

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR WEAVER FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE MARCH 21, 2011 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:13 P.M.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**of the City Council of the**

**CITY OF DARIEN**

**MARCH 21, 2011**

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 Weaver.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Weaver 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:	Halil Avci	Sylvia McIvor
	John Galan	John F. Poteraske, Jr.
	Carolyn A. Gattuso	Ted V. Schauer
	Joseph A. Marchese	

Absent: None

Also in Attendance: Kathleen Moesle Weaver, Mayor  
Joanne F. Coleman, City Clerk  
Michael J. Coren, City Treasurer  
John B. Murphey, City Attorney  
Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator  
Scott Coren, Assistant City Administrator  
Daniel Gombac, Director of Community Development/Municipal Services  
Robert Pavelchik, Police Chief

4. **DECLARATION OF A QUORUM** — There being seven aldermen present, Mayor Weaver declared a quorum.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – March 7, 2011

It was moved by Alderman Gattuso and seconded by Alderman McIvor to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting.

Roll Call:       Ayes:       Avci, Galan, Gattuso, Marchese, McIvor, Schauer  
                  Abstain:     Poteraske  
                  Nays:       None  
                  Absent:     None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0  
**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

6.    **RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Galan received a call from John Becht of 6709 Crest regarding flooding on his property due to rains and a water main break on Route 83. Alderman Galan requested Director Gombac apprise the City Council.

Director Gombac explained there was a horrendous water main break this morning on Route 83 which caused flooding on nearby properties. City Staff has been working with the businesses and residences to assist with clean up now that the water has receded.

In response to Alderman Galan, Director Gombac advised that the street signs at High and Holly, and at Holly and 69<sup>th</sup> have been stolen. Although there is tamper proof hardware on the street signs, these were cut at the posts. New signs have been ordered.

In response to Alderman McIvor, Chief Pavelchik advised that stealing streets signs is a criminal offense.

In response to Alderman Poteraske, Director Gombac advised that replacement of the street signs will cost between \$300 and \$400, in addition to staff time.

7.    **MAYOR’S REPORT**

**A.    DARIEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT**

Clare Bongiovanni, Business Outreach Coordinator of the Darien Chamber of Commerce, welcomed new Chamber Member Annette Détente of Détente Insurance Agency. The Chamber of Commerce is seeking a few volunteers to assist with office duties. Interested individuals should call 630-728-6682. The deadline to get into the Darien Chamber’s Annual Directory is March 31, 2011. Coffee with the Mayor will be held on Saturday, April 16 at Celestine Salon and Spa from 9 A.M. to 10 A.M. After Coffee with the Mayor be sure to stop by Ellie Gibbler, located next door, to meet and greet Jewelry Designer Nancy Fraser and Artist

Colleen Doyle. Volunteers are needed for The Darien Dash which will take place on Sunday, May 15, 2011 at Darien Community Park. Interested parties should call 630-968-0004. Ms. Bongiovanni advised that there will be a Silent Auction on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at Q Billiards & Sports Bar at 8109 S. Cass Avenue from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Ms. Bongiovanni read the list donors and the items to be auctioned. The Red Cross has been contacted and part of the proceeds from the auction will be donated for efforts in Japan. Ms. Bongiovanni introduced Dr. Tom Dimitropoulos of the University Medicine and Cardiology.

Dr. Dimitropoulos provided information on the services he has been providing in Darien since July of 2010.

**B. VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Bob Pfister, Municipal Marketing Manager of Veolia Environmental Services provided background information on the company, and reviewed the services which will be provided beginning on April 1, 2011. Mr. Pfister explained that in addition to printed information which has been mailed to the residents, and door hangers that have been provided to totter renters, there will be a link on the City of Darien's website to Veolia's website.

In response to Alderman Galan, Mr. Pfister advised that residents will be able to use their current recycle bins. It will not be necessary to purchase new ones.

Assistant Administrator Coren added that residents will have the option to purchase a larger recycle bin at a cost of \$17 or a smaller one for \$8.

Alderman Poteraske pointed out that residents are not required to purchase recycle bins from Veolia. They can purchase their own refuse container at a maximum of 35 gallons and mark it for recycling.

Assistant Administrator Coren verified this, and added that recycling and refuse containers may not weigh more than 50 pounds.

In response to Alderman Poteraske, Mr. Pfister advised that the light bulb and electronic recycling programs can be discussed in the future.

In response to Alderman Galan, Mr. Pfister encourages residents to use Veolia's refuse stickers beginning April 1, 2011.

In response to Administrator Vana, Mr. Pfister advised that when residents contact Veolia for a totter, they will, most likely, be provided the day after Republic Services removes theirs.

In response to Alderman Gattuso, Mr. Pfister believes the refuse schedule will not be changing.

Assistant Administrator Coren advised that City Hall will be open until 7 P.M. the next two Mondays to accommodate residents for sell back of old refuse stickers and purchase of new ones.

Mayor Weaver made a statement as follows:

“During the past year, the City has been monitoring the negotiations with Inland Realty and Walmart over the terms of an agreement which would allow for Walmart to expand its store into a Walmart Super Center. We realized the deal was imminent and staff received an update this afternoon that I wanted to share with the community.”

Mayor Weaver read into the record a statement made by Walmart as follows:

“Walmart is grateful for the opportunity that the City of Darien and Inland Western have afforded us in advancing our efforts to expand our presence in Darien. While we are still finalizing our agreement with Inland Western, we remain hopeful with our plans to update and upgrade our store by adding a full-service grocery along with a deli, bakery and pharmacy that will help our customers save money and live better. Additionally, a project of this scope would also mean the creation of new jobs and other local economic opportunity for our associates and the community.”

Mayor Weaver stated as follows:

“This creative idea is possible by having Inland and Walmart take advantage of the available square footage at Darien Towne Centre resulting from the closure of the Circuit City Store. Because of the extraordinary expenses incurred by Inland for tenant renegotiation and relocation, Inland has proposed a sales tax sharing agreement with the City. Under the terms of the agreement, the City would rebate to Inland 50% of the “incremental” sales tax generated by the expanded Walmart store. By incremental, we mean 50% of the additional sales tax that will be generated at this store as a result of the expansion. The other aspect of the proposed agreement would call for the City to convey a small parcel of surplus land (a little more than an acre) located adjacent to the Walmart store to Walmart. This would facilitate the Walmart expansion. The details of the final sales tax agreement will be completed between the Darien staff and the representatives from Walmart and Inland, and then be submitted to the City Council for approval.

We are thrilled to have Walmart, Inland, and the City of Darien team up to make the Walmart expansion a reality. Walmart and Inland have always been close partners with the City of Darien. This significant economic development success was critical to Darien and we were determined to make it happen.”

Mayor Weaver commended staff for their diligence in seeing this development come to fruition.

Mayor Weaver continued as follows:

“We get compliments from developers and businesses that come to Darien for the ease with which our staff makes their application/permit process. In essence, this becomes an incentive to businesses since they are not bogged down with a costly, lengthy permitting process.

We work very closely with all the management companies of our large shopping centers because they are the ones who decide which businesses will come into their centers.

It’s easy to forget what has come into Darien in the past four years, even with the tough economic times:

Buona Beef, Steak n Shake, Wight & Company Headquarter building on North Frontage Road & Lemont, American Sleep Academy building at the same location, and the major facelift to the Manos shopping center on Cass Avenue which includes the Darien Marketplace grocery store. In Chestnut Court, we have added Jo-Ann Fabrics and soon Oakridge Hobbies. Inland Management is working diligently to bring more businesses into that center. We are in negotiations with Great Dane Industries for the sale of our property on the South Frontage Road adjacent to our Public Works facility.

As to our business development district also known as our downtown property:

In 2007, we were working with two very reputable developers – Gammonley and Bradford-Kent who presented us with developments that included a bank or drugstore, and a fast food restaurant, with no ideas for other businesses in the development. Both developers stated that no other types of businesses were making any expansion plans in the economy at that time. So the council decided to wait until we had a better opportunity to develop the property.

Recently a Letter of Intent with Chase Bank was signed to purchase the Shell property for \$2 million.

We are expecting EPA approvals for the dry cleaners property and the BP property this summer which will put our development plans back on track.

So much misinformation about that development has been spread telling residents that since we purchased the property, we have paid additional funds to clean up the property. Nothing could be further from the truth. The remediation work on the BP property has

been, and is being paid for, by BP. The dry cleaners property is being cleaned up with grant money which has been set aside for these types of businesses.

I wanted to set the record straight on what the City is doing and stop the misinformation that is being spread.”

8. **CITY CLERK’S REPORT**

City Clerk Coleman...

...reminded the City Council, Commission, Committee, and Board Members, that the Economic Interest Statements are due to be filed with the County Clerk by May 1, 2011. There is a fine for each day of late filing. The Ethics Statement is to be filed with the City Clerk’s Office by May 1, 2011. There is no late fee for late filing.

...advised that early voting began on March 14 and continues to March 31, 2011 for the April 5, 2011 Consolidated Election.

...read the referendum question which is on the April 5, 2011 ballot as follows:

*“Shall the City of Darien have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?”*

Assistant Administrator Coren explained that the question is set forth as required by law. If the voters vote “Yes,” and the referendum question is passed, authority is given to the City to bid out for lower rates for electricity for residents and small businesses. If passed, residents will have the right to opt out. If the voters vote “No” to the referendum, the City will be unable to seek lower electricity rates for residential and small businesses.

Administrator Vana added that more information on this issue can be viewed on the City’s website and through the Direct Connect Program.

Mayor Weaver commented that it is important to vote Yes in order to give the City the ability to bid out for lower rates, and reiterated that the ability to opt out will be available.

In response to Alderman Pteraske, Assistant Administrator Coren advised that various ways to structure the bids and the options for opting out will be reviewed if the referendum is passed. If lower bids are not obtained, the City can remain with ComEd. The longest contract time with electric companies is three years. Many communities are going with one year to gain experience.

Clerk Coleman advised that the closest locations to Darien for early voting are Five Seasons Sports Club and Downers Grove Village Hall.

9. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Vana advised that the Draft Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending 2012 is available at City Hall and on the City's website.

10. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

In response to Alderman McIvor, Director Gombac advised that tree trimming will begin in the fall pending City Council approval.

In response to Alderman McIvor, Assistant Administrator Coren advised that he has not received information on ComEd's restoration at Woodvale and Beller Drive from Katie Maier as yet.

In response to Alderman McIvor, Director Gombac encouraged residents to contact Ashley at 630-353-8105 to report non-functioning street lights. It is also important to report any street lights that are on during the day.

Chief Pavelchik reported that on January 3, 2007, there was a news report accusing a Darien Police Officer of beating an 85 year old woman. The woman sued for \$10 million. Chief Pavelchik advised that this case went to trial in June of 2009 and the jury found for the officer and the City. Subsequently, the Appellate Court turned down the Plaintiff's Appeal in 2010. In 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to grant certiorari. The case is now closed and the Police Officer was found exonerated.

Chief Pavelchik reported that there was a burglary at 3 A.M. this morning at a trucking company located next door to the Public Works facility. Two of the three offenders have been apprehended.

Chief Pavelchik advised that his office has received recent criticism for allegedly not informing the public of crimes which occur in Darien. Chief Pavelchik noted that Police Press Releases are issued in most cases. The exceptions are cases which are still under investigation. Community safety is the top concern of the Police Department and safety alerts are routinely issued. In many cases, an investigation is not advertised in the press to ensure the integrity of the investigation for prosecution.

Treasurer Coren commended Director Gombac for expansion of the street light program to include the local businesses.

Director Gombac reviewed the current program and the benefits reaped by the local businesses. When the current contract expires, there will be a clause added to include Darien businesses.

11. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**A. WARRANT NUMBER 10-11-19**

It was moved by Alderman Gattuso and seconded by Alderman Schauer to approve payment of Warrant Number 10-11-19 in the amount of \$56,687.71 from the General Fund; \$186,335.14 from the Water Fund; \$15,806.30 from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund; \$300.59 from the Darien Area Dispatch Fund; \$3,887.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund; \$232,491.53 from the General Fund Payroll for the period ending 03/10/2011; \$20,416.56 from the Water Fund Payroll for the period ending 03/10/2011; \$33,476.59 from the D.A.D.C. Fund Payroll for the period ending 03/10/2011 for a total to be approved of \$549,401.42.

Roll Call:       Ayes:       Avcì, Galan, Gattuso, Marchese, McIvor, Poteraske, Schauer

                  Nays:       None

                  Absent:      None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**B. TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2011**

Treasurer Coren reviewed all year-to-date sources of revenue and expenditures and fund balances through the month of February, 2011: General Fund Revenue \$11,121,105; General Fund Expenditures \$10,521,142; Current General Fund Balance \$3,848,688; Water Fund Revenue \$4,452,251 Water Fund Expenditures \$3,228,613; Current Water Fund Balance \$1,435,882; Motor Fuel Tax Fund Revenue \$624,959; Motor Fuel Tax Fund Expenditures \$525,070; Current Motor Fuel Tax Fund Balance \$51,145; Water Depreciation Fund Revenue \$2,587; Water Depreciation Fund Expenditures \$609,128; Current Water Depreciation Fund Balance \$134,173; Capital Improvement Fund Revenue \$1,902,373; Capital Improvement Fund Expenditures \$2,198,765; Current Capital Improvement Fund Balance \$218,872; Capital Projects Debt Service Fund Revenue \$105,539; Capital Projects Debt Service Fund Expenditures \$147,285; and a current fund balance of \$2,198.

12. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Municipal Services Committee** — Alderman Marchese announced that the March 28, 2011 meeting of the Municipal Services Committee has been cancelled.



**Administrative/Finance Committee** — Alderman Poteraske submitted the minutes of the Administrative Finance Committee of December 13, 2010 and March 14, 2011 for the record and announced that next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

**Police Committee** — Alderman McIvor announced that the next meeting of the Police Committee is scheduled to take place on April 7, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

13. **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS — AGENDA RELATED**

There were none.

14. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to come before the City Council.

15. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Weaver reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda for the benefit of the viewing audience.

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

- A. **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DARIEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DARIEN DASH, A 10K RUN/A 5K RUN/1 MILE WALK, ON MAY 15, 2011 BEGINNING AT 8:00 A.M. AND AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL POLICE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICE STAFFING ALONG WITH ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE, BARRICADES AND CITY EXPENSE FOR THIS EVENT AND AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO FINALIZE THE DETAILS OF THIS EVENT WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
  
- B. **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE RIGHT HALF OF THE FOLLOWING STREETS FOR THE *DARIEN DASH* WHICH BEGINS AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF DARIEN COMMUNITY PARK AND PROCEED AS FOLLOWS:**

**5K RUN - 71<sup>st</sup> STREET TO RICHMOND AVENUE; SOUTH ON RICHMOND AVENUE AND FOLLOWING CHEROKEE DRIVE TO DARIEN LANE; NORTH ON DARIEN LANE AND FOLLOWING TIMBER LANE TO SEMINOLE DRIVE; NORTH ON SEMINOLE DRIVE TO 72<sup>st</sup> STREET; WEST ON 71<sup>st</sup> STREET TO BEECHNUT**

**LANE TO HINSBROOK AVENUE; EAST ON HINSBROOK AVENUE TO WILMETTE AVENUE; NORTH ON WILMETTE AVENUE TO 69<sup>th</sup> STREET; EAST ON 69<sup>th</sup> STREET TO BENTLEY AVENUE; SOUTH ON BENTLEY AVENUE TO 71<sup>st</sup> STREET; EAST ON 71<sup>st</sup> STREET TO NORTHWEST CORNER OF DARIEN COMMUNITY PARK WITH ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND LOCAL TRAFFIC AT ALL TIMES; AND**  
**1 MILE WALK – 71<sup>st</sup> STREET TO RICHMOND AVNEUE; NORTH ON RICHMOND AVENUE TO MAPLE LANE; EAST ON MAPLE LANE TO BENTLEY AVENUE; SOUTH ON BENTLEY AVENUE TO 71<sup>st</sup> STREET; EAST ON 71<sup>st</sup> STREET TO NORTHWEST CORNER OF DARIEN COMMUNITY PARK WITH ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND LOCAL TRAFFIC AT ALL TIMES.**  
**10K Race – 71<sup>st</sup> STREET TO RICHMOND AVENUE; SOUTH ON RICHMOND AVENUE AND FOLLOWING CHEROKEE DRIVE TO DARIEN LANE; NORTH ON DARIEN LANE AND FOLLOWING TIMBER LANE TO SEMINOLE DRIVE; NORTH ON SEMINOLE DRIVE TO 71<sup>st</sup> STREET, WEST ON 71<sup>st</sup> STREET TO BEECHNUT LANE TO HINSBROOK AVENUE; EAST ON HINSBROOK AVENUE TO WILMETTE AVENUE; NORTH ON WILMETTE AVENUE TO 69<sup>th</sup> STREET; EAST ON 69<sup>th</sup> STREET TO BENTLEY AVENUE; SOUTH ON BENTLEY AVENUE TO 72<sup>nd</sup> STREET; WEST ON 72<sup>nd</sup> STREET TO RICHMOND AVENUE, SOUTH ON RICHMOND AVENUE TO SEMINOLE DRIVE; NORTH ON SEMINOLE TO WILMETTE AVENUE, NORTH ON WILMETTE TO 67<sup>th</sup> STREET, EAST ON 67<sup>th</sup> TO ALABAMA AVENUE, SOUTH ON ALABAMA TO CHESTNUT LANE, WEST ON CHESTNUT TO PATH CONNECTING TO BENTLEY AVENUE, SOUTH ON BENTLEY TO 71<sup>st</sup> STREET, EAST ON 71<sup>st</sup> TO FINISH LINE AT NORTHWEST CORNER OF DARIEN COMMUNITY PARK**

- C. RESOLUTION NO. R-21-11                      CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FROM ACCURATE TANK CONSTRUCTION TO REPAIR FUEL TANK RISERS, PROBES AND CONCRETE PAD REPLACEMENT AT THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES FACILITY LOCATED AT 1041 SOUTH FRONTAGE ROAD AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$42,890.00**

- D. RESOLUTION NO. R-22-11**                    **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL A NEW SERVER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,806.00**
  
- E. RESOLUTION NO. R-23-11**                    **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR THE 2011 CONCRETE SIDEWALK, APRON, CURB AND GUTTER REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM AND WAIVING THE \$75 PERMIT FEE APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATING RESIDENTS**
  
- F. RESOLUTION NO. R-24-11**                    **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO ADD QUANTITIES TO THE CURRENT CONTRACT FROM SUBURBAN CONCRETE INC. FOR APRON RESTORATIONS FOR THE 2011 DITCH MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,000.00**
  
- G. RESOLUTION NO. R-25-11**                    **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AGREEMENT FOR THE 2011 STREET MAINTENANCE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE CITY OF DARIEN AND JAMES D. FIALA PAVING COMPANY INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,234,927.48**
  
- H. RESOLUTION NO. R-26-11**                    **CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF DARIEN AND CHRISTOPHER B.**

**BURKE ENGINEERING, LTD. (TARA HILL MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF 10 ACRES OF WETLAND/NATURAL AREAS WITHIN THE TARA HILL SUBDIVISION)**

Roll Call:       Ayes:       Avci, Galan, Gattuso, Marchese, McIvor, Poteraske, Schauer

                  Nays:       None

                  Absent:      None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

16.    **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to come before the City Council.

17.    **QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — GENERAL**

On behalf of the Darien Lions Club, Alderman Galan extended gratitude to all those who supported the Pancake Breakfast which was a huge success.

On behalf of the Rotary Club, Alderman Avci extended gratitude to all those who supported the 2011 Charity Auction fundraising event at Ashton Place which was a huge success.

Alderman McIvor read the following statement into the record:

“As a devoted and elected public servant who has volunteered hundreds of hours of time and service to the City of Darien, its residents and businesses, I am compelled to make a few comments related to the upcoming Consolidated Election. First I take personal exception to being referred to as a career politician who is not honest and who does not listen. Those individuals who elected me for two terms know, without a shadow of a doubt, that those are slanderous labels being used by individuals whose honesty and integrity should be called into question.

I also feel an obligation to let the residents know the reality of how our city government works. I cannot express how much it bothers me to take calls from residents who have been given false promises and misleading information by an individual who obviously has no idea what he can or can't do as the Mayor of this City. This is a dangerous

situation as this can dupe people into believing what they want to hear. This is NOT responsible governance.

In Darien's form of Government, the powers of the Mayor are very limited. The Mayor is the "quarterback" to build consensus, *assuming he or she has that skill set*. It is the City Council that has the VOTING authority, NOT the Mayor. Campaign promises are made by POLITICIANS trying to appeal to uninformed voters to win an election. In some cases, this individual does have the power to make the promised changes. In some cases, he does not. An exaggerating party or "Team" often has an advantage over the truthful opponent. Government finances are extremely complex and promises are vague enough that the public can rarely say for certain that the numbers do not add up. Factors such as competence, honesty, ideology and experience are in many ways a better method of judging a candidate than their promises that may or may not be kept.

I have a great deal of faith in the voting population of this City. Come April 5<sup>th</sup>, I sincerely hope the people make an educated and informed decision at the polls with respect to the future of Darien.

In keeping with the haring of information, I am going to ask the Chief of Police to explain how the Police Department fits into this political landscape. Chief?"

Chief Pavelchik advised that the Police Chief does not fit into the political landscape. The Chief of Police is the neutral voice of reason. The Police Union, which is not under the control of the Police Chief, is currently conducting their annual fund raising drive. They have hired a telemarketer to solicit donations. The donations do not go to the Police Department.

Administrator Vana added that the City is currently in negotiations with the Police Union. The Metropolitan Alliance of Police website clearly states that their objective is advancement of police labor issues such as improvement of salaries.

Jim Tikalsky addressed the City Council commending the snow removal efforts in Darien. Mr. Tikalsky warned residents to be wary of the many electric vendors currently soliciting business from residents. If residents are not careful, they could wind up spending more for electricity. Mr. Tikalsky urged residents to support the referendum question on the ballot and vote Yes. Mr. Tikalsky questioned if a Citizens Advisory Committee will be established if the referendum passes.

Assistant Administrator Coren responded that unless and until the referendum passes, the City does not have the authority to move forward.

Mr. Tikalsky advised that if one is established in the future, he would like to be considered for an appointment.

Administrator Vana noted that if the referendum passes, and another electric supplier is chosen, residents will continue to get bills from ComEd. The only change will be the supplier.

Assistant Administrator Coren added that no matter who the vendor is, nothing will change except the price. Assistant Administrator Coren reiterated the concern that residents be careful in responding to offers from electric suppliers.

Director Gombac praised the Public Works staff for their removal efforts.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**VIA VOICE VOTE – MOTION DULY CARRIED**

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

ld

All supporting documentation and report originals of these minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk under File Number 03-21-11.  
Minutes of 03-21-11 CCM