

# MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, April 21, 2025, at 6:02 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**

Alderman January entered the Council Chambers after Invocation at 6:03 p.m.

## **IV. ROLL CALL**

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

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

Absent: Coleman

### **4-1 Presentation of Oath of Office – Promotion of Tim Zamora to Rank of Police Sergeant**

Mayor Rockingham administered the oath to Tim Zamora. Mayor Rockingham, Jr. expressed gratitude to the North Chicago Police Department, and they do a great job deescalating situations and safety. He felt that North Chicago had one of the best police forces in the country.

Newly sworn Tim Zamora's family pinned him.

Alderman Coleman entered the Council Chambers at 6:09 p.m.

### **4-2 Resolution Declaring the City of North Chicago a "Bird City"**

**Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the Resolution Declaring the City of North Chicago a "Bird City."**

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Evans, Allen, Smith, Murphy

Nays: Jackson, January

Abstain: Coleman

Absent: None

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

Communication & Outreach Coordinator Hombre Darby explained that since 1905 the Audubon Society has been protecting birds and its natural habitat. It was a great honor for North Chicago to be considered a good location for various birds. The Resolution did not designate a particular bird. It was an environmental commitment to protect animals that benefit our environment.

Glenn Moss said it was one of his dreams that North Chicago be designated because of the availability of natural attractions for birds. He predicted that there would be visitors to North Chicago for the purpose of seeing the birds. The Mayor looked forward to visitors.

## **V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA**

### **5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, April 17, 2025**

### **5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2025**

### **5-3 Approval of MGT/GovHR Contract Renewal for Police Department/Admin./Coordinator **Not to Exceed \$58/hr.****

- 5-4 Approval of Special Use Permit at **2525** Green Bay Rd. – YBLC, Inc.
- 5-5 Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Abandonment Proceedings – Northern Illinois Land Bank
- 5-6 Approval of Contract with Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. for the Purchase of Firefighter Bunker Gear (PPE) **Not to Exceed \$27,305**
- 5-7 Approval of Contract with Health Endeavors, S.C., for the Purchase of Annual Physicals for Department Personnel **Not to Exceed \$13,220**
- 5-8 Approval of Contract with Eagle Uniform Company for the Purchase of Duty Uniforms and Safety Bond **Not to Exceed \$19,800**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: January (because it was a nongermane way)

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Anthony Brown

He stated there would be a Mother's Day celebration for Kukla Towers and Thompson Manor. He will be submitting a letter for sponsorship.

Charles January

He was saddened for being forced to move from Great Lakes Naval Base, where he lived for **18** years. He and Alderman January would remain in the City of North Chicago. There were good officers but also some that were rogue. Should consider having aldermen at large. The order of the hierarchy of North Chicago government was improper. He commended Alderman Carl Evans for his work in the community.

Carmecia Hawthorne

Announced the many events that were occurring Foss Park and shared contact information.

Charlotte Burns

Thanked the elected officials for their service. She stated concern of her family being harassed by the police. She did not feel safe. Officers were at her home for issues she had nothing to do with, she was a witness in a state case and should not be approached. She was not going to tolerate it for **3** years and guns were drawn on her by officers.

**VII. REGULAR AGENDA**

7-1 CONSIDERATION/RATIFICATION OF RESOLUTION HONORING 1<sup>ST</sup> BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTH CHICAGO FOR 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the Resolution Honoring 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of North Chicago for 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

Alderman January asked the Resolution to be read and City Clerk Lori L. Collins read it.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF REIMBURSEMENT TO FRANK'S LOUNGE IN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,924.71

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the respective items as presented**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: January

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL - RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR AMM ENTERPRISES, INC. SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000 (12 MONTHS)

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy to approve the Renewal of Contract for AMM Enterprises, Inc. Services Not to Exceed \$120,000 Annually.**

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson explained that it was to extend the contract of Bob Miller's contract to end April 30<sup>th</sup>. Alderman Murphy asked if the contract could be reviewed at 6 months to determine if to continue. Chief Jackson said it could; Alderman Murphy stated that there needed to be vision of transition. Not because of deficiency but it was not supposed to be as lengthy.

Alderman Coleman noted that in Committee it was discussed for 6 months. Could 6 months be considered with an option to extend. Chief Jackson said the Council could make that determination. Alderman Allen agreed with 6 months and review every 2 months; there should be some goals set for every 2 months. Chief Jackson said benchmarks could be set for every 2 months.

Alderman Evans said that the terms should apply to every contract. Mayor Rockingham, Jr., explained that he was the only interim and Clarence Johnson was to take over the position. Mayor Rockingham, Jr. agreed with 6 months. Chief Jackson explained the contract could be terminated within a 30-day notice.

Alderman Smith asked if there were previous benchmarks and if those had been met. Chief Jackson said that he witnessed growth amongst the staff and Supervisor Clarence Johnson; Water Superintendent Robert Freeman needed more time although there had been some developments.

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. explained that the training provided for Mr. Johnson's advancement there needed to be the same for Mr. Freeman. Alderman January asked for the benchmark and expectations in writing.

**Alderman January moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to hold the consideration/approval of AMM Enterprises Contract until the next Council Meeting.**

Chief Jackson stated that he would prepare the benchmarks. Alderman Smith asked if his pay could be prorated since the approval wouldn't happen until May 5<sup>th</sup>. Chief Jackson explained that there was no need because he only worked 35 hours/week.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-4 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF FY2026 BUDGET

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve the FY 2026 Budget.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: January

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-5 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL - REAPPOINTMENT OF JEANETTE ALLEN TO THE NORTH CHICAGO LIBRARY BOARD FOR A 3-YEAR TERM ENDING APRIL 30, 2028

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman January to approve the reappointment of Jeanette Allen to the North Chicago Library Board of a 3-year term ending April 30, 2028.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: January

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-6 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL - REAPPOINTMENT OF EDWARD HOUSTON TO THE NORTH CHICAGO LIBRARY BOARD FOR A 3-YEAR TERM ENDING APRIL 30, 2028

**Alderman Jackson moved, seconded by Alderman January to approve the reappointment of Edward Houston to the North Chicago Library Board for a 3-year term ending April 30, 2028.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: January

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-7 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL - REAPPOINTMENT OF BEVERLY ALLEN TO THE NORTH CHICAGO LIBRARY BOARD FOR A 3-YEAR TERM ENDING APRIL 30, 2028

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman January to approve the reappointment of Beverly Allen to the North Chicago Library Board for a 3-year term ending April 30, 2028.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: January

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-8 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS

Debt Service 2007C Fund	\$ 500.00
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$ 192,421.79
Vision Fund	\$ 804.94
Retiree Premium Fund	\$ 3,943.26
	<u>\$ 777,031.25</u>
Special Bills	
Refund Adjudication Fines	\$ 500.00
Total with Special Bills	\$ 777,531.25

**MOTION:**

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy to pay the Regular bills of Council Run 4/21/25 and the Special Run in the amount of \$777,531.25 when funds become available.**

Alderman January asked if there were sufficient funds, when checks would be cut and sent, including amount in Liquid Water Fund. Comptroller Tawanda Joyner answered that there were sufficient funds available, checks to be sent Wednesday. She explained the balance in the Water Fund's liquid amount of \$3,543,402.36; Treasurer Vance Wyatt explained the non-liquid assets amount was \$1,300,664.99 at market closing that day.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: January

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Alderman Allen announced his 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Meeting.

Alderman Coleman announced a 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Clean-Up, May 5<sup>th</sup>. May 10<sup>th</sup> will be the Ward meeting.

Alderman Smith said it was an honor and pleasure working with the elected officials and wished Tabitha to great things. "Together Each Accomplishes Much."

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

9-1 Executive Session 5 ILCS 120 2 (c) (11) – Imminent Litigation /2 (c) (5) – Purchase or Lease of Real Estate

**Alderman Smith moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to suspend the Regular Order of Business at 7:00 p.m. to Executive Session 5 ILCS 120 2 (c)(11) – Imminent Litigation, / 2 (c) (5) – Purchase or Lease of Real Estate**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Coleman to resume the Regular Order of Business at 7:10 p.m.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

Alderman January was absent

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

Alderman January was absent

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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**Lori L. Collins**, City Clerk