

**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF DARIEN  
MAY 21, 2012**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Darien was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Weaver.

2. Present:                      Halil Avci                                              Sylvia McIvor (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)  
                                         Tina M. Beilke                                              John F. Poteraske, Jr.  
                                         Joseph A. Marchese                                              Ted V. Schauer

Absent: Joerg Seifert

Also in Attendance: Kathleen Moesle Weaver, Mayor  
Lynn Dubman, Deputy Clerk  
Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator  
Scott Coren, Assistant City Administrator  
Daniel Gombac, Director of Community Development/Municipal Services  
Ernest Brown, Police Chief

**DECLARATION OF A QUORUM** — There being five Aldermen present, Mayor Weaver declared a quorum.

3. **CAPITAL PROJECTS DISCUSSION**

Administrator Vana distributed a Meeting Outline which contained Alderman Avci's comments. Administrator Vana recommended focus of the discussions be placed on identifying, prioritizing and developing funding for the projects. He reviewed the differences between core, non-core discretionary, and expansion projects.

Alderman Poteraske agreed that ditches are core projects but felt they should be funded at a lower level.

The Committee reviewed annual recurring projects. Mayor Weaver noted that the annual budget includes a two-year forecast of maintenance, discretionary, and expansion projects and their costs.

Administrator Vana noted that currently the City forecasts two years beyond the budget year; and feels a time frame longer than five years would be unrealistic. He added that although the annual revenues for the Capital Projects Fund did not meet expenses, there were fund balances to cover expenditures.

Alderman Avci expressed concern with funding core projects in the future. Alderman Marchese commented that the core projects are the City's infrastructure; projects should be prioritized within categories and funding be explored. Administrator Vana stated that once the Council agrees on the core list, funding details could be discussed.

Alderman Beilke stressed the need for a list of projects. Alderman McIvor suggested a long term master capital projects plan be summarized in a one or two page summary that residents could understand. She felt the City did an excellent job in conveying information on the Electric Aggregation Program and would like something similar for Capital Projects. Administrator Vana noted that the budget contains the capital projects list, and a narrative could easily be added. Alderman McIvor requested the summary be revitalized annually. Alderman Marchese noted this would be similar to the Road Program Catalog. Alderman McIvor would like the narrative to include the fund balance necessary to maintain each project. She advised that most residents are unaware of the small percentage the City receives from property taxes.

Administrator Vana stated that a consensus of core projects is necessary in order for staff to plan. Mayor Weaver noted that most project planning is in place through the Goal Setting Session and budget process. She suggested that expansion items be reviewed more frequently. Administrator Vana noted that the City has been very frugal with expansion items for a number of years. Administrator Vana will compile a list of core projects which will include a narrative, projected costs, and time frame to be presented in approximately one month at a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee-of-the-Whole, Mayor Weaver adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

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Mayor

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Deputy 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 05-21-12 Committee-of-the-Whole.