

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE NOVEMBER 21, 2022 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:18 P.M.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**of the City Council of the**

**CITY OF DARIEN**

**November 21, 2022**

**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 7:30P.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	Mary Coyle Sullivan
	Joseph A. Kenny	Lester Vaughan

Absent: Thomas M. Chlystek

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 six aldermen present, Mayor Marchese declared a quorum.

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

Rachel Lazich, Ward Six resident, voiced her opinion and issues she had with Alderman Gustafson’s actions surrounding the community engagement forum regarding Center Cass School District 66 Referendum.

Tom Tedeschi, music teacher with Center Cass School District 66, expressed his disappointment in the Darien leadership for their lack of support of the Center Cass Referendum; he voiced concern over the influence Alderman Gustafson may have had with his constituents pertaining to the referendum.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – November 7, 2022

It was moved by Alderman Vaughan and seconded by Alderman Gustafson to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of November 7, 2022.

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

Abstain:       Sullivan

Nays:       None

Absent:       Chlystek

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

7. **RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Gustafson announced Fry the Coop will have a soft opening November 22 – 26 from 5:00 – 9:00 P.M.; he encouraged all to attend.

8. **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Marchese commented that he remained silent on the issues regarding referendum to allow taxpayers the ability to make their own decisions. He read a statement that shared his observations and reminded all “that we cannot let differences destroy relationships and prevent us from working through critical issues.” He stated that we are committed to promoting the goal of ONE Darien, as we Organize, Nurture, and Empower residents to make Darien the best place to live.

Mayor Marchese explained the importance of working together, highlighted his participation in school events, provided justification for taking a neutral position on the

referendum, shared his stance on maintaining a non-partisan position as President of DuPage Mayors Conference, and noted that he felt the City of Darien did not have an impact on the referendum,

Mary Testa, resident Ward Six, expressed her displeasure with Alderman Gustafson working against his constituents and his actions, which she added was the reason for the large attendance of Ward Six residents.

Alderman Gustafson stated he encouraged people to be educated and to vote. He explained, as a private citizen, he has a right to express his opinion. He noted his opinion always has been for the consolidation of districts.

Discussion ensued; Mayor Marchese shared findings from previous school consolidation study. Ms. Testa felt lack of school support affects property values that is another concern by many in attendance.

Mayor Marchese thanked all for attending. He expressed the seriousness of the issue and hoped for all to get along to achieve success.

**A. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT TAFT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Alderman Schauer and seconded by Alderman Vaughan to approve the appointment of Robert Taft to the Economic Development Committee.

Roll Call:	Ayes:	Belczak, Gustafson, Kenny, Schauer, Sullivan, Vaughan
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Chlystek

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1  
**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**B. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER GREEN TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

It was moved by Alderman Kenny and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve the appointment of Christopher Green to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Chlystek

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**C. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JONATHAN CHRIST TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Alderman Gustafson and seconded by Alderman Schauer to approve the appointment of Jonathan Christ to the Economic Development Committee.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Chlystek

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

Clerk Ragona administered the Oath of Office to Robert Taft and Jonathan Christ.

9. **CITY CLERK’S REPORT**

Clerk Ragona announced that City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

There was no report

11. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

**A. POLICE DEPARTMENT – NO REPORT**

**B. MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Director Gombac stated due to fire on November 16 left Truck 102 unsalvageable, an emergency purchase was necessary. He explained a replacement truck was available at Willowbrook Ford at a cost of \$82,672. Director Gombac asked for permission to move forward with purchase until formal approval can be obtained at the December 19 City Council Meeting. He addressed Council questions regarding truck use and cost details.

12. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

**A. WARRANT NUMBER 22-23-14**

It was moved by Alderman Belczak and seconded by Alderwoman Sullivan to approve payment of Warrant Number 22-23-14 in the amount of \$1,015,128.82 from the enumerated funds and \$277,446.22 from payroll funds for the period ending 11/17/22 for a total to be approved of \$1,292,575.04.

Alderman Kenny explained why he was abstaining, his client was included on the warrant.

Roll Call:	Ayes:	Belczak, Gustafson, Schauer, Sullivan, Vaughan
	Abstain:	Kenny
	Nays:	None
	Absent:	Chlystek

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**B. MONTHLY REPORT – OCTOBER 2022**

Treasurer Coren reviewed year-to-date sources of revenue, expenditures, and fund balances through the month of October 2022.

<u>General Fund:</u>	Revenue \$11,162,591; Expenditures \$7,234,811; Current Balance \$6,826,715
<u>Water Fund:</u>	Revenue \$4,037,593; Expenditures \$3,111,313 Current Balance \$4,373,150
<u>Motor Fuel Tax Fund:</u>	Revenue \$702,950; Expenditures \$332,848; Current Balance \$1,308,138
<u>Water Depreciation Fund:</u>	Revenue \$21,655 Expenditures \$1,389,747; Current Balance \$2,388,615

Capital Improvement Fund: Revenue \$1,757,990; Expenditures \$3,210,540;  
Current Balance \$14,220,880

Treasurer Coren commented that six-month report indicated expenses were in-line.

13. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administrative/Finance Committee** – Chairwoman Sullivan announced the December 5 Administrative/Finance Committee meeting was cancelled. She stated Budget Workshop dates will be released shortly; budget process would start in February. Liaison Sullivan stated the Economic Development Committee meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

**Municipal Services Committee** – Chairman Belczak announced the Municipal Services Committee meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

**Police Committee** – Chairman Kenny announced the Police Committee meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2022 at 6:30 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**

There was no Consent Agenda.

17. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR GENERAL AND SPECIAL CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF MAY, 2022, AND ENDING ON THE THIRTIETH DAY OF APRIL, 2023, FOR THE CITY OF DARIEN, ILLINOIS**

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

Administrator Vana explained levy.

**ORDINANCE NO. O-21-22**      **AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR GENERAL AND SPECIAL CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF MAY, 2022, AND ENDING ON THE THIRTIETH DAY OF APRIL, 2023, FOR THE CITY OF DARIEN, ILLINOIS**

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

                     Nays:      None

                     Absent:      Chlystek

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**B. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF MAY, 2022, AND ENDING ON THE THIRTIETH DAY OF APRIL, 2023, IN AND FOR THE CITY OF DARIEN SPECIAL SERVICE AREA NUMBER ONE KNOWN AS TARA HILL**

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

Administrator Vana explained Tara Hill is subject to a special real estate tax known as “Special Service Area Number One.” The levy is to maintain wetlands and storm water facilities.

**ORDINANCE NO. O-22-22**      **AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR G FOR THE LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF MAY, 2022, AND ENDING ON THE THIRTIETH DAY OF APRIL, 2023, IN AND FOR THE CITY OF DARIEN SPECIAL SERVICE AREA NUMBER ONE KNOWN AS TARA HILL**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Chlystek

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**C. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE ABATING PROPERTY TAX HERETOFORE LEVIED BY ORDINANCE NO. 0-40-15**

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

Administrator Vana explained the tax levy matches last year's extension.

**ORDINANCE NO. O-23-22 AN ORDINANCE ABATING PROPERTY TAX HERETOFORE LEVIED BY ORDINANCE NO. 0-40-15**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Chlystek

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

**D. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF DARIEN, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS (PZC2022-04: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT)**

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

Mayor Marchese provided background information on the Comprehensive Plan and key development areas. He explained the Comprehensive Plan needs to be amended in order to



develop nine key areas. He noted Economic Development Committee, Planning & Zoning Commission and Municipal Services Committee have been in discussion since May.

Alderman Gustafson commented Chestnut Court is zoned for “mixed use.” Director Gombac added developer has not provided feedback.

Administrator Vana stated comprehensive plan is first step followed by zoning ordinance revisions.

**ORDINANCE NO. O-24-22 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF DARIEN, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS (PZC2022-04: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT)**

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

Nays: None

Absent: Chlystek

Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

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

Patricia Yurchak inquired if frozen Clock Tower fountain should be turned off to save money. Director Gombac explained the fountain was designed to have a waterfall feature with recycled water 365 days a year.

Mayor Marchese commented water feature on the northwest corner of Plainfield Road & Cass Avenue by the “City of Darien” sign does get turned off. Director Gombac explained shutoff keeps ice from forming on the sidewalk.

Elizabeth Uribe, non-Darien resident, expressed her disappointment in the representation of Alderman Gustafson.

Alderman Gustafson reminded residents to attend Fry the Coop opening on Tuesday, November 22.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

**City Council Meeting**

**November 21, 2022**

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 11-21-22. Minutes of 11-21-22 CCM.