

**MONDAY
April 6, 2026**

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

Following City Council Meeting



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6:44 p.m.

Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr., called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

1. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR COMMUNICATION SERVICES WITH JENICH MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS NOT TO EXCEED \$ 45,000

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson explained that it was a one-year contract renewal for Dawn Jenich. Dawn assisted with the rebranding and website development after the departure of former Communications Information Coordinator. This contract rate would remain the same, as this service will be for marketing and communications. Ms. Jenich played a pivotal role in the comprehensive municipal rebranding Phase I.

The proposal was that Ms. Jenich lead out in Phase II, the branding rollout, so that we ensure consistency, continuity, and full integration with the new brand across the city's platforms, materials and outreach efforts. We have received nothing but compliments on the new website in comparison to the previous, the website would continue to be improved upon. Ms. Jenich worked on improving the city's social media presence by increasing the frequency and content resulting in more community engagement and visible digital footprint. Given the work that she has done, it would be appropriate for another one-year contract.

From a budget standpoint, the salary and benefits package from the previous Communications Information Coordinator was close to 6 figures, this is significantly less.

2. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS/LOBBYIST SERVICES WITH KEVIN RIGGS CONSULTING GROUP NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000

Mr. Jackson requested renewal of the contract for Government Affairs work with Kevin Riggs

Consulting Group. Not to exceed the amount of \$60,000; to continue to provide statewide Government Affairs and Lobbyist Services.

This engagement was critical in advancing the city's legislative priorities, securing external funding opportunities and ensuring that the city had effective representation of our interest at the state level. It was important to have representation in Springfield. The appreciation for representation of the city was recognized.

In addition to these ongoing efforts, the firm had demonstrated measurable success (reports submitted monthly). They had done their best to prioritize the city's pension reform, especially around pension reform, solutions for long-term fiscal sustainability, and they played a pivotal role in the **IDNR** land transfer of Mt. Sinai's property to our property for the purpose of the water tower and getting the National Parks.

Previously Economic & Community Development Director Taylor Wergzyn, Kevin Riggs Consulting and Greg Jackson provided testimonies before the Senate Committee regarding QuickTake efforts, so the City could expedite the activity with Route 41 drainage project which would benefit and mitigate the flooding the residence experienced over the years. Not only on 41 but also by Strawberry Condominiums.

Mr. Jackson emphasized the Aldermen have had first-hand experience with dealing showing representation in Springfield.

3. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID HUDSON TO THE PZC COMMISSION

Economic & Community Development Director Taylor Wegrzyn noted that this was a follow-up from previous discussion with the need to fill the vacancy of the final board member needed. Honored to propose the last vacancy of the two-year term of Planning and Zoning Commission, that would expire December 31, 2027.

Alderman Coleman indicated that he was a classmate Mr. Hudson and he had always been of an upstanding character. He never heard anything negative about him, avoided the negativity. Congratulations and thank you for the opportunity to speak on his behalf.

Alderman Brooks agreed with Alderman Coleman as he remembered Mr. Hudson from school as well and stated that Mr. Hudson was a "Stand-up dude". Mayor Rockingham, Jr. expressed excitement to see upstanding, good people coming on board.

4. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC WI-FI PROJECTS BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LAKE AND THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO

Mr. Jackson indicated the City was fortunate enough to partner with colleagues in Lake County to work on a digital equity program that would allow Wi-Fi access in downtown North Chicago at no cost to the City initially. The cost would be realized down the line, within a year, if decided to keep the program. The equipment would be installed by a contractor through our partner at Lake County. The Wi-Fi would cover from the Metra Station to 18th Street.

The City anticipated that Sheridan be our main corridor to start expanding the internet access to the public. The communities that were progressive, bringing Economic Community Development, communities that were looking to narrow the digital divide between residents and other parts of the community. This was a valuable asset; he thanked Lake County and the entire crew that worked on this. Initially started looking at private properties, it did not work. This was a nice start for North Chicago, we would like to proceed with the project, and budget more funds next the following year if this project is measured beneficial and continue to the 2nd Ward.

5. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF A CENSUS TRACT WITHIN THE CITY AS A QUALIFIED OPPORTUNITY ZONE

Mr. Wegrzyn Explained the City already had an Opportunity zone. It was a program through the federal government as an incentive for development. It was a tool that could be used to employ on development projects. Currently we had several census tracks within what's currently known as Opportunity Zone 1.0. Federal government is making available an expansion of the program Opportunity Zone 2.0. The census tracks that could be designated have to be eligible track based on the population within the tract. The low-income area and the Governor of each state have the authority to select the census tracks.

There was a new application window to submit new census tracks to the Opportunity zone, so the proposal was to designate the census track. The focal area for this project is roughly the east side of town, that encompasses the downtown district, the Coleman industrial Park (Commonwealth Avenue area) and a portion of Sheridan Road corridor extended to the north. The City was proposing to pass a resolution that supported the designation of that census. The City would submit a staff an application nominating that census tract other entities can nominate that census track as well. There was coordination with Lake County Partners for the same type of designations across Lake County.

Sheridan Crossing property is the site that makes the most sense to potentially capitalize on the program. It is the only census within North Chicago that qualifies. This resolution was to support the City's nomination of its own census track.

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

**JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY
April 06, 2026, 6:39p.m.**

Alderman Wray called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

1. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 12 OF THE NORTH CHICAGO CITY CODE REGARDING SPRINKLERS

Code Enforcement Officer Dean Cushing submitted pictures to Alderman Wray. Alderman Murphy had questions about her unit. Provided pictures of another unit similar to hers, where the sprinkler had been installed. The ordinance had been enforced for around 10 years and would like to codify. It is for, over the mechanical systems, water heaters, boilers, and furnaces. Codification would clarify what had been enforced. Worked with Murphy on this, to look at her unit.

Alderman Allen asked since it had been worked on with Alderman Murphy if the matter was clarified. He understood there were also issues in the 7th Ward. Mr. Cushing agreed. Alderman Allen clarified that some systems were separate and needed separate sprinklers. Some residents would need to separate system over each. Mr. Cushing agreed.

Alderman Murphy provided clarification that it was not a personal concern. It was concerns that's been raised ever since a dangerous situation is probably close to 10 years ago. Realizing that affects Strawberry Condominiums, the Hamptons, Stratford, Sports Point multi-units. It's been understood here for a long time that it's not necessarily convenient that codes are changed but it's common. It's a common expectation, especially at the time that property changes hands. Being sympathetic to the fact of somebody not knowing about it until they sold their unit doesn't change the fact that this is not something new.

The idea and the purpose were never to withhold information, but there's lines of communication and sometimes it really doesn't come up until a person is individually affected. In this case attempting to sell their unit. She felt the city was doing a much better job sharing the information. and she certainly attempted to communicate ahead of time.

Alderman Evans asked why the City was requiring following an ordinance that was not in the books. Mr. Cushing stated that in the last 10 years it was enforced and wanted to codify because of repeated questions. There have been questions coming up of course.

Mr. Wegrzyn provided more clarification for the past 10 years here and throughout the conversation had been the Building Commissioners determination, or an interpretation of the existing City Codes and the adopted International Codes. It's been the interpretation of the Building Commissioner and so there have been literally hundreds of properties throughout the

City of North Chicago that this had been enforced. They have had to make the retrofits on, at the time of sale or at the time of rental. The proposed codified ordinance would make it clear by the proposed ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to make it clear. This is the interpretation of the code and there would be a precise reference point that could be understood.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. explained that it was part of the BOCA Code which the City adopted. It's in the adopted code that sprinklers were required. This information was always in the Code.

Attorney David Silverman stated that a good job had been provided to clarify the issue that seemed confusing, he questioned why the City would legislate if there were already adopted codes that specifically provide for the requirement that is affecting this individual resident. This is unnecessary legislation. Further explaining that it's already a requirement, being enforced by the department unless somehow there is going to be a modification there's no need to legislate it, it's already been adopted.

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY,
APRIL 06, 2026, 7:31 p.m.**

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

1. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF A DISABLED PARKING PERMIT FOR 1815 LINCOLN STREET.

Interim Public Works Director Bob Miller said it was self-explanatory. A request for a disabled parking permit for 1815 Lincoln Street.

2. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR SERVICES WITH AMM ENTERPRISES, LLC, NOT TO EXCEED \$120,000.

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson gave a brief synopsis and there were some annual reports and reports since AMM Enterprises had been engaged with the City. AMM Enterprises had provided valuable professional operational and administrative support, enforcement and current engagement working collaboratively with staff across Public Works Department.

Looking ahead, the city continued to undertake a major admission critical project, consistent oversight, technical coordination, and administrative management to ensure they're seen on time, within budget and compliant with applicable standards.

The proposed one-year renewal was intended to serve as transitional. It is recommended that it to be the final year of the city's engagement and during that time, emphasis should be placed on further developing the capacity of existing subordinate management staff to assume increased operational administrative responsibilities, and then should current concerns remain regarding the ability of current personnel to successfully transition.

The city needed to be prepared to evaluate current staffing. AMM Enterprises had done outstanding work. They've worked cooperatively with every department to see things taken care of.

This engagement would assist in preparing the next generation leaders are ready. We need to make sure that we do that in all departments. Should transitions with current leaders change the staff needed to be trained, knowledgeable and equipped to continue the work, without any gaps in services. While being focused on developing the leadership skills of the management.

3. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BID FOR THE DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF SINGLE FACE MONUMENT GATEWAY

CITY ENTRANCE SIGNS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BRIGHT LIGHT FOR NINE SIGNS NOT TO EXCEED \$190,416.48.

Mr. Jackson presented a sample of City sign. The signs would be placed at all entrances of the City, including Sheridan Road, and coming up from Lake Bluff.

Alderman Jackson questioned funding. Mr. Jackson said that it was in the Capital budget and would be carried over to the next budget year.

4. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS LEWIS AVENUE DETENTION BASIN PHASE II PROJECT.

Bob Miller explained that the Lewis Avenue detention basin was approved. The City received a grant of \$5.5 million. With the remaining \$3.8 million, the City would like to enhance the drainage to and from that basin, to minimize flooding. The pipes would be bigger and some added. This is an extension to minimize flooding downstream.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MONDAY, APRIL 06, 2026, 7:46 p.m.

Alderman Murphy called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

1. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION FOR THE CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH MGT FOR DAPHNE REYES.

Human Resource Director Elizabeth Black explained that this was a contract/extension; she had been in her current role since July 2020 and Daphne's role had been conducting queries for the LEADS program. In addition to LEADS she performed various law-enforcement records-looking up driving records, warrants and helping at the Police Department.

She currently worked approximately 35 hours a week Monday through Friday. The hourly rate had not changed (\$58/hour). The renewal of the contract started March 2026 through March 2027.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MONDAY, APRIL 06, 2026, 7:48 p.m.

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

1. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF A FOR SERVICE AGREEMENT AND THE MUNICIPAL CONTRACT SERVICE FEES WITH THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES.

Police Chief Lazaro Perez explained that Lake County was already in place to help with dogs, cats, and wild animals. The reason this was before committee was due to new administration at Lake County. a new contract was needed. All fees and details would remain as in the previous agreement.

2. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION FOR GRANT APPLICATION FOR \$50,000 TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF MOBILE DATA TERMINALS, TRAINING AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Chief Perez was seeking a grant for \$50,00 for the police department equipment. Anticipated purchasing new MCTs systems (computers in squad cars). It would also cover administrative support and salaries as well. The need currently was for Mayor Rockingham Jr. and Tawanda Joyner to sign off on it. If the grant was awarded, it would be returned to council for acceptance.

Alderman Jackson questioned if there was funding match required; Chief Perez said there was not.

3. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIREFIGHTING BUNKER GEAR (PPE), NOT TO EXCEED \$27,305.00, FOR FY27.

Fire Chief John Umek explained that the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) had an expiration date on it of approximately ten years. Worked on a rotational basis outfitting staff with replacement gear and it was about \$5,500 per person to outfit. The Department was also looking to fill an open position within the Fire Department, the new staff would need three gear sets as well, if those positions were filled.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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

MONDAY, APRIL 06, 2026, 7:53 p.m.

Alderman Brooks called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

1. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 2929 23RD PLACE FOR CONTRACTOR YARD/SHOP – CONCRETE

Economic & Community Development Director Taylor Wegrzyn requested to group items 1 & 2, as they are related to the same property/petitioner. The property was owned by Rainbow Enterprises, a concrete business. The requestor was seeking to operate a concrete yard. The business had been around for 20 years and they owned the property. After permit review related documents to this property; they wanted to make some improvement to the property. The city's Zoning Administrator/Planner uncovered that there were no existing special use permits authorizing the use of the property. This is a turning-up, because it was previously requested by the City in time of purchasing this property. They were informed that a special use permit was required.

Like many other properties it has been discovered that there was no zoning entitlement authorization to use the property. Therefore, they need to obtain the special use permit to continue to operate the property, as a contractor shop/yard for concrete.

2. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING VARIATIONS FOR OUTDOOR STORAGE YARD AT 2929 23RD PLACE

Mr. Wegrzyn explained they were seeking variation to the ordinance as there are certain buffer yard and screening requirements when there is open storage yard and a contractor/storage yard for concrete business within the M2 zoning district.

This is an existing and established business in the community; they are seeking relief from the standard of the screening requirement on three sides of the property. On the south side of the property (Memorial Golf Course owned by the Dept. of Defense/Dept of War), east and west, another type of contractor facility. On the fourth side of the property, they were proposing improvements that would include a wall on the property and landscaping. Also, seeking the minimum instead of full relief for the requirements. They are trying to comply with the best price for them, with the current ordinances.

It was discussed at the Planning and Zoning last meeting and recommended for approval by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Wegrzyn said there was no traffic to the city for the concrete company. The owner explained

that his company does not pour or move concrete on the property. The trucks leave the start of the day and return at the end of the day. Alderman Brooks asked a clarifying question of what trucks was being driven through the area near the property. The owner said Semi-trucks, dump truck and four wheelers

Alderman Evans said the residents in that area often complained about the roads being destroyed. How many trucks; owner said 2.

3. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 812 AUDREY NIXON BLVD

Taylor Wegrzyn requested to Group Items 3& 4 as they are related to the same property and same petitioner. The property was owned by Bumping Ink, an auto body/auto repair shop, just east at 818 Audrey Nixon Blvd. Previously there were five parking stalls, which were parked for the business. The parking stalls had no specific designation. However, with the reconstruction of Audrey Nixon Blvd deleted the parking area, that was available. Following were issues with parking customers and staff parking on the street, causing conflict. In the past, the city had tried to work with the owners to address and resolve some of the complaints about the business. Proposing in 2022 when the building was demolished it was discussed to potentially utilize the properties/lots nearby, which were also owned by the same owners too. Those properties are zoned as residential; however, they are looking to use that space for off-street parking. Asking for a map amendment to rezone it to CW (Commercial Wholesale) which is the same zoning district as the other properties owned by them, because currently it is not in a district that permits off-street parking.

4. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING VARIATIONS FOR A PARKING LOT AT 812 AUDREY NIXON BLVD

Mr. Wegrzyn explained the petitioning was for certain landscape variations because their building goes to the property line on either side, they were seeking relief for the side yard buffer yard requirements on two sides. They proposed a landscape plan; that has black iron aluminum fencing in the front and rear, as well as landscaping. This would give an aesthetically pleasing look to the parking lot, while attempting to meet the landscaping requirements. It was discussed at the Planning and Zoning last meeting and recommended for approval by a unanimous vote. It is not believed that anyone from the public had spoken against this.

Alderman Brooks asked if they were aware that it was not to be used to repair cars. Mr. Wegrzyn said it was discussed at the Planning and Zoning meeting, that it would not be tolerated and that was not the purpose. This was off-street parking; this is not a storage or junk yard that is to be separate types of uses that would need separate types of approvals. The owners agreed and confirmed.

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. sked if there was a timeframe to complete. Mr. Wegrzyn said they were given 12 months of variation approval. If not done within that time, the permit would expire and they would need to reseek another permit.

5. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A SIGN VARIATION AT 3100 SKOKIE HIGHWAY (THE MULCH CENTER)

Taylor Wegrzyn said there were agreements made with other owners in that area about signage that would lead individuals to the Mulch Center that is behind the fuel center. The fuel center ownership had changed. Therefore, the agreements made previously did not carry over. They had come to an agreement to accommodate Mulch presence from Skokie Highway although signage was on Compass' property. The signage does not meet the city's approval; however, the parties have reached an agreement.

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

