

THE 2025-2026 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE. THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT 7:01 P.M.

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:01 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE APRIL 7, 2025 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:26 P.M.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

of the City Council of the

CITY OF DARIEN

APRIL 7, 2025

7:30 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Darien was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Mayor Marchese.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Marchese led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL** — The Roll Call of Aldermen by Clerk Ragona was as follows:

Present:	Thomas J. Belczak	Ted V. Schauer
	Eric K. Gustafson	Ralph Stompanato
	Gerry Leganski	

Absent:	Joseph A. Kenny
	Mary Coyle Sullivan

Also in Attendance:	Joseph Marchese, Mayor
	JoAnne E. Ragona, City Clerk
	Michael J. Coren, City Treasurer
	Bryon Vana, City Administrator
	Gregory Thomas, Police Chief
	Daniel Gombac, Director of Municipal Services

4. **DECLARATION OF A QUORUM** – There being five aldermen present, Mayor Marchese declared a quorum.

5. **QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – GENERAL**

There were none.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. City Council Meeting, February 18, 2025

It was moved by Alderman Schauer and seconded by Alderman Stompanato to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of February 18, 2025.

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato

Nays: None

Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

B. Administrative/Finance Committee-of-the-Whole — February 19, 2025

C. Administrative/Finance Committee-of-the-Whole — February 26, 2025

It was moved by Alderman Schauer and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve the minutes of the Administrative/Finance Committee-of-the-Whole Meetings of February 19 and February 26, 2025.

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato

Nays: None

Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

D. City Council Meeting, March 3, 2025

It was moved by Alderman Gustafson and seconded by Alderman Stompanato approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of March 3, 2025.

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato

Nays: None

Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

7. **RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Schauer received communication from Ralph Cozzi, 8400 block of Captons Lane, advising darkness at the intersection of Hinswood Drive & Frontage Road. Director Gombac to determine need for streetlight.

8. **MAYORS REPORT**

A. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE KAZICH TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

It was moved by Alderman Stompanato and seconded by Alderman Leganski to approve the motion as presented.

MOTION NO. M-10-25

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE KAZICH TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato

Nays: None

Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

Clerk Ragona administered the Oath of Office to Valerie Kazich.

B. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN BRESLIN TO THE POLICE PENSION BOARD

It was moved by Alderman Belczak and seconded Alderman Schauer to approve the motion as presented.

MOTION NO. M-11-25

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN BRESLIN TO THE POLICE PENSION BOARD

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato

Nays: None

Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

Clerk Ragona administered the Oath of Office to John Breslin.

C. INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF METRONET FIBER PROVIDER

Director Gombac provided synopsis of fiber optic cable providers.

Ben Ruzick, VP of New Market Development, provided an overview of Metronet, a fiber-optic internet service provider, which included impacts of 100% fiber network, ranking amongst industry leaders, construction communication & details, field crew, restoration, post construction and community commitment. He and Scott Carl, Project Director, addressed Council questions.

Director Gombac stated communication updates will be featured in Direct Connect eNews. He stated an additional fiber-optic company may present to Council at a later date.

9. **CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Ragona announced City offices will be closed on April 18 in observance of Good Friday.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

There was no report.

11. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

A. POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Chief Thomas presented 2024 Annual Report and highlighted the following topics: Crime, Traffic (Crashes), Concerns, Community Engagement, Honor, Personnel, Partnerships, Organization and Administration. He addressed Council questions.

B. MUNICIPAL SERVICES – NO REPORT

Alderman Leganski commended Public Works for cleaning area in Pinewood Park after rain.

12. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A. WARRANT NUMBER 24-25-22

It was moved by Alderman Belczak and seconded by Alderman Schauer to approve payment of Warrant Number 24-25-22 in the amount of \$488,822.29 from the enumerated funds, and \$345,191.71 from payroll funds for the period ending 03/06/25 for a total to be approved of \$834,014.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato

Nays: None

Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

B. WARRANT NUMBER 24-25-23

It was moved by Alderman Stompanato and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve payment of Warrant Number 24-25-23 in the amount of \$175,185.57 from the enumerated funds, and \$643,997.24 from payroll funds for the periods ending 03/20/25 and 04/03/25 for a total to be approved of \$819,182.81.

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato

Nays: None

Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

C. MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2025

Treasurer Coren reviewed year-to-date sources of revenue, expenditures, and fund balances through the month of February 2025.

General Fund: Revenue \$17,204,332; Expenditures \$14,427,339;
Current Balance \$7,757,217

Water & Water Depreciation Funds: Revenue \$6,573,798; Expenditures \$6,862,548
Current Balance \$3,437,213

Motor Fuel Tax Fund: Revenue \$866,206; Expenditures \$1,985,982;
Current Balance \$567,231

Capital Improvement Fund: Revenue \$701,106; Expenditures \$756,686; Current
Balance \$18,965,873

13. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administrative/Finance Committee – Alderman Schauer stated the minutes of the May 3, 2025 were approved and submitted to the Clerk’s Office. He announced the Administrative/Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

Municipal Services Committee – Chairman Belczak announced the Municipal Services Committee meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.

Police Committee – Alderman Stompanato announced the Police Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the Police Department Training Room.

14. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – AGENDA RELATED**

There were none.

15. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

16. **CONSENT AGENDA**

As discussed in Work Session, New Business Item C was moved to the Consent Agenda as Item M.

It was moved by Alderman Belczak and seconded by Alderman Stompanato to approve by Omnibus Vote the following items on the Consent Agenda:

A. MOTION NO. M-12-25

A MOTION TO APPROVE:

•THE ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY PARADE ON THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2025, BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M., SPONSORED BY THE DARIEN LIONS CLUB AND

•AUTHORIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST IN TRAFFIC CONTROL AND AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STREETS FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY PARADE: FROM THE JEWEL PARKING LOT, NORTH ON CASS AVENUE TO 71ST STREET; EAST ON 71ST STREET TO CLARENDON HILLS ROAD; SOUTH ON CLARENDON HILLS ROAD TO HINSDALE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

B. MOTION NO. M-13-25

A MOTION APPROVING THE DARIEN YOUTH CLUB AND DARIEN LIONS CLUB OPENING DAY PARADE AND WAIVING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES

C. MOTION NO. M-14-25

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH WINDY CITY AMUSEMENTS, INC. DATED MARCH 17, 2025, TO PROVIDE AMUSEMENT RIDES AND ATTRACTIONS COMMENCING ON MAY 23, 2025 AND ENDING MAY 26, 2025, FOR DARIEN MEMORIAL DAY BASH HELD AT CHESTNUT COURT

D. MOTION NO. M-15-25

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES THAT NO LONGER REQUIRE CONFIDENTIALITY

E. MOTION NO. M-16-25

A MOTION ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FROM STEVE PIPER AND SONS, INC., FOR TUB GRINDING SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,500.00

- F. ORDINANCE NO. O-14-25** **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF DARIEN**
- G. MOTION NO. M-17-25** **A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF A PROPOSAL FROM SPRINKLERS, INC., FOR THE SPRING STARTUP AND WINTER SHUTDOWN MAINTENANCE AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION TESTING OF CITY OWNED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND POTABLE WATER BACKFLOW PREVENTERS AS PER THE SCHEDULE OF UNIT PRICES**
- H. MOTION NO. M-18-25** **A MOTION TO APPROVE WAIVING OF THE COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS AND ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FROM MOSCA DESIGN FOR THE PURCHASE OF HOLIDAY LIGHTING AND DECORATIVE DISPLAYS AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000**
- I. MOTION NO. M-19-25** **A MOTION TO APPROVE ACCEPTING THE EXTENSION OF A PROPOSAL AT THE UNIT PRICE FOR SIDEWALK GRINDING FROM HARD ROCK CONCRETE CUTTERS, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000**
- J. ORDINANCE NO. O-15-25** **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 5A, ZONING REGULATIONS, OF THE DARIEN CITY CODE (PZC2025-02: SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE UPDATE)**
- K. MOTION NO. M-20-25** **A MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDING THE POLICY FOR ADVERTISING AT THE MARQUEE SIGN (SOUTHWEST CORNER OF CASS AND PLAINFIELD ROAD)**
- L. ORDINANCE NO. O-16-25** **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A MASTER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH METRO FIBERNET, LLC. FOR THE USE OF THE CITY'S RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR THE INSTALLATION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES**
- M. ORDINANCE NO. O-19-25** **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION TO AMEND ITS RULES TO ALLOW FOR THE SELECTION**

**OF NEW POLICE HIRES FROM AMONG THE
TOP THREE CANDIDATES ON AN ELIGIBILITY
LIST**

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato
Nays: None
Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

17. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE
APPROVING THE 2025-2026 BUDGET**

It was moved by Alderman Gustafson and seconded by Alderman Schauer to approve the motion as presented.

Alderman Leganski read statement from Chairwoman Sullivan, Administrative/Finance Committee. Chairwoman Sullivan apologized for not being in attendance; thanked all those involved in the budget process, with special thanks to Lisa Klemm & Julie Saenz for researching and assembling budget; and noted the work City staff & elected officials continue to provide to City of Darien.

**ORDINANCE NO. O-17-25 AN ORDINANCE A APPROVING THE 2025-
2026 BUDGET**

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato
Nays: None
Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

**B. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE
AMENDING SECTION 6C-4-7 OF THE DARIEN CITY CODE,
“WATER CONSUMPTION CHARGES”**

It was moved by Alderman Belczak and seconded by Alderman Stompanato to approve the motion as presented.

Alderman Gustafson questioned reason for increase. Administrator Vana explained increase needed to sustain Water Fund reserves and maintain system operations; he stated rates have not increased since 2016.

ORDINANCE NO. O-18-25 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6C-4-7 OF THE DARIEN CITY CODE, "WATER CONSUMPTION CHARGES"

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato

Nays: Gustafson

Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 4, Nays 1, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

C. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

It was moved by Alderman Belczak and seconded by Alderman Stompanato to approve the motion as presented.

Alderman Leganski inquired about commercial vehicles on private property; Chief Thomas responded. Council discussion ensued with concurrence of details.

MOTION NO. M-21-25 A MOTION DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

City Council Meeting

April 7, 2025

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato

Nays: None

Absent: Kenny, Sullivan

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

18. **QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – GENERAL**

Mayor Marchese...

...attended Business Expo at Oak Brook Hills Conference Center; he noted Darien Business Alliance was one of the sponsors.

...announced Multi-Chamber Networking Event will be held on May 22 at Delta Hotels in Willowbrook.

...shared details of Local Government Summer Internship Program developed by City of Darien and Hinsdale South High School.

...shared background on “The City of Darien 2025 Community Guide & Business Directory,” which will be mailed to Darien households.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, it was moved by Alderman Schauer and seconded by Alderman Leganski to adjourn the City Council meeting.

VIA VOICE VOTE – MOTION DULY CARRIED

The City Council meeting adjourned at 9:19 P.M.

Mayor

City Clerk

All supporting documentation and report originals of these minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk under File Number 04-07-25.
Minutes of 04-07-25 CCM.