

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:21 P.M.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**of the City Council of the**

**CITY OF DARIEN**

**February 16, 2021**

**7:31 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Darien was called to order at 7:31 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 (Zoom)    Ted V. Schauer (Zoom)  
                                 Thomas M. Chlystek (Zoom)    Mary Coyle Sullivan  
                                 Eric K. Gustafson (Zoom)    Lester Vaughan (Zoom)  
                                 Joseph A. Kenny (Zoom)

Absent:                    None

Also in Attendance:    Joseph Marchese, Mayor  
                                 JoAnne E. Ragona, City Clerk  
                                 Michael J. Coren, City Treasurer (Zoom)  
                                 Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator  
                                 Jason Norton, Deputy Chief (Zoom)  
                                 Daniel Gombac, Director of Municipal Services (Zoom)  
                                 Lisa Klemm, Administrative Assistant

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

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

Al Kohout, Green Valley Road, complimented and thanked Public Works for doing a great job snow plowing.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – February 1, 2021 City Council Meeting

It was moved by Alderman Schauer and seconded by Alderman Vaughan to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of February 1, 2021.

Roll Call:       Ayes:       Belczak, Chlystek, Gustafson, Kenny, Schauer, Sullivan, Vaughan

                  Nays:       None

                  Absent:      None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

7. **RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Kenny stated he read a post on Nextdoor, neighborhood social network, from resident, Lucas Cassidy, regarding a Darien Police Officer assisting a citizen in changing a tire at 67<sup>th</sup> Street & Cass Avenue on February 13 at 9:45 A.M.; he commended Officer Pastick.

Alderman Vaughan received communication from Miguel, 7300 block of Brookbank Road, regarding nuisance concerns at 7313 Clarendon Hills Road, an Airbnb property. Director Gombac will follow-up with City Attorney; he noted City Attorney is in litigation in another municipality with a similar situation. Administrator Vana advised resident to call “911” if occupants are disturbing the peace. Alderwoman Sullivan inquired if owner was notified about the policy on short-term rentals. Administrator Vana stated could be a non-permitted use; violations need to be recorded.

Alderman Gustafson requested the addition of an item to the next City Council Meeting Agenda. He asked for a revision of City Ordinance 0-34-19, which regulates cannabis business establishments; he would like to include the former Steak ’n Shake location as a permitted use. Mayor Marchese conducted a straw poll. The item will be added to agenda. The zoning approval process was reviewed.

8. **MAYORS REPORT**

There was no report.

9. **CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

There was no report.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**A. FYE 22 BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Administrator Vana noted the 2021-22 Budget Meetings formally begin on Wednesday, February 17. He provided a three-year budget overview that focused on summaries and revenues for the following funds: General, Capital Projects, Water, Water Depreciation and Motor Fuel Tax. Treasurer Coren provided financial insight; Administrator Vana addressed Council questions.

Mayor Marchese announced Chairwoman Sullivan will be leading the Administrative/Finance Committee through the Budget Workshop sessions. Meetings are open to the public; facemasks are required.

11. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

**A. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Alderman Chylstek received communication regarding the issuance of tickets versus towing for cars parked on streets during a snow emergency. Deputy Chief Norton stated Police Department practice is to contact vehicle owners and issue citations for non-compliance. He noted ordinance allows for towing of vehicles; vehicles that obstruct roadways or parked for a duration are towed.

Director Vana commented that the Portsmouth Condo area is problematic; residents are permitted to park on streets overnight.

**B. MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Director Gombac stated Public Works is taking proactive approach with additional machinery arriving on February 17 to assist with knocking down piles of snow at intersections and in cul-de-sacs to improve visibility.

Council discussion ensued regarding snow related concerns. He noted a reminder will be published in Direct Connect eNews regarding no parking on City streets during a winter event that brings at least 1" snowfall accumulation.

Administrator Vana announced that effective Tuesday, trash collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week due to inclement weather; Monday collection was not impacted.

Mayor Marchese commented that mail service was delayed.

12. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

**A. WARRANT NUMBER 20-21-20**

It was moved by Alderman Kenny and seconded Alderman Belczak to approve payment of Warrant Number 20-21-20 in the amount of \$453,960.10 from the enumerated funds, and \$277,112.45 from payroll funds for the period ending 02/11/21 for a total to be approved of \$731,072.55.

Roll Call:       Ayes:       Belczak, Chlystek, Gustafson, Kenny, Schauer, Sullivan, Vaughan

Nays:       None

Absent:       None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**B. MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY 2021**

Treasurer Coren reviewed year-to-date sources of revenue, expenditures, and fund balances through the month of January 2021.

<u>General Fund:</u>	Revenue \$13,164,789; Expenditures \$9,065,560; Current Balance \$5,064,765
<u>Water Fund:</u>	Revenue \$5,650,012; Expenditures \$5,516,150; Current Balance \$3,593,387
<u>Motor Fuel Tax Fund:</u>	Revenue \$1,084,558; Expenditures \$326,392; Current Balance \$1,317,137
<u>Water Depreciation Fund:</u>	Revenue \$6,534; Expenditures \$15,604; Current Balance \$2,429,923
<u>Capital Improvement Fund:</u>	Revenue \$252,716; Expenditures \$567,356; Current Balance \$6,327,887

13. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administrative/Finance Committee** – Chairwoman Sullivan announced 2021-22 Budget Workshops will begin on February 17, 2021 and will continue on Tuesday, February 23, March 2, 9 & 16 as needed. A Public Hearing for the proposed budget will be held on April 5 prior to the City Council Meeting. She noted the Economic Development Committee meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

**Municipal Services Committee** – Chairman Belczak announced the Municipal Services Committee meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

**Police Committee** – Chairman Kenny announced the next meeting of the Police Committee is scheduled for March 15, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

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 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF DARIEN**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. O-02-21**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF DARIEN**

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Chlystek, Gustafson, Kenny, Schauer, Sullivan, Vaughan

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**B. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED FUNDS UP TO \$10,000 TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH I/O SOLUTIONS TO CONDUCT TESTING TO ESTABLISH AN ELIGIBILITY LIST FROM WHICH TO HIRE POLICE OFFICERS TO FILL ANTICIPATED OPENINGS**

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

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Chlystek, Gustafson, Kenny, Schauer, Sullivan, Vaughan

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

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

Mayor Marchese reminded residents that Budget Workshops begin on February 17. He asked residents to look at their tax bills; City services are one of the lowest cost items. He encouraged all to watch or attend the budget meetings to gain a better understanding of the conservative approach the City uses in managing tax dollars.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

**City Council Meeting**

**February 16, 2021**

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

**VIA VOICE VOTE – MOTION DULY CARRIED**

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:24 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 2-16-21. Minutes of 2-16-21 CCM.