

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:04 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, Evans, Allen, Murphy, January

Absent: Coleman, Smith

4-1 Resolution Honoring Alderman Kenneth Smith and Plaque Presentation to Alderman Kenneth Smith

4-2 Resolution Honoring Alderman Kathy A. January and Plaque Presentation to Alderman Kathy A. January

The Mayor explained the Resolutions were placed on hold until the information gathered and properly prepared. He presented and read the scroll plaque to Alderman Kathy A. January. She recognized her husband, former Alderman Charles January Jr. who had previously suffered illnesses that he overcame. She provided a history of how they met. She appreciated those for their support and prayers. She has learned to grow and love the City of North Chicago. She had made history as the 1st Caucasian female elected official in Lake County and 2nd State of Illinois win as a write-in, very appreciative for the support of the 7th Ward constituents in the City of North Chicago. She asked the council members to be mindful of the Water Plant, ensuring it was properly running, more transparent, listening to their hearts and the citizens. Lastly, she wished them the best. She addressed the Attorney asking to bring the most accurate information to the council members, Treasurer she thanked him for his transparency and let his voice be heard. Lastly, she appreciated the North Chicago Citizens. The Mayor thanked her. In addition, the Mayor explained would ensure that the 5th Ward alderman Smith also received his plaque.

V. SWEARING IN OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Alderman Coleman entered the council chambers at 6:26 p.m.

Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr. The Mayor explained Judge Chuck Smith was previously North Chicago's City Attorney and with his guidance, directed the City well. Judge Smith administered the Oath to Mayor Rockingham, Jr.

City Clerk Lori L. Collins

Judge Smith administered the Oath to City Clerk Lori L. Collins.

Treasurer Vance D. Wyatt

County Clerk Anthony Vega administered the Oath to Treasurer Vance Dane Wyatt.

1st Ward Alderman Michael R. Jackson

County Clerk Anthony Vega administered the Oath to 1st Ward Alderman Michael R. Jackson.

3rd Ward Alderman Carl Evans

Pastor Todd Woodson administered the Oath to 3rd Ward Alderman Carl Evans

5th Ward Alderman Tabitha A. Wray

Pastor Gerald Wilcoxin administered the Oath to Alderman Tabitha A. Wray and her children. She was appreciative of those who supported her and vice versa. Her intention was to move the City of North Chicago forward.

7th Ward Alderman Dante Brooks

Spouse Daffney Brooks administered the Oath to Alderman Dante Brooks.

The Mayor emphasized, it was an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of North Chicago and the opportunity of **4** years of the sixth term. He especially thanked his spouse Yvonne and named family members for their support and sacrifice. He congratulated the newly elected School Board members moving forward for students in a positive direction. The reelection of the Foss Park District Board members Donna King and Vance Wyatt. He was very appreciative of the stellar beach in North Chicago and the State of Illinois from their funding. He also welcomed the reelected and newly elected officials for their efforts in the wards and City of North Chicago in the 4-year term.

His main concern was safety, economic development and improving infrastructure. He would be diligent and elaborate on the **(3)** items of concern. He mentioned the Brookstone Development and ensuring the safety of the residents. The IEPA (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency) needed the proper permits to build at the intersection of Sheridan Rd. and Martin Luther King Dr. and was nearing the time to clean up the site for quality development. The Compass Travel Center was in the process of construction. It was a quality truck stop and would be receiving Motor Fuel tax dollars.

Halsey Village is currently owned by Great Lakes Naval Base. Once demolished with on-site and remediation completed it would become surplus land and the City would attempt to acquire the property and obtain control. He announced moving forward in rebranding the community with new logos on the website with better interaction and new design for the City, focusing on the Comprehensive Plan, Lewis Ave. detention pond would assist in alleviating the flooding issues mainly in the 5th Ward, In the process of developing a new water tower as a backup to the Water Plant and a total reconstruction of Argonne Dr. Hoping for the projects on the accomplishment in the next **(4)** years as one group moving forward.

VI. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

- 6-1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, **April 21, 2025**
- 6-2 Approval of Minutes of Standing Committee Meetings, **April 21, 2025**
- 6-3 Approval of Treasurer's Report – **March 2025**
- 6-4 Approval of Request for Class **B** and **GP** Liquor License – RK Business Inc. (DBA John's Liquor Store) – Contingent on Closed Sale Transaction for the Business
- 6-5 Approval of an Ordinance - Sign Variations for North Chicago **2023**, LLC at **3100** Skokie Hwy
- 6-6 Approval to Remand the Special Use Permit Petition by the Adelante Center for a Special Use Permit for a Community Resource Center at **1606 Sheridan Road** Back to the North Chicago Planning and Zoning Commission for Further Review Based on the Comments from the EDPZ Committee

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Mayor advised there was a **(3)** minute limitation per individual for Public Comments.

Drew Irvin

He explained was the Lake Bluff Administrator. Disagreed with the Map Amendment to **M3** Industrial and elaborated further. Lastly, there were copies provided for the City.

Charles January

He stated his concern with excessive video gaming and liquor licenses in the City of North Chicago. He agreed with the moratorium, he asked if the Aldermen could include the citizens with their decisions and was willing to assist the Mayor.

Barbara Ankenman

She explained was the Sanctuary Village resident since year **1995**, volunteered **(10)** years at Forrestal School and had strong concerns with **177** homes of the Sanctuary. She sent a letter to the City with the zoning issue and explained the required footage. She suggested more control and leverage. Ms. Ankenman had deep concerns about the quiet peacefulness and safety of the community. She asked to reconsider the zoning of **M3** Industrial.

Matthew Moodhe – Sanctuary Homeowner's Association

Mr. Moodhe explained he had a close relationship with the City of North Chicago. There was a total of **177** homes, the Sanctuary community had spent **\$200,000** + on water. Generally, the **M3** zoning is surrounded by similar **M1** and **M2** commercial businesses. On behalf of the Homeowner's Association, he asked it to be rejected or further reviewed.

Attorney Adam Kinsley/Jim Sukleman – Mulch Center

He asked if Compass Travel Center item 6-5 could be removed from the Omnibus Agenda. Mr. Seklemann stated the 3-ft. sign wasn't in view. Mr. Kinsley had reached out to Attorney Mack to remove the item. They had requested for the Mulch Center sign to be placed under the former Ricky Rockets' signage; it was agreed. The Mayor stated he would reach out to Compass for the signage issue upon his request. Mr. Seklemann addressed the Mayor for additional time to explain that it was granted by the Chair. A 3-ft sign was offered by Compass and was asking for measurements of 8-ft. high for a starter sign.

Alderman Coleman requested a motion to reconsider his vote for item **6-5** due to not receiving the proper information. He was concerned about not receiving the information. He asked for the proper action.

The Mayor asked to reconsider the item following the public comments. Alderman Coleman conceded.

Rob Swinehart

He mentioned that EMCO was no longer doing business with North Chicago. They were the **10th** largest chemical company. The City of North Chicago provided TIF Financing. They had **(7)** major violations. **2** of **7** were EPA related. He clarified that EMCO left in **2013** and yet it was budgeted. They have paid **\$646,000** in fines, included was the EPA. It was a liability to EMCO to sell the land.

Pamela Fisher

She was a resident of **67** years. As a resident, she was nearby in the distance for any unforeseen emergency occurrences.

Carmecia Hawthorne

She congratulated all the current elected officials. The following announcements:

- Happy Mother's Day, **May 7, 2025**
- Garden Day, **May 17, 2025**
- Bingo, **May 17, 2025; 10-11:00 a.m.** – North Chicago Library
- Passports – North Chicago Library
- Foss Park Eagle Martial Arts
- Sip & Paint Call the Foss Park District
- Stepping Classes – Foss Park District

Alderman Coleman gave an overview Roberts Rule of Order Article 4 (35) to reconsider motion.

Attorney Silverman elaborated further on the extensive discussion with Compass, Public Hearings etc. to discuss objections and concerns. Alderman Coleman strongly explained the council members needed to be properly informed accordingly.

Alderman Coleman asked for motion to reconsider Item 6-5 with the sign variations for North Chicago 2023 LLC at 3100 Skokie Hwy, due to lack of information, seconded by Alderman Jackson.

City Clerk Lori Collins questioned clarification; was it necessary to motion for the entire Omnibus Agenda or could Item 6-5 be singled out. Attorney Silverman explained it could be focused on the one item. Alderman Coleman asked if he could make a motion for item to be on the Regular Agenda. Attorney Silverman explained that it would be referred to as an unvoted item.

ROLL CALL MOTION TO RECONSIDER:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Coleman asked for motion to Table Item 6-5, seconded by Alderman Brooks to Council Meeting May 19, 2025.

ROLL CALL TO TABLE:

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

Nays: Jackson

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

8-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF RENEWAL/EXTENSION OF INTERDEV MANAGED IT SERVICES AGREEMENT NOT TO EXCEED (\$356,592) 1ST YEAR OF RENEWED AGREEMENT FY27 BUDGET (\$ 374,422) 2nd YEAR OF RENEWED AGREEMENT FY28 BUDGET (\$393,143) 3rd YEAR OF RENEWED AGREEMENT

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy to approve the 3-year Contract with InterDev Managed IT Services.

Alderman Evans asked purpose of a 3-year contract. The Chief of Staff Jackson explained they were hired with the City of North Chicago prior to his arrival. The entire system was refreshed and would take 2-3 years to properly finish the I.T. project. The Mayor added the initial contract was also 3 years. He, Alderman Evans asked if I.T. managed the cellphones. The Chief of Staff acknowledged currently.

The Mayor agreed to a 3-year contract, that could be audited within 2 years and directed staff to seek competitive bidding. The Chief of Staff explained to Alderman Evans he would discuss any other concerns. He met virtually on a month-to-month basis with the Company CIO. He elaborated further with the previous staff issue that was resolved.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: Evans

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

- 8-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AMM ENTERPRISES, INC. SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000 (12 MONTHS) WITH A SIX-MONTH REVIEW AND OPTION TO EXTEND (6) MONTHS

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the AMM Enterprises, Inc. Services Not to Exceed \$120,000 (12 Months) with a six-month review and option to Extend the (6) Months.

Alderman Murphy questioned clarification for the council members. Chief of Staff Greg Jackson explained there would be an evaluation of the Water Superintendent upon achieving his goals which would be reflective upon the consultant unless there was a skillset that required more time. There will be a 2-month evaluation for the Chair and the entire public body. Alderman Coleman asked the timeline. The Chief of Staff clarified **2 1/2 to 3** years total. Alderman Coleman commented that Interim Public Works Director Bob Miller had performed a great job as the Superintendent, "Tommy" Johnson and previous Foreman Rob Freeman. He disagreed with the extension of **(12)** months and would consider **(6)** months. He questioned if he had water experience.

The Mayor explained that he had management experience. The Chief of Staff added there were many variables in managing. He preferred to be assured that the Water Superintendent was properly trained. Regarding the 6-month benchmarks, he would inform the council members accordingly. He, Mr. Freeman, was currently pursuing his certification.

Alderman Evans asked why Mr. Miller was analyzed with a **2-month** evaluation. He also disagreed with the lack of concern of cost for Interdev in comparison.

Alderman Jackson asked for a recess until the City Clerk was present. City Clerk returned at that time the Mayor hold the meeting until Alderman Wray's return.

Alderman Jackson questioned clarification with 6-month reviews and if ready within the 6-months would only pay **\$60,000**. The Chief of Staff agreed with the assessment.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: Coleman

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

- 8-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL TO WAIVE FIRST READING AND APPROVE MAYOR TO SIGN NEW LEASE AGREEMENT FOR FIVE POLICE VEHICLES WITH ENTERPRISE FM TRUST WITH DOWNPAYMENT OF \$29,487

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve to waive the first reading and approve Mayor to Sign New Lease Agreement for Five Police Vehicles with Enterprise FM Trust with Downpayment of \$29,487.

Alderman Jackson asked why to waive the 1st reading. Chief of Staff Jackson deferred to Comptroller Tawanda Joyner. Ms. Joyner explained the contract with Enterprise negotiated prices for the City, sold and returned the vehicles. The (5) vehicles had reached the end of lease cycle and there was currently no option to lease. She explained the reason for waiving the 1st reading and elaborated further.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

8-4 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF CITY BILLS

General Fund	\$	488,477.89
Motor Fuel Tax Fund		1380.94
Capital Projects Fund	\$	66,452.25
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	1,380.94
Capital Projects Fund	\$	66,452.25
Water,Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$	372,416.40
Retiree Premium Fund	\$	15,856.30
Library Fund	\$	7,123.80
TOTAL	\$	951,707.58

Special Bills

Debt Service 2007C Fund	\$	77,529.00
General Fund	\$	39,308.41
	\$	116,837.41

MOTION:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy to pay the Regular bills of Council Run 05/05/25 and the Special Run in the amount of \$1,068,544.90 when funds become available.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

Alderman Coleman thanked everyone who assisted in cleaning the 2nd Award.

Alderman Allen announced house cleaning scheduled **June 1, 2025**.

Alderman Wray would be scheduling the 5th Ward meeting, Saturday, **June 7, 2025**.

Alderman Brooks was appreciative for those that supported him including the council members, family and friends. He would attempt to perform to the best of his ability and his continual growth in his position.

Treasurer Wyatt thanked the residents for allowing him to take the 2nd term as Treasurer, especially mother and his fiancé

Alderman Coleman announced the 2nd Ward Meeting, scheduled, **5/10/25; 11:00 a.m.**

Alderman Jackson directed the new council members for proper communication with one another and the needed solidarity. His mission was to serve.

The Mayor announced the new Committee Chair appointments., the food trucks were arriving the 2nd Thursday of every month from **4:30 – 9:00 p.m.** and lastly, wished everyone a “Happy Mother’s Day!”

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk