A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:04 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE OCTOBER 19, 2026 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

OCTOBER 19, 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	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	
	Gregory Thomas, Police Chief	
	Austin Jump, Deputy Chief	
	Daniel Gombac, Director of Municipal Services	

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

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

There were none.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – October 5, 2026

It was moved by Alderman Schauer and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of October 5, 2026

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

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

7. RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Stompanato, Council Liaison with Darien Park District, met with Darien Park District Commissioner Spiros regarding joint meeting plans.

Alderman Sullivan has had ongoing communication with Kelly Glisan regarding advertising signs in parkways; concerns have been shared with City Planner and Code Enforcement Officer. She spoke of County, State, & City roadway challenges and encouraged residents to be vigilant in removing signs improperly placed.

Alderman Gustafson received communication from neighbor regarding raccoons in rear yard. Director Gombac suggested Willowbrook Wildlife Center as an information resource.

Mayor Marchese…
…received communication from John Callan, regarding Metronet/T-Mobile Fiber outage. Director Gombac is communicating with utility company customer service.
…spoke of Darien being a transparent community that listens and is open to residents presenting their ideas and concerns. He revisited resident's actions from the last City Council Meeting and stated derogatory comments against City and elected officials will not be tolerated.

8. MAYORS REPORT

A. PRESENTATION – "TOBACCO RETAILER ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN"
SPEAKERS:

- MIMI DOLL – DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH FOR THE DUPAGE FEDERATION ON HUMAN SERVICE REFORM
- JORDAN ESSER – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FOR THE DUPAGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
- SABRINA ABDUL–QADIR – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DUPAGE FEDERATION ON HUMAN SERVICE REFORM
- DENNIS BRENNAN – EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MANAGER FOR THE DUPAGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
- JUDITH LUKAS – DUPAGE COUNTY CORONOR

Mayor Marchese introduced the DuPage County representatives in attendance.

Jordan Esser, Assistant Director of Community Initiatives for the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) & Project Director of Countywide Substance Use Prevention Coalition (PLT) provided information on an emerging public health issue called Kratom. Ms. Esser's presentation highlighted: What is Kratom; How Kratom Affects the Body; Marketing; "Whole Leaf" vs. Synthetics; Health Risks; Poison Control Data; Overdose Death Data; and Bottom Line. She encouraged local municipalities to adopt comprehensive Kratom bans to protect their communities from potential serious health impacts.

Mimi Doll, Director of Research for the DuPage Federation on Human Service Reform, discussed findings from "Tobacco Retailer Environmental Scan" conducted this summer with funds received from Illinois Department of Public Health; she commented that her team visited 200 out of 700 retailers. Ms. Doll's presentation focused on Kratum including: Background; Research Questions; Distribution and Frequency of Product Sales by Retailer Type; Kratom & Synthetic Kratom; Advertising & Marketing; Discounts & Price Promotions; and Age of Sale; Recommendations included Policy, Education & Treatment.

Judith Lukas, DuPage County Coronor, spoke of Kratom being a gateway drug that is extremely addictive. She encouraged Council to ban this drug and make their voices heard in Springfield.

Speakers addressed Council questions throughout their presentations.

Mayor Marchese read a letter from a Darien resident, whose son died at age 22 from the toxic effects of natural whole leaf Kratom, and highly encouraged banning Kratom.

9. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

A. 2027 VEHICLE STICKER LOTTERY

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; and reviewed provisions. Rotary Club of Darien was the eligible organization that expressed an interest in the 2027 Vehicle Sticker Lottery and was announced the 2027 Vehicle Sticker Lottery winner.

10. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

11. DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS

A. POLICE DEPARTMENT – NO REPORT

Mayor Marchese announced a swearing-in ceremony will be held on November 12 at 6:30 P.M. at Eisenhower Junior High School.

B. MUNICIPAL SERVICES – NO REPORT

Director Gombac spoke of Survey Report pertaining to flooding, which will be sent to Municipal Services Committee. He addressed Council question regarding DuPage County Grant.

12. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. WARRANT NUMBER 26-27-12

It was moved by Alderwoman Sullivan and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve payment of Warrant Number 26-27-12 in the amount of $797,315.54 from the enumerated funds, and $402,011.54 from payroll funds for the period ending 10/15/26 for a total to be approved of $1,199,327.08.

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 2, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. She stated Citizen of the Year nominations will be available online November 1, with a deadline date of January 5, 2027; helpful tools have been added to assist with the nomination application process. Liaison Sullivan noted only Darien residents are eligible for nomination.

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

Police Committee – Chairman Kenny stated the minutes of the September 21, 2026 meeting were approved and submitted to the Clerk's Office. He announced the Police Committee meeting is scheduled for November 16, 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 Kenny and seconded by Alderman Stompanato to approve by Omnibus Vote the following items on the Consent Agenda:

A. MOTION NO. M-127-26 **A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF DUPAGE AND THE CITY OF DARIEN FOR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE DUPAGE COUNTY POLICE RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PRMS) CONSORTIUM, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2032

B. MOTION NO. M-128-26 **A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (CBA) BETWEEN THE CITY OF DARIEN AND THE METROPOLITAN ALLIANCE OF POLICE, DARIEN POLICE CHAPTER #48, MAY 1, 2026 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2030**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

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

17. NEW BUSINESS

A. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TAX LEVY DETERMINATION FOR GENERAL AND SPECIAL PURPOSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

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

Mayor Marchese stated there was no increase in the tax levy. Alderwoman Sullivan explained there was no need to abate taxes.

MOTION NO. M-129-26 **A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TAX LEVY DETERMINATION FOR GENERAL AND SPECIAL PURPOSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027**

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. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 8, POLICE REGULATIONS, OF THE DARIEN CITY CODE TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 24, "KRATOM PRODUCTS"

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

Council discussion ensued regarding ordinance, which included Kratom products, educating community, enforcement timing, ability to amend, utilizing DuPage County as a resource, communication on website and in Direct Connect eNews.

ORDINANCE NO. O-38-26 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 8, POLICE REGULATIONS, OF THE DARIEN CITY CODE TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 24, "KRATOM PRODUCTS"**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

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

Mayor Marchese thanked representatives from DuPage County.

C. A MOTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE PLAINFIELD ROAD REAR WALL RETAINING PROJECT, LOCATED AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF PLAINFIELD ROAD AND CASS AVENUE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $145,150.00 TO LANDWORKS LIMITED FOR THE CUSTOM FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF A POWDER-

COATED ARCHITECTURAL METAL LATTICE ATOP THE WALL PANELS

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

Director Gombac provided an update on the project including costs. He addressed Council questions. Council expressed their viewpoints on proposed change order.

MOTION NO. M-130-26 **A MOTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE PLAINFIELD ROAD REAR WALL RETAINING PROJECT, LOCATED AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF PLAINFIELD ROAD AND CASS AVENUE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $145,150.00 TO LANDWORKS LIMITED FOR THE CUSTOM FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF A POWDER-COATED ARCHITECTURAL METAL LATTICE ATOP THE WALL PANELS**

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

Mayor Marchese…
…attended Blue Mass at Our Lady of Peace to honor first responders, law enforcement, and emergency personnel for their service.
…attended Wings of Hope fundraiser at the Morton Arboretum to benefit the DuPage County Health Department Crisis Recovery Center.

Clerk Ragona thanked all who attended and supported Rotary Club of Darien Recycling Extravaganza.

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

VIA VOICE VOTE – MOTION DULY CARRIED

The City Council meeting adjourned at 9:04 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 10-19-26. Minutes of 10-19-26 CCM.