

MINUTES

The City Council of North Chicago met in a Regular meeting, Monday, February 16, 2026, at 6:01 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

4-1 PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING USE OF “QUICK-TAKE” POWERS FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 30347, 30417 & 30375 NORTH SKOKIE HIGHWAY

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Jackson to open the Public Hearing at 6:03.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rockingham asked if there were any public comments or questions at the time. Attorney Adam Simon explained that Item 7-1 of the Regular Agenda reflected the information regarding use of “Quick-Take Powers” and would be deliberated/discussed at that time. The Public Hearing was for the public to ask questions or comment.

The “Quick-Take Condemnation Power” would allow the City the ability to acquire a utility easement to facilitate the use of a FEMA grant assist with stormwater management in the area near Route 41/Skokie Highway.

Treasurer Vance Wyatt asked how it would affect the 40-acre economic development site. Attorney Simon said it did not limit the use of the property; it was underground. Mayor Rockingham, Jr. explained that the easement was from the west side of Route 41 to go east on Route 41. It would help with flooding, especially for Strawberry Condominiums.

Attorney Simon explained it was a project of cooperation with Navy, IDOT, City and Lake County Stormwater Management, funded partially by FEMA.

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to close the Public Hearing at 6:06.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

V. OMNIBUS VOTE AGENDA

- 5-1 Approval of Minutes for Regular Council Meeting, **February 2, 2026**
- 5-2 Approval of Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, **February 2, 2026**
- 5-4 Approval of an Ordinance Renaming Farwell Avenue to Frontenac Avenue
- 5-6 Approval – Authorization to Advertise for Bid the FY26 Storm Sewer Cleaning and Televising Services
- 5-7 Approval of Agreement with GFT Infrastructure, Inc. In the Not to Exceed Amount of **\$142,660** for the Lewis Avenue/Route 137 (Buckley Rd) Intersection Improvement Project – Phase II Engineering
- 5-8 Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing a Loan Agreement through IEPA Public Water Supply Loan Program for the Lead Service Line Replacement Phase I Project and the Water Tower No. 1 and Transmission Main Project

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to approve the Omnibus Vote Agenda as presented with one correction to Miscellaneous Business which should read “Major Crash Assistance Team.”

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorne

- **Event announcements for Foss Park District:**
 - Black History Celebration February 27, 2026, from 6pm-8pm
 - Annual Princess Ball February 28, 2026, from 6pm- 8pm
 - Chicago Fire- FC Youth Night on March 14, 2026
Please contact the district to register and cost details
 - Senior St. Patrick’s Craft and Snack on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 10am-12pm

Contact Foss Park district with questions about dates, costs or events.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

- 7-1 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL TO WAIVE FIRST READING AND APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF BY EMINENT DOMAIN QUICK-TAKE POWERS

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve to waive first reading and approve resolution for the acquisition of by eminent domain quick-take powers as presented.

Alderman Jackson suggested surety the City had done due diligence to communicate with property owners. Chief of Staff confirmed proper communication with property owners through multiple methods, prior to moving forward. There was no response from the owner of the property owner

hence there being a need for a Quick-Take. The appraisal was between \$20k and \$108K; the owner wanted \$500K.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-2 **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES JANITORIAL SERVICES TO ECO CLEAN MAINTENANCE, INC IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$65,040 (years 1, 2 &3)**

Alderman Evans moved, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the contract for municipal facilities janitorial services to Eco Clean Maintenance, Inc in the amount not to exceed \$65,040 (years 1, 2 &3) as presented.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

7-3 **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF THE CITY BILLS**

General Fund	\$	410,537.26
Motor Fuel Tax Fund	\$	5,563.52
Water, Sewer & Refuse Fund	\$	143,933.28
Vison Fund	\$	7,902.02
	\$	567,936.08
SPECIAL	\$	2,000.00
TOTAL	\$	569,936.08

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to pay the Regular and Special Run of City Bills for 02/16/26 in the amount of \$569,936.08 when funds become available.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

- Mayor Rockingham Jr. mentioned new website was active and noted that it was more informative
- Received a grant from Senator Durbin’s Office in the amount of **\$861,000** that would be used toward a new fire truck
- From Congressman Brad Schneider Office the City received a grant of **\$447,000** for police radios modernization and **\$1,092,000** for Lead Line Replacement
- Mayor Rockingham Jr. stated that in 2025 the City received approximately **\$33 million** in grant dollars to help move the city forward
- He suggested everyone that met the criteria of the Citizens Property Tax Rebate Program to encourage others to apply. Details would be available via online, social media, Ward meetings, etc.
- Alderman Murphy was enthusiastic that other communities was looking to North Chicago for best practices to improve their communities.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9-1 EXECUTIVE SESSION 5 ILCS 120 2(C)(11)– PENDING, PROBABLE OR IMMINENT LITIGATION

Alderman Allen moved, seconded by Alderman Brooks to enter Executive Session 5 ILCS 120 2(c)(11) – Pending, Probable or Imminent Litigation at 6:21 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman moved, seconded by Alderman to resume the Regular Order of Business at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Coleman

MOTION CARRIED

X. 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 7:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

Lori L. Collins, City Clerk