

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR WEAVER FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE NOVEMBER 15, 2010 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:35 P.M.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

of the City Council of the

CITY OF DARIEN

NOVEMBER 15, 2010

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Darien was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by Mayor Weaver.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Cub Scout Pack 97 Webelos from Concord School District 63 led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A photograph was taken of Cub Scout Pack 97 with Mayor Weaver. There was resounding applause from the City Council Members and the audience.

3. **ROLL CALL** — The Roll Call of Aldermen by 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
Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator
Scott Coren, Assistant City Administrator
Robert Pavelchik, Police Chief
Daniel Gombac, Director of Community Development/Municipal Services

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

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – November 1, 2010

It was moved by Alderman Galan and seconded by Alderman Gattuso to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2010 meeting, as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

MOTION DULY CARRIED

6. **RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Galan received a telephone call from Arthur P. Donner, a resident on Cambridge, expressing excitement with the new stop sign at Fairview and Manning.

7. **MAYOR’S REPORT**

A. Mayor Weaver read into the record a Proclamation declaring the week of December 5 through the 11, 2010 as **Darien Woman’s Club Week** in the City of Darien and congratulated the membership on their 40th Anniversary.

It was moved by Alderman McIvor and seconded by Alderman Gattuso to approve the following motion:

B. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING COMMITTEE: JEANETTE CAMPO, ELAINE DAPKUS, JIM KISER, AND GERRY LEGANSKI

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

MOTION DULY CARRIED

Clerk Coleman administered the Oath of Office to Jeanette Campo, Jim Kiser, and Gerry Leganski.

Elaine Dapkus was not in attendance and will be sworn in at a later date.

Jeanette Campo reviewed the criteria the committee will be looking for when choosing the winners of the Home Decorating Contest, and explained the rules for nomination. Nominations must be received by December 10, 2010, and the winners will be announced on Monday, December 20, 2010. The prizes are \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place, \$50 for third place, \$25 each for fourth place and fifth place, and three honorable mentions.

8. **CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

City Clerk Coleman...

...announced that City Offices will be closed on Thursday, November 25, 2010 and Friday, November 26, 2010 in observance of the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

...advised that the first day to file candidate nominating petitions for the April 5, 2011 Consolidated Election is Monday, December 13, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. The last day for filing is Monday, December 20, 2010 at 5:00 P.M.

...advised that the Darien Historical Society would like to invite everyone to their Tree Lighting Ceremony at Old Lace School on Sunday, December 5, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

...found an article that was published on December 5, 1974 in the Darien Metropolitan Newspaper which talked about the 25-foot Christmas Tree that was donated to the City of Darien by Joe Mikowski. The Darien Jaycees planted that tree, and that is how the Tree Lighting Ceremony began. The Tree Lighting Ceremony was later taken over by the Darien Historical Society.

Mayor Weaver thanked the Kiwanis for the invitation to their fundraising luncheon two weekends ago. During that meeting, Sam Kelly suggested that on or around December 13, 2010, the city re-run the video of the interviews of the founding group of the City of Darien. Mayor Weaver feels this is a great suggestion since Darien's official birthday is December 13, 1969, and recommended the video begin running on the city's cable station on December 1, 2010.

Mayor Weaver thanked the VFW for their invitation to participate in the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11, 2010. Mayor Weaver said it was a very touching program. Mayor Weaver thanked the VFW for organizing the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Ceremonies, as they are very important events in the City of Darien to honor our veterans.

9. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

There was no report.

10. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

Director Gombac announced that Ellie Gibbler, a new boutique, has opened at the Celestine Spa at 1224 Plainfield Road.

Mayor Weaver clarified that Ellie Gibbler is located in the cottage building adjacent to Celestine Spa.

Julie Showalter, one of the owners of Ellie Gibbler, thanked Mayor Weaver and the City Council Members for having her at this evening's meeting, and expressed excitement with the opening of her new store. Ms. Showalter provided a history of how her business began. Ms. Showalter announced that Ellie Gibbler's grand opening is Friday, November 19, 2010 from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. The ribbon cutting will take place at 5:00 P.M.

Director Gombac announced that a hobby shop will be opening at Chestnut Court Shopping Center.

Mayor Weaver added that the hobby shop will be located just north of Jo-Ann Fabrics.

11. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A. WARRANT NUMBER 10-11-12

It was moved by Alderman Gattuso and seconded by Alderman Galan to approve payment of Warrant Number 10-11-12 in the amount of \$78,064.21 from the General Fund; \$253,837.96 from the Water Fund; \$2,954.41 from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund; \$1,531.00 from the Darien Area Dispatch Fund; \$2,655.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund; \$205,361.76 from the General Fund Payroll for the period ending 11/04/10; \$15,547.99 from the Water Fund Payroll for the period ending 11/04/10; \$27,933.54 from the D.A.D.C. Fund Payroll for the period ending 11/04/10 for a total to be approved of \$587,885.87.

Kevin Monaghan of 7509 Norman Drive inquired what the projected savings of the Police staff level reduction will be if approved this evening.

Mayor Weaver responded there will be an approximate \$23,000 savings.

14. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

15. **CONSENT AGENDA**

There was no Consent Agenda.

16. **NEW BUSINESS**

It was moved by Alderman McIvor and seconded by Alderman Galan to approve the following motion:

A. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO DIRECT CHIEF OF POLICE AND HIS STAFF TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM POLICE PATROL STAFFING LEVEL FROM FIVE (5) OFFICERS ON ALL SHIFTS TO A “SCHEDULE 5, WORK WITH 4” STAFFING PRACTICE

Discussion: Alderman McIvor provided a review of how the Police Committee arrived at the recommendation to a “Schedule 5, Work With 4” Staffing Practice, which is scheduled to begin on January, 2011. Alderman McIvor noted that this program will be monitored on a monthly basis.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the program operation.

Alderman McIvor advised that the Police Committee will monitor the program, and that based on the number of people available on a shift, it is believed there will be five officers on a shift more often than not.

Mayor Weaver advised that Chief Pavelchik and Deputy Chief Skala will be closely monitoring how often staffing reduction occurs.

Alderman Poterasko requested that the staffing levels be monitored currently so there is a base of comparison when the program begins in January, 2011.

Chief Pavelchik advised that staff level monitoring has already begun.

Alderman Galan read from the Police Committee recommendation, “the Police Committee approved a trial of the staffing reduction.” Alderman Galan advised that if, at any point in time, the Chief feels the program isn’t working, this item will be brought back to the City Council for further review.

Mayor Weaver feels the public believes there is to be a staff cut. Mayor Weaver received a note from Mary Ann Jesse requesting staffing not be cut by 20%. Mayor Weaver clarified that staff is not being cut. The goal of the City Council is to cut overtime and expenses within the Police Department and not to cut staff.

Clerk Coleman requested the motion be amended to add the words “on a trial basis.”

A brief discussion ensued.

It was moved by Alderman Galan and seconded by Alderman Gattuso to amend the motion as follows:

CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO DIRECT CHIEF OF POLICE AND HIS STAFF TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM POLICE PATROL STAFFING LEVEL FROM FIVE (5) OFFICERS ON ALL SHIFT TO A “SCHEDULE 5, WORK WITH 4” STAFFING PRACTICE ON A TRIAL BASIS

Discussion: Alderman Avci inquired if there is anything on the books regarding the Police Department staff scheduling.

Administrator Vana responded the practice was adopted through the budget process.

Alderman Avci feels the Police Chief should be able to determine the number of staff necessary per shift, and that the resolution seems to be micro-management by the City Council.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Alderman McIvor advised that, unlike Municipal Services, the Police Department budget is primarily salaries and overtime. The Police Committee was trying to address the budgetary concerns by reducing overtime expenses.

Lengthy discussions continued.

Treasurer Coren stated that the Police Committee was created to focus on and achieve a better understanding of the Police Department operations. Treasurer Coren feels the Police Committee has done an outstanding job in a short period of time, and has worked well with the Chief in seeking his input. Treasurer Coren feels it is important to let the public know the

city is not making cuts to the Police Department but is experimenting with different techniques to try to save tax dollars.

Alderman Galan feels that the City Council is not micro-managing but is exercising good management. The City Council is hoping the resolution will result in tax savings. If not, other avenues will be explored.

Alderman Avci advised that the city has a budget in place, resources are allocated, and the administrator for each department should manage those resources.

Alderman Poteraske noted that the City Council could have eliminated \$30,000 of overtime from the budget, and let the Police Chief figure out to accomplish the cut. Instead, an appropriate plan is being put into place.

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

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

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

There were none.

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 8:30 P.M.

Mayor

City Clerk

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All supporting documentation and report originals of these minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk under File Number 11-15-10.
Minutes of 11-15-10 CCM