

# MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, May 18, 2026, at 6:02 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, Coleman, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Absent: None

## **V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA**

5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **May 18, 2026**

5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **May 18, 2026**

5-3 Approval of the Treasurer's Report – **March 2026**

5-4 Approval of an Ordinance Redistricting the Wards of the City of North Chicago, Illinois, is Pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Code

5-5 Approval of a Three-Month Services Agreement for Event Coordinator Services with Carlos Smith, **not to exceed \$9,000**

5-6 Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Staff to Submit Intent to Establish STAR Bond District

5-7 Approval of the Resolution Approving 2026 CDBG Public Service

5-8 Approve and Authorize Execution of a Lease Agreement with AC Power 49, LLC for Certain Property on Casimir Pulaski Dr. (PINs 0831113001, 0831113019, and 0831113020)

5-9 Approval of An Ordinance Declaring Surplus and Authorizing the Disposal or Sale of Certain Real Property

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

### **ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: **Coleman**

Absent: None

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. asked if there were any questions about the Omnibus Agenda.

**Alderman Coleman moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to move Omnibus Agenda Item 5-4 to the Regular Agenda.**

### **ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

### **MOTION CARRIED**

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### **Levon Abington**

- Passed out a document that indicated North Chicago had the lowest property value in Lake County
- As a real estate investor many people hated doing business with North Chicago.
- Sprinkler system updates were extremely expensive, over \$30,000. This is a concern for investors: paying for the sprinkler upgrades per the ordinance while considering the overall value of the properties in North Chicago did not balance out.

### **Bryan Oglesby**

- Asked the City attorney about changing the ward boundary lines and stated that it was illegal. Mr. Oglesby believed it would be cause for a Class Action Lawsuit.
- Indicated his concern about being for an estimate of windows, and then it turned into a bid. Question: Was that done for any other project, or just for the one he is involved in?

### **Judy Wentz**

- Concerned about sprinkler systems in Strawberry Condominiums, which were built in 1973. The law stated that sprinklers over the furnace must have a 21-inch clearance. This is impossible to do unless the roofs were elevated and cause a problem with the pipes in the winter. Asking if Strawberry could be grandfathered in.

### **Dorothy Woods**

- A daycare owner shared a complaint about the Code enforcement. Indicating that he doesn't know what he's doing. The inspector was in areas of her home that were not deemed necessary. Ms. Woods requested that someone else conduct the inspection.
- Ms. Woods did not want him in her home. Ms. Woods believes that a business license should not have to be paid for before a passed inspection, because if it failed inspection, she'd want her money back.
- Mayor Rockingham, Jr., responded and stated that the person visiting her home was the Code Enforcer, and if she had additional concerns following the inspection, she should speak to the Chief of Staff or him so that they could address the concerns. Indicating that the code enforcer does a complete inspection of the entire home. Encouraged her to set up a meeting with his secretary to discuss the matter further.

### **Francess Lindsey**

- Thanked Alderman Jackson for listening to her concerns previously. A daycare business was run out of her home at 1531 Victoria St. Due to violations indicated in the report, they were displaced. There was very little notice that an inspection would be conducted. The visit was done on Wednesday morning, and by Wednesday afternoon, they had to vacate. Having to stay with a relative. The home was old; she worked with several architects and engineers, and was told that the structure and findings were not sufficient to justify leaving the home.

### **Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorn**

#### Announcements

- Memorial Day weekend *parks* officially open
- Let's Fly High & Make Memories Together (Foss Park Kite Flying Event) May 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm  
\* FREE\* *Kite kits available while supplies last*
- Summer Camo June 8<sup>th</sup>- August 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration was Monday – Friday. *Call the Park District for more information*

- Juneteenth, June 13<sup>th</sup>, *call the Park District if you would like to participate or have questions.*

## **VII. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **5-4 APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE REDISTRICTING THE WARDS OF THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS PURSUANT TO THE ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CODE.**

Alderman Coleman asked Mayor Rockingham Jr. if he'd like to table this agenda item.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. responded, NO.

#### **Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to approve Item 5-4 as presented.**

Alderman Coleman said that the attorney and other council members were on notice, which is the first legal threshold on responsibility. Alderman Coleman asked Attorney David Silverman what capacity he was operating in? The City Attorney or Parliamentarian

Attorney David Silverman- City Attorney

Alderman Coleman- Question? Is 5-4 legal, jerrymandering? That would affect a specific alderman.

Attorney Silverman stated that Alderman Coleman was making an accusation that the ordinance was jerrymandering ward boundaries.

Alderman Coleman asked if the definition of jerrymandering was to redraw a district to give an advantage to someone. Attorney Silverman responded it could be used for that purpose.

Alderman Coleman asked Attorney Silverman whether he was aware of the effect of the redistricting for any alderman. Reminding Attorney of his legal obligation of honesty. Attorney Silverman outlined the legal process undertaken to implement the changes.

Indicating that he was aware that there were individuals who were not happy with the changes, however, this change was something that all have been aware of for a few months. Stating this is a rebalancing of wards due to unique aspects of the City of North Chicago and its transient population of military families. In 2022, this same process was taken with the same consultant, and no one was upset. It was understood that it was done under the state constitution, which is the same as now. Mentioning that Alderman Coleman can vote to approve or vote not to approve the change. However, it is the city's effort to ensure one person, one vote. This is fundamental to our democracy.

Alderman Coleman thanked Attorney Silverman for the speech and re-asked his question. Of being aware of an affected alderman of the redistricting.

Attorney Silverman responded that he is sure that all the aldermen would be affected to some extent. Alderman Coleman restated his direct question of Attorney Silverman's knowledge of a specific alderman being affected.

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. made attempt to interject to provide clarification. Alderman Coleman explained, for legal reasons, why he needed Attorney Silverman to answer the question directly as asked.

Alderman Coleman shared his views on the importance of Attorney Silverman's obligation to answer the questions that residents and council members may have prior to voting, for legal purposes, and to ensure awareness that this change was under investigation. Mayor Rockingham, Jr. responded, "This is not under investigation".

Alderman Coleman rephrased his question. Changes in who voters vote for and then reassignment can cause issues for residents and violate voter rights. Mentioning that a public hearing should have been conducted.

Attorney Silverman stated that voters' votes would remain until the next election. Then, at that time, they could vote for the official of their choice. Indicated that the redistricting plan had been public knowledge for a few months.

Alderman Coleman stated that the process would only be fair if a special election for that ward were being held. That ward's alderman term is for three additional years. It is not fair to make changes that directly affect a specific alderman in the middle of the current term. Reminded the council of negligence and immunity, and to make good choices by speaking up and doing something when things do not appear to be done correctly. Asking additional specific clarifying questions to Attorney Silverman.

Attorney Silverman stated that the process had been legal, and after the council votes, he would be comfortable with the outcome because the process was correct.

Alderman Coleman stated that the redistricting favored one alderman. Attorney Silverman stated he was unaware.

Alderman Coleman asked whether this matter could be tabled for further private discussion until the next council meeting. Stating that if it was motioned to table, he would second the motion; otherwise, he would have to put the matter on notice and would prefer not to do that.

Mayor Rockingham, Jr., explained that this change/discussion had been in motion since Halsey Village lost its population and shared the number of vacancies in Forrestal, which caused an imbalance in the ward. Leaving the ward disproportioned when Halsey Village closed. Each ward needs a 5% balance, which would be approximately 3,000 voters. The discussion of redistricting to rebalance was relevant. Further stating that each alderman had a conversation with the consultants that assisted in the process, with the exception of one, due to non-responsiveness to the request. Mentioned that if there were any legal concerns, the city could address them because this process was done legally. Mayor Rockingham, Jr. stated that he feels very comfortable and confident with the proposed changes because they were done the right way. There have been multiple opportunities to address concerns previously.

Alderman Coleman asked Attorney Silverman whether he was aware of an alderman living outside of the ward boundaries. Attorney Silverman stated, NO. Alderman Coleman asked Alderman Brooks again to motion to table this matter so he could second it.

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. asked if he could ask a question on the motion...Should this matter be voted up or down?

Alderman Coleman stated... NO following that he had a parliamentary question which supersedes Mayor Rockingham, Jr.'s roll call. This gave the right of privilege as a councilman. Stating that the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward was being drawn into the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, which his jerrymandering. Indicating that this is known because the alderman is registered to vote in a different place.

Council members indicated they were unaware of the information that Alderman Coleman shared.

Alderman Coleman repeated his request to motion to table the agenda item.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. asked the City Clerk to proceed with Roll Call. Alderman Coleman asked if the City Clerk was going to acknowledge his motion. Mayor Rockingham Jr. said, NO.

Attorney Silverman stated that, as Mayor Rockingham, Jr. was the chairman of the council, he had the right to acknowledge or disregard. Alderman Murphy stated that, to her knowledge, there was a motion on the floor by Alderman Coleman. Asking if they cannot proceed with that motion and see if someone would like to second that motion.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that a motion was on the floor to approve.

Attorney Silverman explained that the Mayor did not acknowledge the motion to table, and that there was a motion to approve Item 5-4 as presented, with a second.

Alderman Murphy stated that, as presented, the process for moving forward with the vote was to proceed with the motion and the second on the floor.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. explained that he did not understand the cause. Everyone had an opportunity to discuss and he was unclear on why the sudden concern; previous committee meeting everyone was ready to vote as presented.

Alderman Allen and Alderman Coleman stated that Alderman Coleman was not present due to work obligations. Alderman Murphy noted that Alderman Coleman attended the previous meeting via Zoom and was admitted attending with all voting rights.

Alderman Coleman mentioned that since the last meeting, he had two weeks to think on this matter and had been unable to sleep knowing that they were in the process of doing something illegal. However, it's voting time, so he is mentioning it before approval.

Alderman Jackson stated his concern that if tabled, what would be the end results.

Alderman Coleman again mentioned that the authorities had been notified of this matter and that an investigation was underway. Tabling would allow more time to handle legal matters correctly.

Alderman Evans didn't cost the city to redistrict the wards and have a conversation about this matter, and he was unaware of this concern now. If this was for the people, it should be for all North Chicago residents, not just specific wards. Stating that this issue wasn't directly about redistricting, but about other rumors and relationships. Redistricting should not be a big deal. Suggested that if more information is needed, FOIA documents. If another alderman was uncomfortable and needed additional time, it should be provided. This needs to be made right.

Alderman Wray just asked to proceed. Reminding them that they agreed to work together as a team.

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. addressed that he would respect the request of Aldermen Wray, Allen, and Evans to table Agenda Item 5-4 until June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Attorney Silverman stated that the original motion would need to be withdrawn.

City Clerk Lori L. Collins indicated that Aldermen Murphy and Brooks would need to withdraw their motion.

Alderman Murphy clarified the purpose and outcome of tabling and withdrawing her original motion.

Attorney Silverman explained that it would be better to postpone than to table, as additional measures would be needed to bring this matter back to a regular agenda.

Alderman Coleman explained his views on the point of order and then withdrew his motion to challenge the chairman's motion, out of respect for Aldermen Wray, Allen, and Evans and the spirit of the meeting. Then expressed appreciation for the council.

Alderman Murphy withdrew her original motion with the condition that this item be placed on the next council Regular Agenda.

**Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson, that Agenda Item 5-4 be placed on the June 1, 2026 City Council Regular Agenda item as presented.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: Brooks

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-1 APPROVAL OF THE FY27 BUDGET

Alderman Murphy asked that the Aldermanic budget be amended back to \$9,000, based on conversations, research, and findings from other municipalities. Alderman Murphy explained in detail her stance on the request, based on data.

A vote was taken to return to the \$9,000 Aldermanic budget; Alderpersons Jackson, Allen, and Murphy voted in favor of that amount.

Alderman Wray asked for clarification on the votes as they pertain to the Ayes for the \$9,000 and Nays for the \$11,000, per Alderman Murphy's motion to amend and return to the \$9,000.

While Alderpersons Coleman, Evans, Wray, and Brooks voted to keep the increased amount of \$2,000, totaling \$11,000 per alderperson's budget.

**ROLL CALL:**

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Murphy

Nays: Coleman, Evans, Wray, Brooks

Absent: None

The amended motion failed

Alderman Murphy stated that if overspending becomes an issue, there would be no bailouts from the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward budget. Also, she indicated that the council was the legislative body who had the power of the purse, and was responsible for the wise expenditure of taxpayers' dollars.

Alderman Wray expressed and clarified that she personally did not misuse or mismanage taxpayer dollars. All of the expenses she incurred were directly intended to help her learn as much as possible to better support the residents. Further suggesting that Alderman Murphy not use blanket statements and should address individuals directly with concerns she had, as that can appear that she was also misusing funds, and that is not correct information.

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to approve Agenda Item 7-1 as presented.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays:

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

7-2 APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENGAGE WITH AN AUCTION SERVICE TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS AND UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the Agenda Item 7-2 as presented.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **7-3 CONSIDERATION AND AWARD OF THE LEWIS AVENUE DETENTION BASIN PHASE II PROJECT TO CAMPANELLA AND SONS, INC. IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$3,025,715.61**

Alderman Jackson asked if the funds were secure. Engineer Steve Cieslica responded, yes.

Alderman Evans asked if they pursued bidding before funding, or how the funding process happens.

Mr. Cieslica explained funding was applied for, once secured, they design the project, then go out to bid. Alderman Evans asked if the process happened before being presented to the council. Mr. Cieslica, agreed. Further explaining the process for this particular project. Weather permitting, the project would be completed by Thanksgiving.

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. stated that this project would benefit residents in Ward 5, due to current smaller piping systems, which had caused basement flooding in homes. Sharing the benefits of this entire project for the homeowners.

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen, to approve the Agenda Item 7-3, as presented.**

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **7-4 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL UPON STATE NOTIFICATION THE ACCEPTANCE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY GRANT #DG240084 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 WITH NO MATCH REQUIREMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PUBLIC SAFETY DRONE AND ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOFTWARE**

Mayor Rockingham, Jr. announced that the City had received a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Commerce of Economic Opportunity (DECO). Stating that if technology was available, the City should use it, and a drone could be used for the public safety. Further explaining the benefits that the drone would provide in real time, land transportation/individuals would not.

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson stated that Senator Adrienne Johnson was instrumental in securing the funds. Mayor Rockingham, Jr. stated that Senator Johnson had done an excellent job at bringing dollars into the city, and he thanked her for that.

**Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen, to approve the Agenda Item 7-4, as presented.**

#### **ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **7-5 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CITY BILLS**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>455,736.59</b>
<b>General Grants Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>36,928.70</b>
<b>Motor Fuel Tax Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,383.75</b>
<b>CDBG Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,236.35</b>
<b>Capital Projects Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>92,684.28</b>
<b>Water, Sewer &amp; Refuse Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>133,736.85</b>
<b>Vision Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>880.80</b>
<b>Library Fund</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11.03</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>729,598.35</b>

**SPECIAL** **\$250.00**

**TOTAL** **\$729,848.35**

**Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans, to pay the Regular bills of Council Run 05/18/26 in the amount of \$729,848.35 when funds become available.**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS**

- Alderman Evans announced the success of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward meeting. Noted another 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Meeting - June 6<sup>th</sup> (meeting and yard sale)
- Alderman Wray announced the 5th Ward Meeting, June 6, 2026, 11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at City Hall
- Alderman Jackson acknowledged the North Chicago Police Department *Cop on the Roof* for raising almost \$5,000. Thankful for raising the funds for Special Olympics.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE**

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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**Lori L. Collins, City Clerk**