

MONDAY
MAY 19, 2025

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

Following City Council Meeting



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7:44 PM

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks
Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION OF DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS:

➤ Economic Development	➤ Police
➤ Engineer – no report	➤ Public Works
➤ Finance Budget Report	➤ Treasurer – no report
➤ Fire	➤ Water
➤ Human Resources	

There was no discussion. The City Clerk noted that the Treasurer was not going to be in attendance and that is why he did not submit a report.

II. DISCUSSION – ANNUAL REVIEW OF INTERDEV INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES:

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson explained there were performance reviews with other contractors. He was asking for an annual review with InterDev Information Technology Services. This was requested by one of the council members (Evans).

The Mayor suggested that staff properly documented any issues and sent them to the I.T. Department. Alderman Evans clarified that tickets would be reported to Council monthly also.

III. DISCUSSION OF ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH KEVIN RIGGS CONSULTING GROUP FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:

The Chief of Staff urged council members for lobbyists. 2026 budget included lobbyists. He provided history that the consulting groups were established in Springfield, IL and a minority company. The amount was **\$60,000** for (2) Kevin Riggs and Frank Bass lobbyists.

Alderman Allen asked if they don't produce at least \$60k in grants would the City be refunded. Chief Jackson said that it couldn't be a requirement but could be evaluated on performance. Alderman Brooks clarified the \$60,000 was for both lobbyists; Chief Jackson agreed.

The Mayor added they were very knowledgeable.

Senate Bill 2264

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson noted that Home Rule authority would be taken upon approval of Senate Bill 2264 Crime Free Housing. The City would no longer have authority for nuisance enforcement. The Senate suggests that it's discriminatory and could be used against landlords. He noted that the City was able to use nuisance laws to handle current criminal situations. It was on the 3rd reading. Mayor Rockingham invited the Council to contact Senator Adrienne Johnson.

Alderman Evans asked what the City could do if the bill were to pass. Chief Jackson said other methods would have to take place. Alderman Murphy clarified that some of the tactics used to handle issues with Brookstone would be lost; Chief Jackson concurred.

Kevin Riggs (lobbyists) suggested that the Council send bullet points directly to him and he would forward them to Senator Johnson the following day. He further stated that the lobbyists could contact people in the House to possibly prefile the bill to force a negotiation.

Attorney Silverman explained that the 3rd reading was established for May 23rd. It was going through legislative processes. Alderman Coleman appreciated enthusiasm of the lobbyists.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

**JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY
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8:07 PM

Alderman Wray called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION/REVIEW OF AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING A GROCERY RETAILERS' OCCUPATION TAX AND A MUNICIPAL GROCERY SERVICE OCCUPATION TAX FOR THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO:

The Chief of Staff gave a brief history of the inception of the bill. explained that the Government was trying to eliminate the Grocery Retailer' Occupation Tax and Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the State of IL. The new ordinance would allow for the money to come directly to the City. The Chief of Staff stated if not approve the City would lose between **\$105,000 and \$110,000**.

Alderman Coleman asked if there were any drawbacks. Chief Jackson reiterated the loss in revenue.

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY
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8:07 PM

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks
Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE TO APPROVE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT:

Interim Public Works Director Bob Miller explained an ordinance for disposal of surplus equipment; 54 items including 2 trucks. Public Works would like to use funds to purchase equipment. The value of the surplus was limited.

Alderman Allen strongly stressed to inform the citizens and afford them an opportunity to take part in the bidding. Mr. Miller explained the several methods that could be used to view and purchase but would proceed how Council sought fit. He also noted that most of the items were not useable and were scrap.

Alderman Brooks asked method with purchaser paying and where funds were directed. Comptroller Tawanda Joyner explained the methods based on how items were sold. Alderman Jackson asked if there was a minimum bid. Mr. Miller recommended declaring items surplus and determine the other concerns following approval.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks that the Public Works Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks
Nays: None
Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY
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8:15 PM

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks
Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION OF SUMMER PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN:

Deputy Police Chief Gary Lunn gave a brief overview of the plan. Alderman Coleman questioned the purchase of drones. Comptroller Tawanda Joyner said that the grant for the drones had been approved and awaiting funds. The approximate cost for the drones was \$12,000 per drone, purchasing 2.

Chief Lunn explained that the drones could not be used for general surveillance based on FAA law, although they could be used for search and rescue. Alderman Allen commended Chief Lunn on the implementation summer safety plan. Alderman Jackson asked if the vendor for the drone purchase had been selected; Chief Lunn said narrowed down to 2.

Alderman Murphy questioned the possibility of getting more patrol on Route 43; there were people racing and/or excessive speeding. Chief Lunn said there could be a partnership with other agencies and make that area a target.

Mayor Rockingham commended the Police Department on a great job. Chief Lunn explained there were new officers that were excited at being police and were working to get control of crime.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks
Nays: None
Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

**FINANCE/AUDIT
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY
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8:31 PM

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks
Absent: None

I. DISCUSSION OF PURCHASE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BS&A PURCHASE ORDER MODULE:

Comptroller Tawanda Joyner explained that there were currently 4 modules purchased and would like to purchase the purchase order module. Modules were purchased upon need. The process for approval would remain the same. The new module would better control of purchasing and reduce the possibility of missing invoices.

Alderman Coleman asked if he could still submit an invoice from 2 years ago. Ms. Joyner explained that it would have to be a legitimate business purchase.

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks that the Finance/Audit Committee Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks
Nays: None
Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING/ZONING COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY
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8:39 PM

Alderman Brooks called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Jackson, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks
Absent: None

**I. DISCUSSION OF ATC (AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATION) CELL TOWER
CONTRACT PROPOSAL – FIRE STATION #2:**

Economic and Community Development Director Taylor Wegrzyn explained there was currently an agreement for this cell tower. This was different than the 2024 discussed tower. The amendment was for 7 additional 5-year terms, fees would increase accordingly. The contract could be up to the year 2075. Offering \$20,000 lump sum to the City and a 10-year guarantee (for rent).

Alderman Evans asked the amount gained for the 10 years; Mr. Wegrzyn explained in approximation at \$3,000/month and \$36,000/year. Alderman Evans asked why so long; Mr. Wegrzyn said to attract tenants.

Alderman Brooks clarified the 5-year increments and the termination terms. Mr. Wegrzyn explained the termination was up to the cell tower operator. The City could not terminate unless the operator was in breach of the agreement. Alderman Coleman did not think it was a bad agreement based on technology development; were they locked in on bandwidth. Mr. Wegrzyn said there would still be a permitting process and federal regulations requirements for changes.

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.