

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE OCTOBER 21, 2024 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:19 P.M.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**of the City Council of the**

**CITY OF DARIEN**

**OCTOBER 21, 2024**

**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
	Joseph A. Kenny	Mary Coyle Sullivan
	Gerry Leganski	

Absent: None

Also in Attendance: Joseph Marchese, Mayor  
JoAnne E. Ragona, City Clerk  
Bryon Vana, City Administrator  
Daniel Gombac, Director of Municipal Services  
Michael Lorek, Detective Sergeant

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



Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

Clerk Ragona administered the Oath of Office to Linda Borowiak, Lana Johnson, Bonnie Kucera and Carol Mallers.

Bonnie Kucera announced Citizen of the Year (COY) and Honoree dinner/dance will be held on Friday, February 28, 2025 at Alpine Banquets; cost is \$52/person. COY nomination application will be available online November 1 and must be submitted by January 6, 2025; she stressed the importance of providing detailed nominee information.

**B. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ELIZABETH HAYES, MELODY JANKOWSKI, TRACY THOMSON JOHNSON AND LESLIE SWEENEY TO THE HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Alderman Leganski and seconded by Alderman Schauer to approve the reappointment of members to the Holiday Home Decorating Committee: Elizabeth Hayes, Melody Jankowski, Tracy Thomson Johnson and Leslie Sweeney.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

Clerk Ragona administered the Oath of Office to Elizabeth Hayes and Melody Jankowski.

Elizabeth Hayes stated Holiday Home Decorating Winners will be announced at the December 16 City Council Meeting. Nomination deadline is December 2; viewing will take place shortly thereafter. She encouraged neighbors to band together; five contiguous decorated homes would qualify for block competition.

Mayor Marchese...

...recognized Jim Jankowski, resident and professional chef. As part of the relief efforts after Hurricane Helene, Mr. Jankowski has been in Asheville, North Carolina preparing 10,000 – 12,000 meals/day.

...commented on civility and treatment of others. He shared three incidences of individuals/groups inability to get along. He read the “Rye Civility Statement” stating he sees Darien as a community that is rooted in acceptance, inclusion and compassion.

...stated there was an error on the quarterly community calendar postcard: Darien Historical Society Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on November 17 (not December 8) from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.; many activities are planned and tree lighting will take place at 4:00 P.M.

Alderman Kenny commented on civility and Mental Health Awareness presentation he attended at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

**C. 2024 MISS DARIEN – PAIGE HOLLENDONNER**

Mayor Marchese introduced and recognized Paige Hollendonner for her outstanding contribution in representing our community. Ms. Hollendonner provided a brief biography, benefits of pageantry, and value in volunteering. As her tenure as Miss Darien is ending, Ms. Hollendonner expressed her pride and joy in representing Darien. She smiled and thanked all for the opportunity of representing Darien.

9. **CITY CLERK’S REPORT**

**A. 2025 VEHICLE STICKER**

Clerk Ragona provided a brief history of the Darien Identification Vehicle Sticker Program, read the list of non-profit organizations offered the opportunity to participate, reviewed applicable provisions and responsibilities. Darien Arts Council was the eligible organization that expressed an interest in the 2025 Vehicle Sticker Lottery and was announced the 2025 Vehicle Sticker lottery winner.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

There was no report.

11. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

**A. POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2024**

Detective Sergeant Lorek highlighted September Monthly Report; he spoke about domestic violence and cyber security. He addressed Council questions pertaining to cybercrime, fraud, Artificial Intelligence, retail theft, crime reporting and license plate cameras.

**B. MUNICIPAL SERVICES – NO REPORT**

Alderman Gustafson inquired if AMVETS, located on Walmart’s property, was sold to a for-profit entity, as collection truck/bins still reflect AMVETS. He commented that donations to a private company are not tax deductible. Director Gombac stated AMVETS and Walmart have an agreement in place to operate a donation center on their property and are in conformance with zoning. He has reached out to Walmart and Simple Recycling for more information with no response to date.

Alderman Kenny inquired about the status of the Plainfield Road property that is scheduled for demolition. Director Gombac explained EPA asbestos requirement, which includes a 10-day cooling period.

12. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Administrator Vana reviewed report.

**A. WARRANT NUMBER 24-25-12**

It was moved by Alderwoman Sullivan and seconded by Alderman Kenny to approve payment of Warrant Number 24-25-12 in the amount of \$790,461.08 from the enumerated funds, and \$323,385.53 from payroll funds for the period ending 10/17/24 for a total to be approved of \$1,113,846.61.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

13. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administrative/Finance Committee** – Chairwoman Sullivan announced the Administrative/Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

**Municipal Services Committee** – Chairman Belczak announced the Municipal Services Committee meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

**Police Committee** – Chairman Kenny announced the Police Committee meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2024 in the Police Department Training Room.

Mayor Marchese announced the next meeting of the Darien Community Action Committee will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at Indian Prairie Public Library from 10:00 – Noon.

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

There were none.

15. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

16. **CONSENT AGENDA**

There was no Consent Agenda.

17. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TAX LEVY DETERMINATION FOR GENERAL AND SPECIAL PURPOSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025**

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

Administrator Vana provided an overview of the motion. He stated the full amount of property tax levy will go toward the Police Pension Fund, which will be the first tax levy increase since 2009.

Alderwoman Sullivan spoke of Administrative/Finance Committee discussions and increase. She noted Police Pension Fund continues to increase and does not want to take away from City services.

Mayor Marchese stated every community is facing similar Police Pension Fund increases.

Alderman Schauer expressed the importance of continuing to fund the Police Pension Fund at 100%.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**B. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TAX LEVY DETERMINATION FOR GENERAL AND SPECIAL PURPOSES AND SSA #1 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 – 2025**

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

Administrator Vana explained Special Assessment Area (SSA) #1 is for Tara Hill and was put in place when the subdivision was constructed. The tax levy covers maintenance expenses for wetlands and storm water infrastructure.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**C. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO PREPARE TEXT AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 2 (BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS) AND TITLE 5A (ZONING REGULATIONS) TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FROM NINE**

**MEMBERS AND TEXT AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 2, (BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS) TO ELIMINATE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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

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

                  Nays:       None

                  Absent:      None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

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

Aldерwoman Sullivan

...reiterated the importance of receiving nominations for Citizen of the Year (COY), as there are so many amazing citizens and makes for a great tradition. She noted nominees must live in Darien and application will be available online November 1.

Alderman Belczak invited all to attend Darien Lions Club Halloween Party, which will be held on October 31, 2024 at the Darien Sportsplex from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.; ice skating and games are planned.

Mayor Marchese thanked...

...Rotary Club of Darien for sponsoring Recycling Extravaganza on Saturday, October 19.

...Chamber of Commerce for a well-run Casino Night at Q Bar on Friday, October 18, with proceeds benefiting Cancer Smashers.

19.   **ADJOURNMENT**



**City Council Meeting**

**October 21, 2024**

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

**VIA VOICE VOTE – MOTION DULY CARRIED**

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

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Mayor

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City Clerk

All supporting documentation and report originals of these minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk under File Number 10-21-24. Minutes of 10-21-24 CCM.