

MONDAY
May 18, 2026
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Avenue, North Chicago, IL 60064

Following City Council Meeting



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7:41 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

DISCUSSION OF DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS:

- Finance Budget Report
- Fire
- Human Resources
- Police
- Public Works
- Treasurer
- Economic & Community Development

Alderman Jackson - Public Safety/Police requested that the Chief of Police or a representative attend the next council meeting and provide a verbal report on what the summer program would encompass.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY
May 18, 2026
7:43 p.m.

Alderman Wray called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

1. DISCUSSION FOR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM FOR GLENN DRIVE

Economic and Community Development Director Taylor Wegrzyn explained that some parking spots were reserved in collaboration with Lake County as they were making improvements on the Robert McClory Pathway on the west side of Glenn Drive. The city had the right-of-way from 14th Street to Broadway Ave. There had been illegal parking in that area. A major issue was that the apartment building 1415 Glenn Drive had no parking availability on its property. There was a need for parking in that area. There were twelve units in that apartment building. Staff had been working to develop a plan for a permit program that would allow tenants to apply for permits and grant them the right to park within the designated area. An area had been identified under the current ordinance, but the city could amend it in the future if the council decided to extend the permit's terms. This would only be a permit program, not selling/leasing, disposing of, or buying anything. It would only be for a permit that needs to be renewed annually. For the 1415 Glenn Drive property, which would provide 12 stalls (\$1.25 per sq ft) at \$3,000/year, the permittee would be responsible for upkeep and paving the area-per-city guidelines.

Treasurer Vance Wyatt asked if this pertained to any of the gardens. Mr. Wegrzyn said no; there were no gardens on the city side, which he was referring to.

Treasurer Wyatt indicated that this may affect some residents in that area, as they had been maintaining the gardens. Mr. Wegrzyn explained that the residents did not own that space.

Alderman Allen asked for clarification on the area. Mr. Wegrzyn provided clarification. Alderman Wray asked Taylor to confirm who would be authorized to park/receive a permit. Wanting to ensure that no one would be pushed out.

Council members asked additional questions about parking and proposed spots, as well as how this program would work and impact residents. Questioning whether cars would be ticketed if they do not have a permit.

Treasurer Wyatt concerned about the permittees/residents having to pay to have the area paved, maintained, and pay an annual fee for something that they were not owners of. Mr. Wegrzyn indicated that the first-year fee would be waived because the permittee would be responsible for repairing the pavement.

Treasurer Wyatt questioned that, as that could be a concern for the economically deprived community.

Mr. Wegrzyn indicated that the area conversations with residents and staff were deemed fair. Treasurer Wyatt recapped what he thought to be a poorly thought-out plan.

Alderman Brooks stated that a better solution should be made for this problem. Suggesting that the land be sold to the property owner versus them paving it, maintaining it, and renting it from the city.

Alderman Wray asked if this could be thought out more before a vote was made. A more feasible plan for the community. Alderman Coleman asked if the council actually had a say from a county perspective.

Alderman Wray asked Taylor if he could ask the questions of concern and come back to share.

Alderman Brooks suggested that if the Aldermen had any suggestions, they could please present them, as a better plan is needed.

Taylor indicated that he would come back to the council if the staff came up with another plan.

Alderman Murphy left at 7:45 pm

Alderman Murphy returned at 7:51 pm

Alderman Allen left at 7:51 pm

Alderman Allen returned at 7:54 pm

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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

**MONDAY
May 18, 2026
8:01 p.m.**

Alderman Brooks called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

Alderman Coleman left at 8:02 pm

1. DISCUSSION FOR APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CERTAIN VARIATIONS FOR THE PROPERTY AT 1105 JACKSON AVE

Economic & Community Development Director Taylor Wegrzyn indicated that this property was owned by Acorn Homes, and a representative of Acorn Homes was present if any questions arose. It was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission earlier in the month for approval of certain variations to the property regarding lot area and lot width, with two dwelling units. After reviewing reports, the staff was unable to find floor plans that permitted the second dwelling; therefore, the staff's recommendation is to grant approval for this property.

Alderman Jackson asked for clarification regarding the request; a cleaning business. Mr. Wegrzyn indicated that it presumed to be the case. The construction appeared to be intentional and used for that purpose for many decades. So, yes, this would be a retroactive/clean-up type of situation.

Alderman Coleman returned at 8:03 pm

2. DISCUSSION FOR APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION OF A JOINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF LAKE AND THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO FY 2027 – 2029

Taylor Wegrzyn requested that he address items 2 and 3 as they are related and hold the same request.

The City of North Chicago and the County of Lake entered into a joint agreement in 2014 for Community Development Block Grant and Home Grants. The County administers those grants, and the agreement was due to expire that month. Both parties had discussed extending the agreement for three additional years. Lake County would still administer the grants on behalf of the City. The City benefits from not having to hire staff to administer funds and receive funds for the community.

Alderman Jackson left at 8:05 pm

3. DISCUSSION FOR APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION OF HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

INCLUDED IN ITEM #2

4. DISCUSSION FOR AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MCKENNA ASSOCIATES PLANNING GROUP, LLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$142,000 FOR CODE CONSULTING SERVICES.

Mr. Wegrzyn explained that it was an RFP issued earlier in the year requesting proposals from qualified consulting firms to help and advise the city in developing a unified development ordinance. This would replace the city's current zoning and subdivision ordinance to create a unified code. The city's current codes can be traced back to the 1950s. The Zoning Ordinances had been amended over 200 times to date. Therefore, there was a desire to work with a consulting firm that could help to revise as necessary. This would be an 18-month process, and there would be many discussions to develop an end result that would include stakeholders and the community. There were three bids, and McKenna was the lowest. Staff's recommendation was McKenna Associates Planning Group and move this forward.

Alderman Jackson returned at 8:11 pm

Alderman Evans and Taylor engaged in a brief Q&A about selecting this Michigan company over one in Illinois.

Treasurer Vance Wyatt asked who would be considered the stakeholders in this process. Mr. Wegrzyn indicated those individuals had not yet been identified. Treasurer Vance Wyatt asked if the Park District would be included, as they were not in the Comprehensive Planning process. He was assured they would be.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

**FINANCE/AUDIT
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY
May 18, 2026
8:14 p.m.**

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

**1. DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH LAUTERBACH & AMEN, LLP FOR
AUDIT SERVICES FOR FY26 AT \$72,675 AND FY27 AT \$75,100.**

Comptroller Tawanda Joyner stated that Lauterbach & Amen were currently working with the Comptroller's Office and was happy with the services provided. Would like to continue receiving consulting services from them, as it has been successful. Have worked with them for 5 years, with a 6-year option.

Alderman Coleman thanked all who worked on the new budget. Alderman Evans said, " Keep up the good work. We support you 100%."

Alderman Jackson questioned the \$2,000 increase in the FY27 budget and if there would be a change in the Aldermanic credit cards? Ms. Joyner indicated they would remain the same. Most did not spend the allotted \$9,000. Not believing \$11,000 would be spent at once, so there would be no need for a change unless there was a specific request.

Alderman Coleman asked about the credit rating that worked for the city. Ms. Joyner stated that the City had been at BBB since 2018, had been downgraded and was working to improve. There was no attempt to "go out for bonds"; therefore, hadn't been rated. When we go back for bonds, we want all areas improved/fixed, as indicated previously.

Treasurer Vance Wyatt explained that the credit process differs from the traditional credit rating process.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

**BUILDING/LICENSE
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY
May 18, 2026
8:19 p.m.**

Alderman Allen called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

1. DISCUSSION TO AUTHORIZE A SAFE PLACE- WEAR ORANGE AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE EVENT ON THE CORNERS OF N. SHERIDAN AND 18TH STREET

Alderman Coleman indicated that previously a cleanup was done and questioned if a cleanup fee would be charged if not done. Comptroller Tawanda Joyner indicated that the application was completed and cleanup was needed, the Comptroller's Office would inform the renter of that charge.

Ms. Joyner indicated if it's the city's lot, there would be an invoice generated. Also, indicating that they would confirm the needs and necessary details.

Alderman Brooks stated that he and Alderman Wray attended the event the previous year, and it was a good event. If available, please come out.

Ms. Joyner confirmed that the event would not be held on city property.

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks that the Building/License Meeting stand adjourned.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY
May 18, 2026
8:26 p.m.**

Alderman Evans called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent:

**1. REVIEW AND DISCUSS LEWIS AVENUE DETENTION BASIN - PHASE II WORK
ORDER FROM TROTTER AND ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION
ENGINEERING SERVICES IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$389,697.00**

Engineer Steve Cieslica explained that on-site supervision on the project was needed to ensure that everything was done correctly per the current grant requirement. There would be multiple crews providing oversight into these projects.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Wray that the 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 8:29 p.m.

**PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY
May 18, 2026
8:30 p.m.**

Alderman Jackson called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

1. DISCUSSION TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS TOWARDS LEASE FOR THE SUB-STATION

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson explained that 90110th Street was seeking a rent increase. There were meetings with the Waukegan Mayor, Waukegan Chief of Police, Waukegan Chief of Staff, Mayor Rockingham, Jr. and Police Chief Perez to discuss their commitment to protecting and preventing crime on 10th Street.

When the initial agreement was made, joint support for this effort was supposed to be provided. However, had not seen that much support from the Waukegan Police Department as North Chicago officers had been providing a great level of support.

Lake County State's Attorney's Office recently awarded the city a grant to offset the cost of the rent. It was only a six-month grant, and during that time, we are looking to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of staying in the substation.

Alderman Allen confirmed that this is almost double the rent. Mr. Jackson confirmed. After looking into other options, 701 10th Street is asking for rent of \$3,500. Alderman Allen stated there needed to be a conversation with the State's Attorney's Office, as they said they would assist. Mr. Jackson agreed.

Alderman Allen asked Alderman Jackson for his thoughts, as it was in his ward. Alderman Jackson indicated that there was a benefit to that station being there.

Alderman Evans asked if that station was open all the time; Mr. Jackson said it was not. It served two purposes: one for a service worker and two for officers and their bikes.

Additional conversation was shared on the agreed commitment among agencies and the availability to change disconnected. However, North Chicago had an active presence in that area.

Alderman Wray asked if the amount was negotiable. Mr. Jackson said it was not and the reason he was exploring other options.

Treasurer Vance Wyatt asked if Forfeiture funds could be used. Comptroller Tawanda Joyner confirmed the funding sources.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.