

Minutes - November 3, 2003

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR CARMEN D. SOLDATO FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2003 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:15 P.M.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

of the City Council of the

CITY OF DARIEN

NOVEMBER 3, 2003

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 Carmen D. Soldato.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL The Roll Call of Aldermen by City Clerk Coleman was as follows:

Present:

Richard Biehl

Morgan Cotten

David Hagen

Joseph Marchese

John F. Poteraske, Jr.

James Tikalsky

Kathleen Moesle- Weaver

Also in Attendance: Carmen D. Soldato, Mayor
Joanne F. Coleman, City Clerk
Kevin P. Monaghan, City Treasurer
Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator
Gregory Dreyer, Community Development Director
Robert Mengarelli, Asst. Director of Public Works
Robert Rodgers, Asst. Director of Public Works

4. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

There being seven Aldermen present, Mayor Soldato declared a quorum.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council Meeting of October 20, 2003

It was moved by Alderman Tikalsky and seconded by Alderman Marchese to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 20, 2003, as presented.

Alderman Cotten received email from Mary Toniolo of Water Tower Court Homeowners Association regarding 'no parking' near the detention pond and the curb on Beller Drive between Lemont Road and Parkview Drive. He was informed that the Administrative Finance Committee would review the 'no parking' issue at their November 10th meeting and that curb replacement would be done next year.

7 MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Soldato thanked the Business District Development and Redevelopment Commission for their work on the "Request for Proposal" regarding the triangle site at 75th Street, Cass Avenue, and Plainfield Road.

8 CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Coleman

...invited everyone to have Coffee with Mayor Soldato on Saturday, November 15th, from 9:00 until 10:00 A.M. at Darien City Hall in the Council Chambers.

...reminded everyone that Tuesday, November 11th was Veteran's Day; she asked everyone to honor those who gave their lives for our Country and to remember those who are serving in the Am1ed Forces.

9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Vana.

...stated that he spoke with County Board Member Bill Brown in regard to the Dale Basin; he was informed that the County intended to do repair work to the Dale Basin, which included moving dirt from the Crest Road project to the Dale Basin. Alderman Biehl noted that the house had been demolished and that large equipment was onsite.

...commented that the Request for Proposal for the Redevelopment Triangle (75th Street, Cass Avenue, & Plainfield Road) would be mailed out within a week and that the RFP would seek proposals over the next ninety (90) days; he noted that the RFP would also be located on the City's web site.

Mayor Soldato inquired about the storm sewer on Plainfield Road that was damaged by the DuPage Water Commission's contractor; Administrator Vana stated that a lawsuit had been filed against the contractor and that the City was working with the Commission in regard to repair.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Community Development Director Gregory Dreyer. ..

...summarized the issuance of building permits for the month of October; he stated that 76 had been issued in 2003 compared to 52 in 2002. To date, 461 permits were issued in 2003 and 386 in 2002.

stated that staff was completing the census application.

...reported that he would meet with Jim Johnson of IDOT to discuss funding for the noise barriers along I-55.

...commented that the department was working with the new owner of Crossroads; he said that they had been cleaning up the site. Mayor Soldato asked that Director Dreyer keep the residents informed.

...noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission would meet on November 5th to discuss Marketplace at Darien (75th Street & Lyman Avenue) and Townhomes of Violet's Farm (Wilmette Avenue & North Frontage Road).

11 TREASURER'S REPORT

A. WARRANT NUMBER 03-04-11

It was moved by Alderman Biehl and seconded by Alderman Cotten to approve payment of Warrant Number 03-04-11 in the amount of \$73,364.79 from the General Fund; \$7,374.78 from the Water Fund; \$11,635.86 from Motor Fuel Tax Fund; \$200.00 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund; \$373.93 from the D.A.R.E. Fund; \$5,355.57 from the Darien Area Dispatch Fund; \$201,346.96 from the General Fund Payroll for the period ending 10/16/03; \$20,411.08 from the Water Fund Payroll for the period ending 10/16/03; \$24,951.74 from the D.A.D.C. Fund Payroll for the period ending 10/16/03; for a total to be approved of \$345,014. 71.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Biehl, Cotten, Tikalsky, Weaver Hagen, Marchese, Poteraske,

None

None Absent:

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

MOTION ON DULY CARRIED

12. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administrative/Finance Committee -Chairman Weaver submitted, for the record, Minutes from the October 13, 2003 meeting. She reported that the next scheduled meeting would be held on November 10, 2003 at 6:30 P.M.

Planning/Development Committee -No report.

Public Works Water/Streets Committee No report.

13 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS -AGENDA RELATED

There were no Agenda related questions or comments.

4. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the City Council.

15 CONSENT AGENDA

There were no Consent Agenda items to come before the City Council.

16. NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION FOR MAINTENANCE OF STREETS AND HIGHWAYS BY MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE (2004 Tree Trimming)

It was moved by Alderman Poteraske and seconded by Alderman Cotten to approve

RESOLUTION NO. R-35-03 A RESOLUTION FOR MAINTENANCE OF STREETS AND HIGHWAYS BY MUNICIPALITY UNDER THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE (2004 Tree Trimming)

as presented.

Alderman Weaver inquired about the requested dollar amount; Asst. Director Mengarelli stated that \$75,000 would be utilized for the program.

Alderman Cotten asked where the City was with the tree trimming program. Asst. Director Mengarelli stated that this was the fifth year of the Five-Year Program; he said that he would distribute a map of the affected area.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Biehl, Cotten, Hagen, Tikalsky, Weaver, Marchese, Poteraske,

Nays: None

None

Absent:

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

MOTION DULY CARRIED

17. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -GENERAL

Maggie Korienek, 1521 Darien Club Drive, asked Council to consider consolidating the Darien Park District as a department within the City of Darien. She stated that the District was not making decisions in the best interest of the residents/taxpayers, which created a negative environment. Ms. Korienek displayed a Power Point slide presentation that depicted the consolidation, questionable conduct, and non-progressive happenings within the District.

Don Jiskra, 1100 Bristlecone Court, stated that he was a 13-year, senior-citizen resident. He recently attended a Special Darien Park District Planning meeting because he opposed the land acquisition petition to purchase the land at 67th Street & Bentley Avenue for a park; he suggested that they utilize the money for other much needed projects. He noted that the District was proposing a new recreation facility at 75th Street & Fairview Avenue.

The proposed land acquisition would cost \$3 Million and the proposed facility would cost \$7.8 Million; the money would come from taxes. He said that he was a member of the Darien Cable Communications Commission and in order to better serve City residents, they had offered the District the use of City facilities for televising their meetings; instead, the District proposed to purchase their own equipment with taxpayers' money at a cost of \$4,000.

Kurt Mach, 1500 Evergreen Lane, stated that over 5-1/2% of his real estate tax bill went to the Darien Park District. He said that the District was an embarrassment to the taxpayers; he stated that when questions were posed, residents should receive answers and not be ignored. Mr. Mach commented that the City Staff, Aldermen and Mayor worked hard in order for the City to run smoothly; that residents were heard and treated fairly. He asked for a merger/consolidation between the Park District and City, which would bring down costs and reduce taxes.

Maria Knecht, a Tara Hill Subdivision resident, spoke about the Tara Hill Conservation Easement. She gave the history of the natural wetlands; she said the wetland issue had been discussed numerous times over the last 18-months. Ms. Knecht inquired how Tara Hill resident tax dollars were spent on the wetland; Mayor Soldato stated that the Knecht's had threatened litigation that on the advice of the City's Attorney, any questions they had could not be answered due to pending litigation. Ms. Knecht submitted, for the record to Clerk Coleman, a letter dated October 12, 1992 from Mark A. Kazich, P.E., City Engineer. She requested that the highlighted statements within the letter be added to the Minutes, a copy of the referenced letter with those portions underlined is attached. Administrator Vana stated that Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. had contacted the City in regard to a scheduled bum for the Tara Hill wetland area and that the City was compiling a list of addresses for notification.

Mayor Soldato commented that as shown here tonight through the resident's comments there could possibly be a referendum on the March ballot for consolidation of the Darien Park District with the City. He polled Council in regard to resident concerns about the Darien Park District becoming a division of the City, the Aldermen responded as follows: Marchese would support, Cotten made no commitment, Poteraske stated that many legal questions needed to be answered, Weaver supported the issue but also concurred with Alderman Poteraske, Hagen would like staff to explore the possibility, Tikalsky would remain open minded, and Biehl said more information was needed. Clerk Coleman stated that she had a copy of the Election Commission calendar; she informed Council and residents that the last day to file petitions for local referendum was December 29, 2003 for the March 16, 2004 Primary Election.

18. ADJOURNMENT

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

VIA VOICE VOTE -MOTION DULY CARRIED

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

JFC/jr

All supporting documentation and report originals of these minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk under File Number 11-03-03.