

**CITY OF DARIEN
GOAL SETTING SESSION MINUTES
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
October 29th, 2014, 6:30pm,
Police Training Room**

Present: Mayor Kathleen Weaver, Treasurer Michael Coren, Clerk JoAnne Ragona, Alderman Ted Schauer, Alderman Tina Beilke, Alderman Joe Kenny, Alderman Joerg Seifert, Alderman Joe Marchese, Alderman Sylvia McIvor, Alderman Tom Belczak, City Administrator Bryon Vana, Director of Municipal Services Dan Gombac, Assistant Administrator Paul Nosek, Police Chief Ernest Brown

Call to Order: 6:30 P.M.

Darien Historical Society Request

Mayor Weaver recapped that the City Council has received several requests from the Darien Historical Society (DHS) asking the City to financially support the DHS. The requests have varied from providing financial assistance from the City to having the DHS become an entity under the City. To facilitate the discussion the Mayor Weaver asked the Council to consider two main points. First, would the DHS become a department of the City if the City provided significant funding to the organization? A majority of the Council agreed that the DHS should not become a department of the City but continue to operate as they currently do. Secondly, if the City were to simply provide funding to the DHS what would be the funding limits and rules associated with providing funds? The majority of the Council agreed that any City funding should be restricted to the building improvements and not operations. Staff will work with the DHS to determine their building needs and bring those needs to the Council during the FYE 4-30-16 budget discussions. The Council also concluded that if there are any immediate repairs to be done prior to winter, the Council should discuss those prior to the winter season.

Refuse/Recycling Contract Extension

Staff advised the refuse contract with Advanced Disposal is a 4 year contract that is set to expire on March 31, 2015. Upon request, the City may exercise an option to extend the contract term for an additional two (2) year period under the same terms and conditions as the initial contract and at the attached rates. The Council determined that it was in the best interest of the City to extend the contract. Staff will schedule the formal approval for one of the upcoming City Council meetings.

Remaining Land Development

Staff advised that the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan was approved in November of 2002 with a minor update in October of 2006. The update in 2002 focused on seven (7) key areas/parcels. The plan also identified annexation opportunities and corridor enhancements within our planning area. Staff reviewed the developments that have taken place since the plan update and discussed potential future developments. The Council discussed their feelings as to development moving forward and concluded that the City was meeting the goals and objectives

of the comprehensive plan and no additional strategies are needed. Mayor Weaver requested that staff prepare a written report detailing the developments that have taken place as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

Capital/Neighborhood Beautification Projects

The Council discussed the current process the staff uses as a basis for planning of capital projects, such as roads, storm water, and sidewalks. The Council did not recommend any changes to the budget planning process. The Council was interested in beginning to review additional beautification projects. The Council members will look for five (5) beautification projects in their wards and forward those to the staff for budget discussions.

Police Department

Chief Brown provided a report to the Council regarding the past, present, and future operational assessments and changes within the Police Department since he became Police Chief. Mayor Weaver requested that Chief Brown provide a similar report to the residents during an upcoming Council meeting.

Environmental and Communications Committee Review

Staff advised that the City operates with a number of volunteer committees that conduct duties as outlined in the City Code. These volunteers take their responsibility seriously and provide excellent assistance to the City. However, for several years the Communications and Environmental Committees have only met periodically and staff does not see any items coming forward to those committees. The consensus of the Council was to expand the work of the Environmental Committee and disband the Communications Committee, Electrical Commission and the Board of Local Improvements due to lack of agenda items. Staff will prepare a draft ordinance reflecting these changes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:08 pm.

KATHLEEN MOESLE WEAVER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JOANNE E. RAGONA, CITY CLERK

