

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:06 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, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy, Brooks

Absent: Coleman

V. RECOGNITIONS AND HONORS

5-1 Resolution in Recognition of United States Navy Captain Stephen Yargosz

Mayor Rockingham Jr. announced that Kenneth “Lurch” Froberg was the incoming Commanding Officer and he was present. Executive Officer Commander Julius Dabu was present, and Julia Hamilton was present on behalf of Congressman Brad Schneider.

Chief of Staff Greg Jackson read the Resolution.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve Resolution in Recognition of United States Navy Captain Stephen Yargosz as presented.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham Jr. presented Captain Stephen Yargosz with a plaque on behalf of the city. Mayor Rockingham Jr. expressed kind words about Captain Stephen Yargosz and shared some of the wonderful work he had done. Indicating that Captain Stephen Yargosz became a part of North Chicago, attending events in the community. Stating that some individuals stay behind the fence, but others who interact such as Captain Yargosz.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. further expressed his gratitude to Captain Yargosz for his work.

Captain Stephen Yargosz thanked the City of North Chicago and Lake County. Stating he had a neat job, he noted that the partnership between the community leadership, the Police and Fire departments was memorable and easy because of the team. Captain Stephen Yargosz stated that the City of North Chicago, the community, and the amazing team he worked with made it easy to achieve goals. There was a strong connection and bond.

Lake County Board Member Sandy Hart was present on behalf of the Lake County Board, stating it was a privilege to present, offering brief reflections and gratitude for the opportunity to work with Captain Stephen Yargosz, and expressing well wishes.

5-2 Mayoral Proclamation—Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Postponed October 5, 2026

VI. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

- 6-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **September 08, 2026**
- 6-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **September 08, 2026**
- 6-3 Approval of the Trotter and Associates, Inc. Work Order CNC004-WO163 for Lead Service Line Replacements - Phase 2 Design, Bidding, and IEPA Loan Assistance Services in an **Amount Not to Exceed \$143,200**
- 6-4 Approval of the Trotter and Associates, Inc. Work Order CNC004-WO164 for Lead Service Line Replacements - Phase 3 Design, Bidding, and IEPA Loan Assistance Services in an **Amount Not to Exceed \$143,200**
- 6-5 Approval of the Trotter and Associates, Inc. Work Order CNC004-WO165 for Lead Service Line Replacements - Phase 4 Design, Bidding, and IEPA Loan Assistance Services in an **Amount Not to Exceed \$143,200**
- 6-6 Approval to Execute the Agreement between the City of North Chicago and Thompson Reuter for CLEAR Proflex for a not to exceed **amount of \$49,000 over 5 years**
- 6-7 Approval of the Resolution Declaring Taser 2x Surplus and Donating them to the Park City Police Department

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

State Senator Adrienne Johnson presented Captain Stephen Yargosz with a proclamation and a Senate Certificate of Recognition, highlighting his wonderful work. State Senator expressed thanks for his 27 years of service.

Alderman Coleman entered the council meeting at 6:22 p.m.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rayon Edwards expressed his concerns about the cost of towing in the City of North Chicago. Stating that North Chicago was one of 3 underserved communities (North Chicago, Waukegan, and Zion), and the towing costs averaged \$400 to get back. Stating that no one had \$400 to give. He mentioned that he received numerous calls and messages from individuals in the community about this matter. He had been communicating with the State Senator, Chief of Police, and Deputy Chief about this. All of which understood the law, which states that if the owner of the vehicle is present when the tow companies arrive, they are not to continue hooking up and removing the cars. Expressing that as city administrators, there was a duty to explain the laws and enforce them to the towing companies; not to continue to allow breaking the law and take the money of the community.

Mr. Edwards emphasized the importance of the council's consistent attendance, not just during election time, elected officials were to do the work and were working for the people. Mr. Edwards thanked Alderman Coleman for attending the council meeting. Further stating the importance of the

Aldermen's presence in the community was to communicate with and address concerns of the residents and not just throw events because elections were approaching.

Mr. Edwards lastly mentioned the concern about gated communities (apartment complexes). Stating that it appeared as if the council was afraid of those areas (Prairie View, Manchester Knolls, Brookstone, and Broadway), stating that the residents did not know some of the aldermen, and this was known because a survey was conducted, 472 residents completed it, with 61 knowing the name of some of the aldermen. Mr. Edwards stated that as a council, they needed to do better and do the work.

Alderman Coleman apologized for being late to the council meeting and noted "on the record" that he was late due to a Sheriff's eviction on Sheridan Rd. Stating that he received numerous calls and that the city was aware and working with the residents on that matter.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

8-1 APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD TO CAMPANELLA AND SONS, INC. FOR THE WALLACE AVENUE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT (BID ALTERNATE B) IN A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$1,570,948.50

Interim City Engineer Steve Cieslica explained the process of selecting a contractor. He stated that two bids were received from the first two of four contractors' bids were solicited from. Stating that two of the contractors could not meet the timeline due to other work-related commitments. The city received very favorable pricing; Campanella and Sons was the lowest to complete the work at \$1.57 million. The difference between A and alternate B was that Alternate A included reconstructing both street blocks of pavement. Noting that he did not want to come back with the change order later. After including the additional job, the price difference was less than \$60,000; therefore, the recommendation was alternate B.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. elaborated on the need for work and questioned if the cost would increase due to the increase in diesel pricing. Mr. Cieslica stated that it should not affect the quoted cost and explained why he believed it would not.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

8-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None
Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

8-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS VEHICLE

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

8-4 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CITY BILLS

General Fund	\$	325,642.16
General Grants Fund	\$	15,160.02
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	376,139.15
Capital Projects Fund	\$	231,175.72
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$	227,580.98
Vision Fund	\$	1,357.12
Library Fund	\$	18.16
 SPECIAL	 \$	 <u>2,000.00</u>
 TOTAL		 \$1,179,073.31

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson, to amend to approve the Regular bills and 1 SPECIAL of Council Run 09/21/26 in the amount of **\$1,179,073.31 when funds become available.**

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Alderman Jackson moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to Suspend the Regular Order of Business and enter Executive Session at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to Resume the Regular Order of Business at 6:46 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

X. ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

10-1 APPROVAL OF NEW VENDOR PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$1.7MIL

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Murphy, to approve Agenda Item 10-1 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

XI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

- Alderman Jackson indicated that he spoke to a concerned resident about the appearance of the City and inquired about a beautification project fund for downtown and 10th Street areas. Asking if there were funds available to beautify the city. Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated it would be reviewed.

Alderman Coleman asked Chief of Staff Jackson if there was an update for improvements and upgrades funds. Chief of Staff Greg indicated that the hotspots/internet were installed and that other projects were underway. Sharing additional details on the status of those projects.

Alderman Coleman inquired about the Connect Grant in the amount of \$900,000, asking if there was grant for improvements on Sheridan Road.

Chief of Staff Jackson provided information on the Sharing Border Grant and the Connect Grant, and on the work done with IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) and Trotter to secure lead on the project and funds; the work was approved.

Alderman Coleman asked whether there was a dollar amount on those funds that had been approved. Mayor Rockingham Jr. explained those funds were allotted for a feasibility study. Mr. Cieslica responded, noting that the grant was \$500k.

Alderman Coleman questioned the Appearance Code. Chief of Staff Jackson, confirmed the Appearance Code was passed

Director of Economic and Community Development Taylor Wegrzyn explained that the Appearance Code applied to new non-residential building structures. Whereas the Property Maintenance Code applied to existing structures. To ensure they are always in good repair.

Chief of Staff Jackson provided an update on the status of the hiring of new Code Enforcement officers. Mr. Wegrzyn mentioned that the Code Enforcement team had been looking into multiple reports of overfilled municipal trash bins along Sheridan Road and had discovered that some properties downtown did not have trash receptacles. Therefore, the code enforcement team is working to rectify illegal curb dumping.

- Alderman Coleman indicated that a street sweeper was needed on Sheridan Road, as well as Broadway; knew it was an expensive purpose. A council member mentioned it was \$300,000 plus manpower. Alderman Coleman asked if it could be put on the table to vote up or down.

Chief of Staff Jackson stated that they were reviewing the last 2 budgets, and it's an issue that Alderman Evans had concerns for Broadway Avenue also. It is a valuable tool; however, setting priorities. Indicating that it had always been a discussion point with Public Works.

- Mayor Rockingham Jr. reiterated that although a Code Enforcer had been hired, there remained a major concern about overnight parking between 12 am and 4 am, per the Aldermen. He shared the enforcer roles and the hours assigned to help resolve the issue of cars that were illegally parked overnight.

Chief of Staff Jackson added that the individual hired would also be a sworn police officer.

Alderman Evans made a reflective statement about ticketing and the need for consistency and fairness.

Alderman Evans suggested that the issue of garbage on Sheridan could be addressed by having Public Works pick up trash 2 to 3 days a week instead of once a week. He also thanked JJ Homes, ReNew and other businesses for coming into the City of North Chicago. Expressing how nice it was to see new homes built and families moving into the city. Stating how landlords were making a difference and that renters were being inspired as well. He encouraged the community to appreciate what they have. Stating that the city did not need to build a fancy big building to make the city look nice, we can appreciate, maintain, and keep clean what we do have. Highlighting the roadways that were being refined and repaired. He reminded the community not to allow other cities to speak poorly of North Chicago.

Mr. Jackson mentioned the positive media coverage the city had received. Informing the council and community that, the Tribune published a story about the Unified Development Ordinance. An article was published about Rosalind Franklin and the Simulation Center.

Stating that he attended the Grand Opening and explained the details of the project. He then shared that the Chicago Sun-Times had a photoshoot of the Mayor for an investigative report on Lake and the surrounding counties about the proliferation of gaming, and what stood out to them about North Chicago was the gaming moratorium to curb gaming. He added the amount of traction the city received from other cities seeking more information about the property tax rebate for seniors, to replicate it.

- Alderman Wray inquired about additional consequences for when residents just budget for the tickets they receive and continue to accumulate tickets. Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that penalties for repeat offenders would be reviewed. Giving the example of possibly using a “boot.”
- Alderman Wray expressed her sincerest gratitude for the support from the council and community during the homegoing of her brother.

Mayor Rockingham Jr. shared his condolences for Alderman Wray’s loss.

Mayor Rockingham Jr., spoke about the Illinois Municipal League Conference that he and several councilpersons attended. Mentioning that he had the opportunity to be a moderator for a session. The topic was the State Treasurer's Office about the programs and funds offered. Sharing the importance of getting this information out to the residents. Sharing that there was information about \$1mil (moderated) low-interest loans for homes, college funds, and data centers to be shared with the community. Further echoing that North Chicago was a good town, others recognized that as well.

- Alderman Brooks piggybacked on Mayor Rockingham Jr.'s comments about the conference but added that it was an opportunity for personal development, sharing some of the great topics that were covered, such as beautification, gaining ideas and information on ways to improve the City of North Chicago. He also shared that the city had lost another great person, Jerry Bey (Coach). Offered condolences to the family and all who would miss him. Stating that Coach Bey meant a lot to the people of North Chicago, the students and families.
- Alderman Coleman shared that he had a Ward 2 meeting tent event. He expressed what that the city's support meant to him, and he shared photos from the event. Indicating it was a success and that the residents enjoyed themselves.

Alderman Murphy left at 7:13 pm.

XII. 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 7:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk