

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:00 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, Allen, Wray, Brooks

Absent: Evans, Murphy, Coleman

Mayor Rockingham Jr. announced that Alderman Evans would not be attending due to personal matters.

Mayor Rockingham announced that Alderman Murphy was ill and would like to join the meeting via Zoom. Mayor Rockingham asked if a motion could be entertained to allow Alderman Murphy to join virtually.

Alderman Jackson moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks, to approve Alderman Murphy's participation via Zoom.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Brooks

Nays: None

Non-vote: Murphy

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

V. RECOGNITIONS AND HONORS

5-1 Proclamation - International Day of Peace

The Proclamation of International Day of Peace was read by City Clerk Lori Collins

Mayor Rockingham Jr. suggested an amendment to the International Day of Peace Proclamation to include additional neighboring cities.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Wray, to approve the Proclamation - International Day of Peace with the necessary amendment as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Murphy, Wray, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

5-2 Resolution Honoring the North Chicago Community High School *Class Of 1976*

The Resolution Honoring NCCHS Class of 1976 was read by City Clerk Lori Collins

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to approve the Resolution

Honoring the North Chicago Community High School *Class of 1976* as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Murphy, Wray, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

VI. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

6-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **August 03, 2026**

6-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **August 03, 2026**

6-3 Approval of the Treasurer's Report - June **2026**

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Murphy, Wray, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leslie Torres

Ms. Torres expressed concern that the city was missing potential revenue due to noncompliance with the ordinance regarding public city/street parking. Indicating that a neighbor had seven vehicles that were always parked on the street outside during the no-street-parking hours. This caused an issue because there was often no parking available in front of her home. Stating that, she was unable to load and unload items as needed in an area close to her home. There was alley parking available to them; however, they weren't utilizing it or parking at the back of their homes. Mentioning that, if the city were to ticket the owners for this violation of the ordinance, the city would receive a lot of revenue. Stating that she made the suggestion to her Alderman to hire someone part-time between the hours of 2am and 6am to ticket vehicles. Ms. Torres had an additional concern about snow parking; anytime the snow was 2 inches or more, there was no parking on the street. Previously she had to snowplow and remove snow herself because the street had not been plowed. The reason was that all the cars parked on the street were covered with more than 2 inches of snow. However, no one had been ticketed. Another concern mentioned was cars parked on the grass, per the ordinance, and began to look like a junkyard. In closing the City needs to enforce ordinances.

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson

Mentioned that conversations were had and the city was looking to hire a Parking Enforcement Officer. The individual would work between 2 am and 6 am, and the job description had already been created. This change is due to concerns from the residents and the Alderpersons. This matter will be on the agenda for September 8th, to hire a Parking Enforcement Agent.

Commissioner Carmecia Hathorne

Announcements for Foss Park District

- Thanked everyone who attended Movies in the Park, to see the movie “Michael”. The event was successful. Everyone loved it.
- Threads and Things “Stitch, Create and Connect” on August 19th and August 20th
- Open Gym Basketball for 6-8th graders on Tuesdays from 6:30-8 pm
- Eagles Martial Arts System, \$40 participation fee on Thursdays and Saturdays
- Inflate and Splash Fest on August 26, 2026, at 11 am-3 pm.
- Foss Park District Meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday at 6 pm

Call Foss Park District for more information

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

8-1 APPROVAL OF THE ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE 5-15 AND 5-3 REGARDING SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Wray to withdraw Item 8-1 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson mentioned that he requested this matter be moved to the Regular Agenda because there have been additional conversations, suggestions, and recommendations that he wanted everyone to be aware of.

After discussions with the base commander, it was recommended that the renter requirement be 21 to 25 years of age. Whenever there were any changes that may impact the base, there would be an open dialogue for additional input. The Captain’s comment was to please set the age to 21, sharing Airbnb requirements for Norfolk, VA. Stating that in Norfolk, the age requirements was 25 in various areas, and there is a camera requirement at the front door.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. deferred to the Council to make the change, as it was previously set at 18 years old. Alderman Allen suggested further discussion in Committee, stating that there have been some additional concerns about Airbnb.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated there were concerns with the \$50-per-year fee requirement. Expressing that if owners couldn’t afford the \$50/year, then maybe they should not rent that property. Individuals should pay any fees associated with the businesses they have. Fees also generate revenue for the City through the hotel-motel tax. His suggested opinion was 21 years of age and would not be opposed to the age being 25.

There have been concerns about an 18-year-old who may not be responsible. Believing that if the age remains 18, he could foresee the police being more involved. Mentioning that he did not want to see that. Noting that the Navy felt that the recruits were not as responsible at 18 and requested the age be 21, the City should strongly consider it, as the Navy brought the 18-year-old recruits into the city.

Alderman Brooks stated that he was not opposed to age 21 and that if individuals were 18, then they would ask someone else to rent for them and that would be the renters responsibility. However, not agreeing with cameras should not be a requirement for owners; it should be at their discretion.

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson explained he was not suggesting cameras should be considered; he was sharing another requirement in Norfolk. Alderman Wray agreed with Alderman Brooks. Originally, she felt the age should be 25, but no one agreed. However, not in agreement with cameras.

Alderman Murphy also agreed with Alderman Wray and Alderman Brooks on the age of 21. Noting that because people break rules, it did not mean rules should not still be in place. 21 years old was a better choice and the Navy expressed a preference that could indicate that they were aware of something the City was unaware of. She agreed with Mayor Rockingham Jr., who stated that if someone was going to own a business, such as an Airbnb, an applicable fee is not an unreasonable burden on the owner.

Alderman Wray stated that she does not agree with cameras, stating it was a bit much.

Attorney David Silverman stated that the motion, as presented, needed to be withdrawn and that a motion with 5-14-3-Prohibiting Conduct, subsection L, to change the allowable renter-to-dwell age to 21.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Wray to withdraw and amend Item 8-1 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Brooks moved, seconded by Alderman Wray to approve the Agenda Item 8-1, as amended.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

8-2 APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN LETTER OF COMMITMENT AND APPLY FOR IDNR COASTAL GRANT FOR SHORELINE AND BLUFF STABILIZATION

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to approve Agenda Item 8-2 as presented.

ROLL CAL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

8-3 APPROVAL OF EXECUTION OF SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH GRANICUS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTAL COMPLIANCE SOFTWARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,146

Director of Economic and Community Development Taylor Wegzyn briefly reviewed its functions for short-term rentals.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to approve Agenda Item 8-3 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

8-4 APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD TO M.E. SIMPSON COMPANY, INC. FOR FY 2027 SYSTEM-WIDE LEAK DETECTION SERVICES (BASE BID AND ALTERNATE A) IN A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$93,375

Alderman Jackson asked to allow City Engineer Steve Cieslica an opportunity to inform the public of the work.

City Engineer Steve Cieslica stated the project utilized technology for system-wide leak detection. Using pucks to gather data, and AI would analyze the data. It would identify public and private leaks, sound, and rate the speed. Attempting to become more proactive.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. asked if it would help monitor meter reading. Mr. Cieslica responded, "No". Explaining that meter replacement was separate issue.

Alderman Wray asked if the system would predict breaks. City Engineer Steve Cieslica said yes, and it would analyze sound, monitor usage, and identify bad pipes, which would help to identify possible future breaks before they happen.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks, to approve Agenda Item 8-4, as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

8-5 APPROVAL TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND SOLICIT PROPOSALS FROM SELECT CONTRACTORS TO COMPLETE THE WALLACE AVENUE EMERGENCY WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Alderman Jackson asked why the desire to waive the competitive bidding process.

City Engineer Steve Cieslica said they were seeking emergency bids for the main water replacement on Wallace Avenue. There were eight breaks and currently small leaks. Already have the drawing and did not want to open bidding to everyone.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. confirmed that it will open to a reputable contractors in our community and ask about their bidding process. Alderman Jackson stated that it was understood the reasoning was to ensure it would remain competitive.

Alderman Allen asked the timeline. Mr. Cieslica responded that the attempt to complete the job before the end of the year, or Spring at the latest.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Wray to approve Agenda Item 8-5 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

8-6 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CITY BILLS

General Fund	\$	248,412.20
General Grants Fund	\$	672,632.13
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	11,163.74
Federal Forfeiture Fund	\$	3,500.00
Capital Projects Fund	\$	609,596.73
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$	279,254.56
Vision Fund	\$	955.00
Library Fund	\$	<u>11.24</u>
TOTAL	\$	1,825,525.60
 SPECIAL	 \$	 228,997.50

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson, to amend to approve the Regular bills and 1 SPECIAL of Council Run 08/17/26 in the amount of **\$2,054,523.10 when funds become available.**

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: Allen

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9-1 EXECUTIVE SESSION – 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11) LITIGATION

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to suspend the Regular Order of Business and enter Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Murphy moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to resume the Regular Order of Business at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

X. ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

10-1 APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR CONTINUED REMEDIATION OF SHERIDAN CROSSING

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks, to approve Agenda Item 10-1 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Evans, Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

XI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

- Alderman Brooks mentioned the community concerns about Flock cameras, asking if it would be okay to invite Chief Laz (Chief of Police Lazaro Perez) to speak about the concerns and how the city of North Chicago uses the Flock cameras.

Chief of Police Lazaro Perez shared background history of the initial flock camera issues and that the concern stemmed from the south, and personally identifiable information being shared illegally. He noted that municipalities were not allowed to share information with ICE. It was not allowed under the law; the information could not be shared. The cameras were great assets to law enforcement and were only used when needed. They had been helpful in gathering historical data and solving crimes. Cameras were an invaluable asset when used correctly. In the City of North Chicago, they have helped with solving very serious crimes, including murders and shootings. There were conversations with legislators about imposing tighter restrictions on the use of Flock. Mentioning that there had also been discussion about possible audits being conducted in the future. Provided assurance that the North Chicago Police Department was using them correctly. If there was any misuse of the Flock cameras, disciplinary action would be taken.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. agreed with Chief Perez, stating that there had been incidents where the cameras were used to solve various crimes. Sharing that many crimes have been solved because of the camera. Being able to use the technology put in place to deter crime. Further mentioning that the city would be utilizing its first drone soon. These technologies would be implemented for the safety of the community. Explaining the process and purpose of the drone and its use.

- Alderman Jackson announced that Brandon X. Ewing was recently sworn in as a Commissioner to serve residents of Lake County in District 9 on the Lake County Board. Alderman Jackson congratulated him and stated that he was appointed to the late Mary Ross Cunningham's position.
- Alderman Brooks announced that Alderman Evans will be having a Township Meeting on August 29th, from 11 am to 1 pm at City Hall.
- Mayor Rockingham Jr. announced a legislative achievement (Quick Take Sign) for Rte 41 to negotiate an agreement with Full Moon, thanks to Senator Johnson, Rita Mayfield, the lobbyist, and Staff for all the hard work to make this initiative possible.
- Mayor Rockingham Jr. announced that Prairie View Apartments received all processed permitting and was to receive a \$25 million grant from IDHA and HUD to do renovations.
- Mayor Rockingham Jr. also announced that National Night Out was an excellent event. There were 3 stops, activities, and food for all. He thanked all who attended, Chief Perez, and all who supported the event.
- Cynthia Jackson stated on behalf of the Class of 1976, thanks to Mayor Rockingham Jr. and the City for the resolution. Mrs. Jackson shared details about the planned events for the Class of 1976's 50th reunion activities.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk