAL including Special Runs	\$	1,542,475.59

MOTION:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to pay the Regular bills of Council Run 10/20/25 in the amount of \$1,542,475.59 (includes Special Runs) when funds become available.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Abstain: Coleman

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

- Alderman Coleman explained that he remained a part of the team but was advised not to speak due to court proceedings. Those that voted for him knew that he would stand for North Chicago. He did not agree with not being allowed by the Mayor to address School Superintendent John Price.

He cited Robert Rules of Order the Chairman's role and was supposed to be neutral and impartial. The Mayor was not neutral at that time, and no aldermen intervened. He felt disrespected. He thanked Alderman Brooks for assisting with installing a temporary speed bump in his ward.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson said there was no need for Executive Session at the time.

9-1 Executive Session 5 ILCS 120 2 (C)(2) – Collective Bargaining

9-2 Approval of SEIU Collective Bargaining Agreement

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council; a motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Jackson that the meeting stand adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk