

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

Following City Council Meeting



**Mayor Rockingham, Jr. asked that Committee of the Whole be held first because there was a presentation. There was a consensus to allow.**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025**  
**6:56 p.m.**

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Absent: Jackson, Coleman

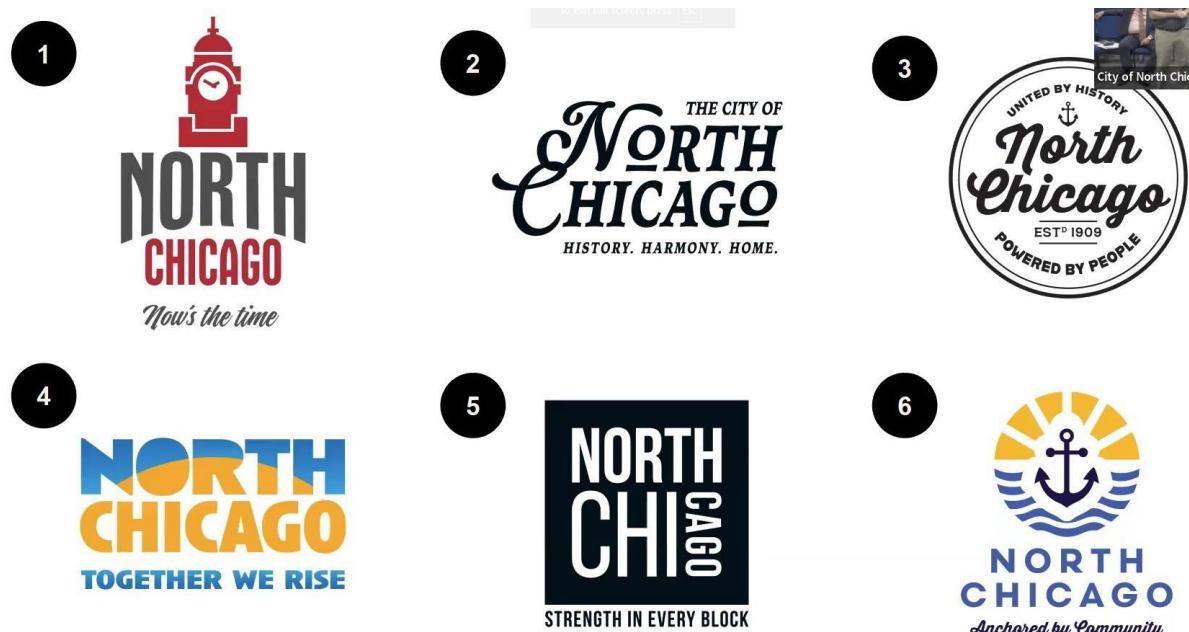
**I. DISCUSSION OF PRESENTATION BY STUDIO NORTH – CITY'S REBRANDING:**

Alderman Jackson returned to the Council Chambers at 6:57 p.m.

Mark Mohr of Studio North started by saying that the business had been in North Chicago 37 years. Not just a logo or tagline; it shapes perceptions, stories would be aligned with the community's values, history and aspirations. Economic growth, community pride and safety are at stake.

Jeff Segal gave the example of Mundelein; median income and property value increase and the crime rate decreased. A documentary had been created also a survey for the community to voice their desires. He presented the Council with 6 of the top designs for a new City logo and asked for review for final decision at next Council Meeting.

Mayor Rockingham noted that Al Swan created the current logo.



**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks that Committee of the Whole Committee Meeting stand adjourned.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

Alderman Coleman was absent

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025  
7:15 p.m.**

Alderman Wray called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Coleman

**I. DISCUSSION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO  
REGULATE BUSINESSES AND BAN ESTABLISHMENTS FROM SELLING PRODUCTS  
CONTAINING DELTA-8 THC AND KRATOM:**

Alderman Evans and Allen left the Council Chambers at 7:16 p.m.

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson explained that due diligence had begun to allow Council get as much information as possible. Based on comments from the public, they had no problem with whole leaf Kratom. He provided an ordinance for review and make any suggestions.

Alderman Evans returned to Council Chambers at 7:17 p.m.

Chief Jackson said that further research was needed. The difference between whole and synthetic Kratom was not certain.

Alderman Allen returned to Council Chambers at 7:18 p.m.

Chief Jackson explained there needed to be enforcement with all the ordinances that implemented to law. The City's concern was that youth were illegally using the product. He asked for more discussion at the September 15, 2025, Committee Meeting.

**Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks that Judiciary Committee Meeting stand adjourned.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

Alderman Coleman was absent

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025  
7:21 p.m.**

Alderman Brooks called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Coleman

**I. DISCUSSION OF SECOND AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR CITY OWNED PROPERTY AT PIN 12-04-300-020:**

Economic & Community Development Director Taylor Wegrzyn explained that EMCO Chemical had been leasing the City owned lot (on Martin Luther King Dr.) for the past 2 years and it was time to renew the lease agreement. The lease could be renewed 2 times with each renewal for 1 year at a time. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final option year. The agreement amount was \$500/month. The lot was being utilized for employee parking only.

Alderman Murphy clarified that only employees were parking there, and no semi-trucks or any other violations had happened. Mr. Wegrzyn agreed that it had only been used for employee parking. Alderman Brooks asked the termination requirements; Mr. Wegrzyn said 90 days termination clause.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

**BUILDING/LICENSE  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025  
7:21 p.m.**

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Coleman

**I. DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL EVENT – FIESTAS PATRIAS, SEPTEMBER 14, 25 – PARADE  
AND EVENT:**

**II. DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL EVENT – GIRL SCOUT, DECEMBER 12, 25 – JANUARY 15,  
26 – DOOR TO DOOR COOKIE PROGRAM:**

Alderman Jackson asked the hours that they would be door-to-door for safety reasons. City Clerk Lori Collins said she would get the information from the representative and would inform the Council.

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

Alderman Coleman was absent

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025  
7:29 p.m.**

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Coleman

**I. DISCUSSION FOR RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO BAXTER & WOODMAN, INC. IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$48,886 FOR THE WATER & SEWER RATE STUDY PROJECT:**

Trotter Engineer Steve Cieslica explained that 2010 was the last sewer & water rate study. CIP planning had been completed. There were big projects to come including the new water tower, lead service line replacement and the Broadway Ave water and service lines. There were other projects to follow; the capital needs were pushing the need for the rate study. There were RFPs submitted, and Baxter & Woodman was the most qualified.

**II. DISCUSSION OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$272,000 TO REPAIR RAW WATER PUMP; CLEAN AND REPAIR WET WELL:**

Street Superintendent Bob Miller explained that Abbvie utilizes 4 raw water pumps. 2024 2 of 4 pumps were rebuilt, 1 failed already. Six years prior when the intake wells were cleaned the underwater door to the pump was inadvertently left open causing sediment to come in and corrode.

There were going to be 3 jobs: rebuild 3<sup>rd</sup> pump, waiting on second pump, repair the broken door and clean out the sediment. There was a new company to fix the door, clean out the sediment and clean out the screens. The amount was the maximum amount.

Alderman Allen asked what the plan was to assure the pump doesn't remain open. Mr. Miller said that there would be monthly exercises to make certain they are closed. The doors should be opened and closed periodically but should not remain open. It was 6 years of sediment.

Alderman Allen suggested there be a sign in sheet that documents who opens and closes the door; Mr. Miller agreed. Mr. Miller noted that the statute of limitations more than likely had been reached to hold the company that left it open liable. Attorney Silverman agreed.

Alderman Wray asked if there was training provided so the employees know of the protocol. Mr. Miller said there was, since the flood 2 years prior, there have been protocols and check sheets put in place. Some of the training was in hope of performing some of the repairs in house.

**III. DISCUSSION/AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BID THE 2025 MFT ROAD PROGRAM:**

Mr. Cieslica explained the 2025 MFT Program was approved in the July 2025 budget. The budget was \$1.1 million.

**Alderman Brooks left the Council Chambers at 7:40 p.m.**

Mr. Cieslica said that the attempt was to avoid digging up new streets to do the lead service line replacement. The lead service line replacement grant was approximately \$2 million from the Illinois EPA. The streets were: Hillcrest Ave (from 20<sup>th</sup> to MLK), 23<sup>rd</sup> St. (Lewis to Kemble), 21<sup>st</sup> St., 18<sup>th</sup> St. and 15<sup>th</sup> St. resurfacing. There were many lead service lines in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward and were working in that direction.

**Alderman Brooks returned to the Council Chambers at 7:44 p.m.**

Alderman Jackson stated concern of the 1000 block of Wadsworth and asked if it could be looked at. The manhole cover was also elevated. Alderman Evans gave kudos to Bob Miller for all the work that he had been doing, including clerical work while the assistant was out.

Alderman Wray also thanked Economic Development and Public Works for the graffiti removal on Martin Luther King.

**IV. DISCUSSION TO APPROVE FY26 MFT ROAD PROJECTS:**

Same as Item III.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 2, 2025  
7:46 p.m.**

Alderman Murphy called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Coleman

**II. DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR DAPHNE REYES, LEADS  
COORDINATOR/PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT (TERM:  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2025 – MARCH 27, 2026):**

Human Resources Director Elizabeth Black via Zoom explained that Ms. Reyes had been working as a contractor LEADS Coordinator since 2020. The rate had increased from \$56.80 to \$58/hour. She remains an asset to the department in keeping the records.

Alderman Jackson asked why Ms. Reyes had not been offered a permanent position with the City. Police Chief Lazaro Perez explained that she was a former employee, she retired from NCPD and contracted to help specifically with LEADS and NIMS.

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks that Human Resources Committee Meeting stand adjourned.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

Alderman Coleman was absent

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.