

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, February 2, 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, Evans, Allen, Wray, Brooks

Absent: Coleman, Murphy

Mayor Rockingham announced the absence of Alderman Murphy and asked for a motion to allow remote participation via Zoom.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve Alderman Murphy to attend the meeting via Zoom as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

4-1 APPROVAL OF A MAYORAL PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 11, 2026, AS 211 DAY IN LAKE COUNTY

Alderman Jackson moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve the Proclamation Recognizing February 11, 2026, as 211 Day in Lake County as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

City Clerk Collins read the Proclamation Recognizing 211 Day. Mayor Rockingham Jr. thanked Ms. Grays for her service and being a part of 211. Mayor Rockingham stated how he utilized 211 to assist residents.

Ms. Grays, on behalf of United Way 211, thanked Mayor Rockingham Jr. and the City Council for continuing to raise awareness around the recognition of 211. In six years, they have made over 448,000 connections in terms of helping people meet needs and basic community needs and looked forward to continue with the City and Police Department.

4-2 APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DONNA KALINOSKI'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to approve the Resolution Recognizing Donna Kalinoski's Service to The City of North Chicago as presented.

City Clerk Collins read the Resolution recognizing Donna Kalinoski.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE

Mayor Rockingham Jr. gave accolades and highlighted that Ms. Kalinoski is at all the meetings and events. She has always been a part of the City of North Chicago. Thank you for all you do. Mayor Rockingham Jr. read and presented Ms. Kalinoski with a plaque.

Alderman Evans stated that Donna was very popular around the city. Alderman Evans she had done and accomplished so much for people in the city.

Donna expressed appreciation and she looked forward to this presentation “like a child looks forward to Christmas.” Donna felt that everyone were her friends and she missed everyone when she was ill. Happy that she was able to see faces and feel hugs.

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

- 5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **January 20, 2026**
- 5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **January 20, 2026**
- 5-3 Approval of Treasurer’s Report – **December 2025**
- 5-4 Approval of a Resolution for a City of North Chicago Community Grant Program
- 5-5 Approval of Professional Service Agreement with Dawn Jenich Consulting (Sole Proprietorship) Communications Outreach Services
- 5-6 Approval of Request from Lake County PEARLS for a Contribution of **\$1,000** to Support Meals for Children at Evelyn Alexander School
- 5-7 Approval of Agreement between AMM Enterprises and the City of North Chicago for Interim Public Works Director
- 5-8 Approval of a Resolution for An Operational Policy for Filing and Accepting Grants
- 5-9 Approval of Revision to Vacation Policy
- 5-10 Approval of a Resolution Authorizing Execution of IEPA Public Water Supply Loan Program Documents for the following projects: Lead Service Line Replacement Phase I, Water Tower No. 1 and Transmission Main- Contracts A & B
- 5-11 Approval of the TAI Work Order for Construction Services for Lead Service Line Replacements - Phase I in the Not to Exceed Amount of **\$293,670**
- 5-12 Approval of the TAI Work Order for Construction Services for Water Tower No. 1 and Transmission Main - Contract A and Contract B in the Not to Exceed Amount of **\$435,370**
- 5-13 Approval of Amended and Restated Redevelopment Agreement – North Chicago 2023, LLC (Compass Fuel Center) – 3100 Skokie Highway
- 5-14 Approval of an Ordinance Approving Certain Sign Variations for North Chicago 2023, LLC at 3100 Skokie Highway
- 5-15 Approval for Authorization to Advertise Request for Proposals – Unified Development Ordinance

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rayon Edwards

- Congratulations and Well-deserved Donna Kalinoski; thanked the Council for honoring her
- Glad dissolving honorary street naming
- Concerned with rent gauging on Hervey Ave. He suggested the City consider who is allowed to purchase property in the community. Mr. Edwards felt the residents in that neighborhood be being treated inhumanely. Renters' belongings were displaced and remained outside for days. There was no formal communication because of language barriers. The owner said repairs would increase rate to \$1700, without repair rent would be \$1,250. Asking about what rights they have and concerned about the seniors, as they are fearful of losing housing
- Expressed the need for neighbors to be considerate of dog barking consistently (5 a.m.) and outside in the elements. He asked Council to consider an ordinance with animals, for noise
-Alderman Brooks responded to Mr. Edwards indicating that the council was creating an ordinance about animals and would consider his ideas

Mike Atlas

- Congratulations to Ms. Kalinoski on a job well- done for many years.
- Mr. Atlas read information from the internet about military training locations. He followed up by asking, why was North Chicago not mentioned when Great Lakes is listed. North Chicago needed to foster a relationship with the Naval Station. Naval Station Great Lakes is the only Naval basic training center, and the City needed to “tie ourselves at the hip” to build businesses and market ourselves.

Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorne

- Congratulations Ms. Donna Kalinoski
- Extended Condolences to Vance Wyatt on the loss of his mother
- **Event announcements for Foss Park District:**
Health is wealth
 - Chair Exercise for Seniors FREE on Mondays and Thursdays 9am-11am
 - These Feet are Made for Walking (Seniors walking group) Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9-11am
 - Seniors Valentine’s Craft with Snacks on February 10th from 10am-12pm
 - Chicago Fire- Youth Night on March 14, 2026 * Mark your Calendar
 - Senior St. Patrick’s Craft and Snack on March 17, 2026, at 10am-12pm
 - Senior’s Movie and Adventure on Tuesday April 14, 2026

Contact Foss Park district with questions about dates or events.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL - DISCUSSION OF FY24 AUDIT BY LAUTERBACH & AMEN FOR ACCEPTANCE

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to approve the FY24 audit by Lauterbach & Amen for acceptance as presented.

Online presentation was given for April 30, 2024, audit given by Courtney Mohr from Lauterbach & Amen. She thanked the Comptroller's Office for their assistance and explained the purpose of an audit. The City received an unmodified clean opinion (the highest that could be given). Also indicating that there were no difficulties or disagreements with management throughout the process. She also gave an overview of the audit.

Main General Operating Fund ended with approximately \$23.5 million dollars, which was an increase of about \$2.7 million dollars from previous year. Of that amount, about \$1 million is non-spendable. The remaining \$22.4 million could be used to meet the future needs of the City.

Proprietary Fund (water, sewage, refuse fund) total net at year end was \$26.5 million. Which is split into two major categories. Net & Capitol assets which are owned and operated with water, sew and refuge fund, less accumulated depreciation and any debt that was used to finance them. \$14.9 million was considered unrestricted to be used to meet the needs of the City.

Alderman Allen questioned if procedures were being followed; Ms. Mohr explained and felt there were checks and balances. Mayor Rockingham thanked Lauterbach & Amen.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-2 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION DISSOLVING THE HONORARY STREET SIGN PROGRAM

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to approve the Resolution Dissolving the Honorary Street Sign Program as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-3 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL TO WAIVE FIRST READING AND APPROVE OF A GRANT-FUNDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE LAKE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE TENTH STREET CORRIDOR, NORTH

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to waive first reading and approve the grant-funded intergovernmental agreement with the lake county state's attorney's office for professional services related to the improvement of the Tenth Street Corridor, North Chicago as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-4 **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF CASSIE L. GRAY**

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to approve the Resolution in Memory of Cassie L. Gray as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham noted that it would be presented at funeral services.

7-5 **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE CDBG SANITARY SEWER CLEANING AND CIPP LINING PROJECT TO INSITUFORM TECHNOLOGIES USA, LLC IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$317,998.38**

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the contract for the CDBG Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Cipp Lining Project to Insituform Technologies USA, LLC in the not to exceed amount of \$317,998.38 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham Jr. explained that sanitary cleaning and lining was done annually. He gave a brief description of this process and its purpose. The annual maintenance saves money and prevents destroying the road.

7-6 **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM LEAK DETECTION SERVICES TO M.E. SIMPSON COMPANY, INC. IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$15,105**

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the Contract for the Water Distribution System Leak Detection Services to M.E. Simpson Company, Inc. in the not to exceed amount of \$15,105 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham Jr. the company monitors and locates leaks in the water system.

7-7 **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM - VALVE EXERCISING AND HYDRANT FLUSHING SERVICES TO HYDROMAX USA IN THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$34,262.50**

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Wray to approve the Contract for the Water Distribution System - Valve Exercising and Hydrant Flushing Services to Hydromax USA in the not to exceed amount of \$34,262.5 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham explained the hydrants were exercised (flushed) to assure they were operable.

7-8 **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CITY BILLS; [SPECIAL 1](#); [SPECIAL 2](#)**

General Fund	\$	598,494.58
General Grants Fund	\$	620,391.53
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	918.19
Skokie Highway TIF Fund	\$	43,007.55
Capital Projects Fund	\$	16,303.72
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$	164,742.86
Retiree Premium Fund	\$	16,286.03
Library Fund	\$	8,740.03
	\$	<u>1,468,884.49</u>
SPECIAL	\$	4,514.60
TOTAL	\$	1,473,399.09

MOTION:

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to pay the Regular, Special 1 and Special 2 bills of Council Run 01/20/26 in the amount of \$1,473,399.09 when funds become available.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jackson, Evans, Allen, Wray, Murphy (RP), Brooks

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

- Alderman Jackson read a document acknowledging Officer Gary Grayer as he was named Investigator of the Year by MCAT (Major Case Assistance Team). Congratulations to Chief Perez and the entire Police Department for all they do
- Alderman Allen commended and shared a story from a resident regarding the quickness of the Fire Department responding to a carbon monoxide detector installation request. He thanked the Chief
- Mayor Rockingham Jr. mentioned that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors with installation were available free of charge to all residents. Contact the Fire Department or City Hall to obtain either
- Mayor Rockingham Jr. mentioned the City RDA for Compass Fuel Center on Skokie Highway. Working on the development for year. Compass would be building a truck stop and fuel distribution center. New business assisted with maintaining lower taxes.
- Chief of Staff noted that rebranding had begun and all City business had the new logo. He announced the launch of the new website was February 4th!

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 6:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk