

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:22 P.M.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

**of the City Council of the**

**CITY OF DARIEN**

**February 17, 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  
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 seven aldermen present, Mayor Marchese declared a quorum.

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

There were none.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Darien Park District Board of Commissioners and the City of Darien Committee-of the-Whole Meeting – January 12, 2026

It was moved by Alderman Stompanato and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve the minutes of the Darien Park District Board of Commissioners and the City of Darien Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of January 12, 2026.

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

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

B. City Council Meeting – February 2, 2026

It was moved by Alderman Gustafson and seconded by Alderman Kenny to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of February 2, 2026.

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

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

7. **RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderman Kenny received communication from Suleiman Salman, Emerson Drive, regarding light illuminating into bedroom window at night from the rear yard light belonging to neighbor located on Walden Lane. Director Gombac commented on status and possible photometric study.

Alderman Gustafson had numerous conversations with residents and Director Gombac regarding 75<sup>th</sup> Street development, which will be a topic of conversation at the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Commission Meeting on February 18 at 7:00 P.M. in the Police Department Training Room. Director Gombac and Alderman Gustafson commented on concerns, type of business, hours and ownership.

Mayor Marchese clarified 75<sup>th</sup> Street development lot is located between Market Place at Darien and Haraldsen's Garage.

8. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

**A. MAYORAL PROCLAMATION "ARBOR DAY" (APRIL 24, 2026)**

Mayor Marchese read the proclamation into record declaring April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day.

Director Gombac explained proclamation was presented early to meet grant protocol. He will make a presentation on Tree Inventory Management at a City Council Meeting.

**B. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DEBORAH UHLAR AS THE 2026 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR IN THE CITY OF DARIEN, ILLINOIS**

Mayor Marchese was honored to read the Resolution into record.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. R-02-26**

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DEBORAH UHLAR AS THE 2026 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR IN THE CITY OF DARIEN, ILLINOIS**

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Kenny, Leganski, Schauer, Stompanato, Sullivan, Marchese, Ragona, Coren, Murphey, Vana

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 12, Nays 0, Absent 0

**MOTION DULY CARRIED**

There was resounding applause and standing ovation from City Council and audience. Mayor Marchese presented Deborah Uhlar with the Citizen of the Year Resolution and plaque.

Deborah Uhlar commented the recognition was a complete surprise and pretty incredible. She thanked Mayor Marchese, City Council, and COY Committee. She recognized Bonnie Kucera who keeps trying to convince her that she deserves the recognition and for leading her step-by-step through the process. Ms. Uhlar thanked long-time friend Jane Ross for her nomination, congratulated honorees on their well-deserved recognition, and hopes to see all at the celebratory dinner/dance.

Mayor Marchese recognized Service and Organization Honorees: James Burke, Darien Business Alliance; David DeCuir, Darien Garden Club; Mike Falco, Darien Lion’s Club; Pastor Eli Voigt, Rotary Club of Darien; Marian Krupicka, Darien Woman’s Club; and Mike Beringer, Darien Youth Club.

Mayor Marchese shared his appreciation for the efforts made by Darien’s volunteer groups and all those who give of themselves.

Alderswoman Sullivan announced COY/Honorees celebratory dinner/dance will be held at Alpine Banquets on March 6, 2026 with cocktails at 6:00 P.M. and dinner at 7:00 P.M. She noted reservations will be taken through February 26 at a cost of \$52 per person.

9. **CITY CLERK’S REPORT**

There was no report.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Administrator Vana highlighted the General Fund Summary FYE 27 and reviewed specific individual General Fund line items.

Treasurer Coren noted numbers reflect no increase to real estate taxes for the next three years. He complimented staff and elected officials for their accomplishments over the years. He spoke of other revenue sources and Police Pension Fund.

Administrator Vana commented on tax levy, Tax Abatement Ordinance, property tax freeze, and Police Pension Fund. He reviewed General Fund Revenue Budget Fiscal Year Ending 2027; commented on building permit fee holiday, local use tax and sales tax, cable TV, storage unit tax, battery facility plans and Darien Business Alliance activities.

Administrator Vana addressed Council questions.

Mayor Marchese commented on Resource Advocacy Programs as member of Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environmental Committee.

Chief Thomas commented on drug and federal forfeitures.

Mayor Marchese commended Administrator Vana on outstanding budget efforts and City's strong financial condition. Administrator Vana commented that it's teamwork; staff and Council are professional and productive.

11. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

**A. POLICE DEPARTMENT – NO REPORT**

**B. MUNICIPAL SERVICES – NO REPORT**

12. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**A. WARRANT NUMBER 25-26-20**

It was moved by Alderman Belczak and seconded by Alderman Kenny to approve payment of Warrant Number 25-26-20 in the amount of \$613,840.95 from the enumerated funds, and \$357,531.00 from payroll funds for the period ending 02/05/26 for a total to be approved of \$971,371.95.

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. MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY 2026**

Treasurer Coren reviewed year-to-date sources of revenue, expenditures, and fund balances through the month of January 2026.

<u>General Fund:</u>	Revenue \$16,225,407; Expenditures \$12,910,164; Current Balance \$7,415,229
<u>Water &amp; Water Depreciation Funds:</u>	Revenue \$5,885,438; Expenditures \$6,571,354; Current Balance \$2,524,151
<u>Motor Fuel Tax Fund:</u>	Revenue \$705,271; Expenditures \$571,973; Current Balance \$733,254
<u>Capital Improvement Fund:</u>	Revenue \$776,732 Expenditures \$2,881,485; Current Balance \$21,365,177

13. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administrative/Finance Committee** – Chairwoman Sullivan announced the Committee-of-the-Whole 2026-2027 Budget Workshop Meetings are scheduled for February 18 and February 25 (6:30 P.M.in Council Chambers); March 2 after the City Council Meeting; and, if needed, March 4. She noted final Budget Draft will be presented to Council by March 27. Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for April 6, 2026.

**Municipal Services Committee** – Chairman Belczak announced the Municipal Services Committee meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

**Police Committee** – Chairman Kenny stated the minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting were approved and submitted to the Clerk's Office. Chairman Kenny announced the Police Committee meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Police Department Training Room.

**Police Pension Board** – Liaison Coren announced the Police Pension Board quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Police Department Training Room.

Mayor Marchese announced the next meeting of the Darien Action Committee is scheduled for February 28, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. in the Police Department Training Room.

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

Bonnie Kucera, Citizen of the Year (COY) Committee Chairwoman thanked John Carr, Municipal Services, for expanding COY recognition portrait display in the lower lobby of City Hall.

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 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY FROM THE LOWEST COST ELECTRICITY PROVIDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS THROUGH THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC COLLABORATIVE BID PROCESS**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. R-03-26**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY FROM THE LOWEST COST ELECTRICITY PROVIDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS THROUGH THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC COLLABORATIVE BID PROCESS**

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. CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE WINDY CITY AMUSEMENTS, INC. AND THE CITY OF DARIEN TO PROVIDE AMUSEMENT RIDES FOR A MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CARNIVAL AT CHESTNUT COURT SHOPPING CENTER FROM MAY 22 – 25, 2026**

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

**MOTION NO. M-33-26**

**A MOTION TO ACCEPT A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE WINDY CITY AMUSEMENTS, INC. AND THE CITY OF DARIEN TO PROVIDE AMUSEMENT RIDES FOR A MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CARNIVAL AT CHESTNUT COURT SHOPPING CENTER FROM MAY 22 – 25, 2026**

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 encouraged all to attend celebratory dinner/dance on March 6 at Alpine banquets to honor Citizen of the Year and Service & Organization Honorees.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

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 8:30 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 02-17-26. Minutes of 02-17-26 CCM.