

Minutes

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR WEAVER FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE FEBRUARY 4, 2008 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
FEBRUARY 4, 2008

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 Clerk Coleman was as follows:

Present: Halil Avci Joseph A. Marchese William R. Durkin Sylvia Mclvor John Galan John F. Poteraske, Jr. Carolyn A. Gattuso

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 Daniel Gombac, Director of Community Development/Public Works Robert Pavelchik, Police Chief

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 21, 2008

It was moved by Alderman Gattuso and seconded by Alderman Avci to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2008 meeting, as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Avci, Durkin, Galan, Gattuso, Marchese, Mclvor, Poteraske

Nays: None

Absent: None

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

6. RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Weaver...

...received an e-mail from Ross Rice commending the "Alive at 25" safe driving seminar his son attended on January 26. Mr. Rice requested his gratitude be extended to Chief Pavelchik and Officer Menzione for their time and efforts in putting together the presentation.

...received information regarding the participation of Officer Richard Phillips in the "2008 Super Plunge" fund raising event to benefit Special Olympics. The event is scheduled to take place at Northwestern University's North Beach in Evanston beginning at 2 P.M. on February 22 and ending at 1 P.M. on February 23, 2008. Officer Phillips will be joining 40 men and women who will take a dip in Lake Michigan once every hour over a 24-hour period. Anyone interested in making a donation should contact the Police Department.

...was alerted that the Illinois Department of Transportation and DuPage County Health Department are partnering in a grant to improve child passenger safety in our community. As part of this grant, car seats will be provided, at no cost, to low income residents of DuPage County. If interested, please contact the Darien Police Department for information on registration.

Alderman Avci...

...advised that, out of concern for the safety of children walking to and from school and individuals who live in the neighborhood, Alderman Avci delivered notes to the residences where the sidewalks were not cleared, requesting that they do so. In his note, Alderman Avci advised that if residents are unable to shovel their sidewalks, to try to get help from a neighbor. If unable to secure assistance, residents in Ward 7 should e-mail or call Alderman Avci, and he will get someone to shovel their sidewalk.

...received an e-mail from David May of 1121 69th Street, requesting plowing of the sidewalks along Cass Avenue, even though it is a county road, and expressing concerns about the plowing efforts on 69th Street. Dan Gombac immediately responded to Mr. May's e-mail.

Daniel Gombac advised that yesterday's snow storm was very unusual and challenging for the Public Works Department. The sidewalks along Cass Avenue are so close to the actual roadway, that after the sidewalks were plowed, the county's plows wound up putting snow back on them. Staff will take a closer look at Cass Avenue sidewalks and 69th Street, and as always, will do their best to stay on top of each situation.

Alderman Poteraske noted that in the past, residents were afraid to shovel their sidewalks for fear of incurring liability. Alderman Poteraske asked Attorney Murphey if the change in State Law allows residents to shovel their sidewalks without taking on additional liability.

Attorney Murphey concurred.

Alderman Galan was very happy to report that Dan Gombac has been able to procure an acceptable solution for the residents on Crest Road who petitioned the City to assist with the lighting glare generated from the new shopping center development in Willowbrook. Through Dan Gombac's efforts, three of the residences on Crest Road will be able to install eight-foot fences at the developer's expense. Staff is working on obtaining an amendment through the existing developer's agreement for all six residences along that area to allow the installation of eight-foot fences. The remaining properties would be allowed to install an eight-foot fence at their own expense. Gratitude was extended to Dan for staying on top of this matter, and delivering a satisfactory conclusion.

Mayor Weaver clarified that the area being discussed and impacted by the development in Willowbrook is located on the west side of 83.

Alderman Mclvor...

...received a communication last week from Jim Jankowski, who lives in Farmingdale Village, complimenting the Public Works Department on their snow removal efforts.

...advised residents to report downed mailboxes to the Public Works Department.

Dan Gombac said to contact either the Public Works Secretary, Ashley, at 630-353-8105 or himself at 630-353-8106 for any snow plowing concerns.

Alderman Mclvor questioned the resident's responsibilities in regards to sidewalk snow removal.

Dan Gombac responded that residents are encouraged to shovel their sidewalks but are not required to do so.

Alderman Poteraske advised that snow removal efforts last Friday were great but that Ward 3 experienced a problem. Alderman Poteraske requested Dan Gombac explain the special circumstances.

Dan Gombac explained that the large snow plow truck that is assigned to Ward 3 broke down. Two small trucks filled in, but could not perform the same quality of plowing that the large truck is able accomplish. The large truck should be back in service today.

Administrator Vana advised that the two regulations the city has adopted in regards to snow plowing are that parking on city streets during a snow event and pushing snow into the street are not allowed.

In response to Alderman Poteraske's inquiry, Dan Gombac advised that many residents have private snow removal services. Unfortunately, sometimes the services tend to push the snow into an adjacent property. Residents were requested to contact their contractors and ask them to be more sensitive to where they push the snow. Snow should be kept within each resident's property.

Alderman Mclvor...

...commented that one of the issues that came up on Friday, was the prioritization of plowing on roads. Cul-de-sacs seem to be on the bottom of the list of streets to be cleared.

Dan Gombac agreed. City plows try to make at least two passes through the cul-de-sacs, but there will be difficulty for residents to get out of their driveways. If there is an emergency, please call Public Works, and they will do their best accommodate the resident.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Mayor Weaver introduced Carlo Cavallaro and Anthony Signorella, the representatives of Comcast, who were in attendance to provide an update on their services.

Mr. Signorella explained a few of the processes of Comcast. Mr. Signorella and Mr. Cavallaro reviewed the city's issues and concerns, and responded to the City Council Member's questions. Mr. Signorella reviewed the statistical improvements made by Comcast over the years and explained the difference between ComEd and Comcast reporting capabilities. Mr. Signorella reviewed the methods outages are handled.

The City Council would like to receive better communication from Comcast regarding problem areas in town. City Council Members were displeased that concerns expressed prior to and during this meeting have not been addressed, and that the reports requested cannot be provided.

Comcast representatives answered questions asked by members of the Communications Commission.

Clerk's Note:

Alderman Durkin left the meeting during the Comcast presentation at 8:08 P.M.

B. Mayor Weaver reminded everyone that the first meeting of the Darien Intergovernmental Program Initiative will take place on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7 P.M. in the Council Chambers. The meeting will be televised. A number of representatives from the different taxing bodies will be attending. Mayor Weaver is looking forward to being able to work together with the various taxing bodies to benefit each other and the residents.

8. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Coleman...

...invited all to attend Coffee with the Mayor on Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

...announced that the Darien City offices will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2008 in observance of President's Day. Due to the holiday, the next City Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 7:30 P.M.

...reminded everyone that tomorrow is the General Primary Election, and that the polls open at 6:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. Since many of the polling places have changed, residents were urged to check the cards sent out by the DuPage County Board of Election Commission before venturing out. If residents cannot locate the cards that were issued, polling places can be checked through City Hall or on the City's web site.

Mayor Weaver noted that the Lord of Life Church is the polling place for four precincts: 57, 70, 99, and 100. Residents were, again, urged to check their polling places.

Clerk Coleman advised that the polling place for Precinct 86 has been changed to the Village of Willowbrook.

9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

10. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Director of Community Development/Public Works Daniel Gombac...

...provided an update on the recent snow events. To date, the total snowfall in Darien has been over 40 inches. The 24 various snow occurrences this year have caused the department to exceed its road salt allotment. The Public Works Department has been putting in many hours throughout the week and weekends. Daniel Gombac extended appreciation to the members of the Public Works Department for their endurance during this season and thanked the residents for their patience during snow cleanup operations. As a public safety reminder, parents were requested not to allow children to construct forts out of the mounds of snow in the right of ways. Since snowplow drivers cannot see children playing within the forts, this could be a potential for disaster.

...the 2008 tree trimming program was awarded on January 21. This year's program includes approximately 1750 trees to be trimmed, along with 60 removals. The project will begin February 11. Daniel Gombac reviewed the areas which are included in this program. The Tree Trimming Program also includes private property, as well as tree removals and stump grinding. The cost to residents for rear yard tree trimming is \$120 per tree and \$55.00 for front yard tree trimming. The private tree trimming program is still open. Interested residents should contact Ashley at 630-353-8105. Mr. Gombac reviewed the various services which will be part of the parkway and private tree trimming program. Informational letters were hand delivered to every resident within the effected quadrants, and informational signs will be posted.

...staff is in the process of finalizing the City's first Road Maintenance Catalog. The catalog includes items such as when a road was constructed, the composition of the road, current ratings, proposed maintenance for the year, and the year a specific road is scheduled for resurfacing.

...Cornerstone Restaurant, located at 8025 Cass Avenue, is now open daily from 11 A.M. to 1:00 A.M. and until 2:00 A.M. on Saturday. There is also a Sunday brunch that starts at 9:00 A.M. Entertainment ranges from Dueling Pianos to full acoustical bands.

...Chicago Bridge and Iron has notified staff that the Darien Water Tower won the "Tank of the Year" award.

...the next date for "Alive at 25" has been scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Police Department.

...in response to Mayor Weaver's questions, Mr. Gombac advised that he had contacted the Woodlands Homeowners Association to make sure the city was not competing with their tree trimming program, and that the city's tree trimming program will begin, weather permitting, on February 11 and will continue until late April.

...in response to Alderman Poteraske, Mr. Gombac advised that aside from tree removal, there is nothing that can be done about above-ground roots.

Aldermen Marchese and Galan complimented Dan Gombac on the quality of the Road Maintenance Catalog. They both feel that the catalog will be of great help to the aldermen.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. WARRANT NUMBER 07-08-18

It was moved by Alderman Gattuso and seconded by Alderman McIvor to approve payment of Warrant Number 07-08-18 in the amount of \$38,739.40 from the General Fund; \$5,208.02 from the Water Fund; \$35,168.98 from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund; \$7,740.50 from the Water Depreciation Fund; \$2,436.82 from the Darien Area Dispatch Center; \$113,854.05 from the General Fund Payroll for the period ending 1/31/08; \$19,760.34 from the Water Fund Payroll for the period ending 1/31/08; \$23,673.67 from the D.A.D.C. Fund Payroll for the period ending 1/31/08; for a total to be approved of \$246,581.78.

Clerk Coleman noted, for the record, that Alderman Durkin left the meeting at 8:08 P.M.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Durkin

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1 MOTION DULY CARRIED

12. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works Water/Streets Committee — Alderman Marchese advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 6:30 P.M., pending agenda items, in the upstairs conference room.

Planning/Development Committee — Alderman Mclvor submitted the minutes of the Planning/Development Committee Meeting of December 18, 2007, and advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 25, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Administrative/Finance Committee — Alderman Poteraske submitted the minutes of the Administrative Finance Committee Meeting of January 14, 2008, and advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 11, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. in the upstairs conference room.

13. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS — AGENDA RELATED

Dr. Philobos, a pediatrician who lives in town and will be relocating her office to Darien, has many patients who could use the free car seats and requested a poster that can be placed in her office. Chief Pavelchik will provide Dr. Philobos with a poster.

14. OLD BUSINESS

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

15. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. RESOLUTION NO. R-06-08 CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND PUBLISHING THE UPDATED CITY OF DARIEN OFFICIAL ZONING MAP.

B. ORDINANCE NO. O-01-08 CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A MINOR AMENDMENT TO AN APPROVED PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (CROSSROADS OF DARIEN PUD, 8310 LEMONT ROAD, OFFICE BUILDING E).

C. RESOLUTION NO. R-07-08 CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS SUBJECT TO MAINTENANCE (DE RUITER SUBDIVISION).

D. ORDINANCE NO. O-02-08 CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE APPROVING VARIATIONS TO THE DARIEN ZONING ORDINANCE AND SIGN CODE (PZC 2007-19: 1224 PLAINFIELD ROAD).

E. RESOLUTION NO. R-08-08 CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF DARIEN AND CHRISTOPHER B. BURKE ENGINEERING, LTD. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,000.00 (PAVEMENT CORING 2008 STREET MAINTENANCE).

Roll Call: Ayes: Avci, Galan, Gattuso, Marchese, Mclvor, Poteraske

Nays: None

Absent: Durkin

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1 MOTION DULY CARRIED

16. NEW BUSINESS

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

17. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — GENERAL

Alderman Galan noted that there was a ComEd service outage over the Christmas Holiday in Ward 2, where approximately twenty residents were without power for over thirty-five hours. Currently, the city has a limited number of generators that can be used by the residents. No formal process is currently in place, and generators are issued on a first come, first serve basis. In an effort to assist residents, especially those who may have a medical problem or emergency, Alderman Galan and staff are in the process of developing a procedure wherein residents with medical emergencies or issues can register with Darien, and be placed on a priority list for use of the city-owned generators in the event of a power outage. Since the city does not have enough generators to help everyone, residents are encouraged to consider purchasing their own. If there is enough interest, the city may be able to arrange lower unit prices for a bulk purchase. Alderman Galan, will be writing an article on this subject for the Neighbors of Darien magazine.

Don Jiskra of 1100 Bristlecone thanked Council Members for the fine job that they are doing. As a member of the Communications Commission, he thanked the Council Members for having Comcast come to the meeting.

Kevin Monaghan of 7509 Norman Drive announced the creation of the Darien Chamber of Commerce Excellence Awards. There will be three categories of awards: 1) Business Excellence; 2) Individual Achievements; 3) Community Contributions. Nominees must be a Chamber member for two years, and the organization must be in existence for three or more years. Nomination deadline is February 29. Businesses can nominate themselves or be nominated by any chamber member. The award dinner will be held on June 10 at the Holiday Inn in Willowbrook. Any questions call the Chamber 630-968-0004.

18. ADJOURNMENT

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

VIA VOICE VOTE – MOTION DULY CARRIED

The City Council meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Mayor

_____ City Clerk

Id All supporting documentation and report originals of these minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk under File Number 02-04-08. Minutes of 02-04-08 CCM February 4, 2008