

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE MAY 18, 2026 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:30 P.M.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

of the City Council of the

CITY OF DARIEN

May 18, 2026

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	Ralph Stompanato
	Joseph A. Kenny	Mary Coyle Sullivan
	Ted V. Schauer	

Absent:	Eric K. Gustafson
	Gerry Leganski

Also in Attendance: Joseph Marchese, Mayor
JoAnne E. Ragona, City Clerk
Michael J. Coren, City Treasurer
Bryon Vana, City Administrator
Gregory Thomas, Police Chief
Daniel Gombac, Director of Municipal Services

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

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

There were none.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – May 4, 2026

It was moved by Alderman Stompanato and seconded by Alderman Kenny to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of May 4, 2026.

Roll Call:	Ayes:	Belczak, Kenny, Stompanato, Sullivan
	Abstain	Schauer
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Leganski, Gustafson

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

7. **RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderdwoman Sullivan...

...received group communication from Waterfall Glen residents & Condominium Association regarding meeting/conversations had with District 3 DuPage County Board members & DuPage County Department of Transportation regarding traffic and concerns at South Frontage Road & Cass Avenue. She spoke of increased traffic activity due to IDOT bridge construction on Cass Avenue, obtaining feedback from DuPage County Board members regarding status of traffic study, being vigilant during bridge construction, and providing an update upon receipt of additional information.

...received numerous emails regarding concerns with Special Use request to move a Rectory into a private residence at 8825 Roberts Road (Tara Hill North subdivision), which was on May 6 Planning, Zoning & Economic Development Commission Agenda; Special Use is scheduled to be on the May 26 Municipal Services Committee Meeting Agenda. She forwarded communications received to Senior Planner Murphy for dissemination to Commission/Committee members.

Mayor Marchese obtained updates about the May 6 Planning, Zoning & Economic Development Commission meeting from Alderman Stompanato, Senior Planner Murphy, and Director Gombac.

Mayor Marchese stated he received positive comments regarding the Hometown Hero banners; many were surprised to be honored by their loved ones. He thanked Modell Funeral Home for donating the banners.

8. **MAYORS REPORT**

A. RECOGNITION OF HINSDALE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL ZEBRALTER STEM SCHOLARS

Mayor Marchese stated he was impressed by students from Hinsdale South High School, who participated in a Passion Project competition, as part of the Zebralter Medical Fellowship Program. The Program promotes careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics). He recognized the scholarship winners and had the pleasure of serving as one of five judges.

Mayor Marchese introduced Dr. Lota Ojiako, who started the program and specializes in hospice and palliative care, and Tracy McDonald, coordinator of Zebralter Stem Program at Hinsdale South High School.

Ms. McDonald shared background of the Zebralter Medical Fellowship Program partnership with Hinsdale South High School, which aims to expose minority students to various careers in STEM, and Passion Project details. Three \$1,000.00 scholarships were awarded by Zebralter Medical to top scoring projects.

Ms. McDonald recognized runners up Zoha Khan and Paige Lilek on their Paper Hugs project. Scholarship recipients were: Arwa Batliwala – Seeing Medicine through the Eyes of Radiology; Emma Koehler – Crochet for a Cause; and Nora Schaffer – Innovating Women’s Oncology. Mayor Marchese presented students with City of Darien pins.

Dr. Ojiako and Ms. McDonald thanked Mayor Marchese for serving on the panel of judges and City Council for acknowledging the hard work and perseverance demonstrated by students to achieve their goals. Dr. Ojiako was thankful for the opportunity to share the program and acknowledged students for their projects. She hopes the program grows stronger each year.

9. **CITY CLERK’S REPORT**

Clerk Ragona announced City offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Administrator Vana recommended residents view City Council meeting via YouTube channel if they experience sound quality issues; YouTube link is located at the top of the City Council Meeting Agenda.

11. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

A. POLICE DEPARTMENT – MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2026

Chief Thomas stated Police Week is proclaimed the week of May 15 and pays special recognition to law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

He addressed Council questions pertaining to license plate reader information and House Bill 5011.

Mayor Marchese stated per Chief’s Association, DuPage Mayors Managers Conference opposed House Bill 5011, which will be sent to State Legislators. He explained House Bill 5011 removes all objectivity from the evaluation of Police Officer, making evaluation more subjective than objective.

B. MUNICIPAL SERVICES – NO REPORT

Mayor Marchese commented on this week being Public Works Week. Director Gombac noted there were barbeque plans with Western Springs Public Works.

Director Gombac addressed Council questions regarding service to streetlight at the corner of Hinswood Drive & Frontage Road and status of Emerald Place condominium development.

12. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

A. WARRANT NUMBER 25-26-26

It was moved by Alderman Schauer and seconded by Alderwoman Sullivan to approve payment of Warrant Number 25-26-26 in the amount of \$330,152.15 from the enumerated funds.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Gustafson, Leganski

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

B. WARRANT NUMBER 26-27-02

It was moved by Alderman Kenny and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve payment of Warrant Number 26-27-02 in the amount of \$116,042.73 from the enumerated funds, and \$423,902.21 from payroll funds for the period ending 05/14/26 for a total to be approved of \$539,944.94.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Gustafson, Leganski

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2

MOTION DULY CARRIED

13. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administrative/Finance Committee – Chairwoman Sullivan announced the Administrative/Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

Municipal Services Committee – Chairman Belczak announced the Municipal Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

Police Committee – Chairman Kenny stated the minutes of the April 20, 2026 meeting were approved and submitted to the Clerk’s Office. He announced the Police Committee meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Police Department Training Room.

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

There were none.

15. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

16. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

A. MOTION NO. M-72-26

A MOTION TO GRANT A WAIVER OF THE RAFFLE LICENSE BOND REQUIREMENT FOR

THE DARIEN DISTRICT 61 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

B. MOTION NO. M-73-26

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 1 NEW MICROSOFT SERVER, CAL LICENSING, AND INSTALLATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$17,600 AT PUBLIC WORKS

C. MOTION NO. M-74-26

A MOTION TO APPROVE ONE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT WITH THE CITY'S CURRENT REFUSE HAULER, LAKESHORE RECYCLING SYSTEMS, LLC (LRS) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,750

D. MOTION NO. M-75-26

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH LAKESHORE RECYCLING SYSTEMS, LLC, FOR THE CITY OF DARIEN'S 2026 STREET SWEEPING PROGRAM NOT TO EXCEED \$53,075.00 AND

E. MOTION NO. M-76-26

A MOTION AUTHORIZING A CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,500 FOR UNFORESEEN INCIDENTS THAT REQUIRE STREET SWEEPING SERVICES

F. MOTION NO. M-77-26

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TUITION FEE FOR DEPUTY CHIEF JASON NORTON TO ATTEND THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE FOR POLICE (SMIP) SESSION 99 HOSTED BY THE POLICE EXECUTIVE RESEARCH FORUM (PERF) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000 USING TRAINING AND EDUCATION BUDGETED FUNDS

G. MOTION NO. M-78-26

A MOTION TO ADOPT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA-EXHIBIT A) BETWEEN THE DARIEN PARK DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE USE OF SOUTH GROVE PARK POND FOR THE YOUTH FISHING TOURNAMENT 2026

H. MOTION NO. M-79-26

A MOTION FOR THE PAYMENT OF 2026/2027 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES WITH THE DUPAGE METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE INVESTIGATION TEAM OF

DUPAGE COUNTY (MERIT) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000 USING BUDGETED FUNDS

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Kenny, Stompanato, Sullivan
 Nays: None
 Absent: Leganski, Schauer

Results: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 2
MOTION DULY CARRIED

17. **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business.

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

Mayor Marchese ...

...had the honor of addressing those gathered at Darien Community Park on May 16 for the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial, which was recently completed by Darien Garden Club. He stated the new memorial honors all who have served our country in the Armed Services. It is a beautiful addition to the already existing memorial at Darien Community Park.

...attended Darien Dash on May 17 and had an opportunity to ride the course where more than 300 participants walked or ran. He thanked April Padalik, Jessica Plzak and Mandy Cidlik for all their time and effort in making the event a success and the numerous sponsors who supported the program.

...commented on positive feedback received from businesses and restaurants featured weekly in Direct Connect and on City website.

Alderman Kenny provided kudos to Darien Lions Club for assistance and support rendered with Darien Dash.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

City Council Meeting

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

VIA VOICE VOTE – MOTION DULY CARRIED

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Mayor

City Clerk

All supporting documentation and report originals of these minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk under File Number 05-18-26. Minutes of 05-18-26 CCM.