

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE JANUARY 19, 2026 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:19 P.M.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

of the City Council of the

CITY OF DARIEN

January 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
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** – December 15, 2025

It was moved by Alderman Kenny and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of December 15, 2025.

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

 Nays: None

 Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

MOTION DULY CARRIED

7. **RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Alderswoman Sullivan provided an update on the continued traffic concerns along South Frontage Road expressed by residents of Waterfall Glen. She commented on 2024 Cass Avenue Corridor Feasibility Study conducted by DuPage County Department of Transportation; communication with DuPage County District Representatives Evans & Galassi; and contact with DuPage County Director of Transportation, Steve Travia. A conference call with Mr. Travia has been scheduled. Alderswoman Sullivan assured residents the issue is being pursued.

Alderman Kenny received communication from Dwane Kozak, former Auxiliary Officer, regarding updating City Ordinance to reflect disbandment of Auxiliary Police. Chief Thomas is coordinating Code update with City Attorney.

Mayor Marchese recounted the voicemail received Friday evening at 5:45 P.M. from an elderly resident in need of immediate assistance. He commended Darien Police Department for quick response and willingness of Public Works to address the situation. Resident noted everyone she called responded to her concern and stated Darien is wonderful!

8. **MAYOR’S REPORT**

A. MAYORAL PROCLAMATION “DARIEN GARDEN CLUB 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mayor Marchese read the proclamation into record declaring January 19, 2026 as Darien Garden Club Day. He commented on the growth of the club and noted their participation

at community events. He was proud to congratulate the Darien Garden Club on their 25th Anniversary.

On behalf of the Darien Garden Club, Cathy Streett thanked Mayor Marchese and City Council for the honor. Ms. Streett commented on membership and premier event, Spring Gardening Inspiration Speaker Symposium. She stated the club does things with youths and seniors: a group for everyone and “A Good Place to Grow.” Club President, Char Vuillaume provided Council with event cards containing anniversary and community celebrations.

B. 2026 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

Mayor Marchese asked Alderwoman Sullivan, City Council Liaison, to present the recommendation for the 2026 Citizen of the Year (COY). Liaison Sullivan read the Citizen of the Year Committee letter recommending that the 2026 Citizen of the Year be Deborah Uhlar.

It was moved by Alderman Stompanato and seconded by Alderman Schauer to concur with the 2026 Citizen of the Year Committee’s nomination and to award the title of 2026 Citizen of the Year to Deborah Uhlar.

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

 Nays: None

 Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

MOTION DULY CARRIED

Liaison Sullivan announced the COY event will also recognize volunteer clubs and organization honorees as follows: Darien Youth Club – Mike Beringer, Darien Woman’s Club – Marian Krupicka, Darien Lions Club – Mike Falco, Darien Garden Club – David DeCuir, Darien Rotary Club – Pastor Eli Voigt, and Darien Business Alliance – James Burke. At the February 17 City Council Meeting, a resolution will be presented to Ms. Uhlar. The Mayor and City Council will recognize volunteer clubs and organization honorees for their service.

Alderwoman Sullivan stated the celebratory dinner/dance will be held on Friday, March 6, at Alpine Banquets, with cocktails at 6:00 P.M. and dinner at 7:00 P.M.; cost is \$52/person and includes 7-course dinner, open bar, music and dancing. Reservations are

available at City Hall, or you can mail a check to the City of Darien; reservations will be confirmed at the time of payment and reservation deadline is February 26.

9. **CITY CLERK’S REPORT**

There was no report.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

There was no report.

11. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

A. POLICE DEPARTMENT – NO REPORT

B. MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Director Gombac reported on The City’s Water Main Infrastructure. The presentation included: Data and Analysis from the Utah Water Research Laboratory at Utah State University conducted in 2023; Water Main Breaks; Deteriorating Infrastructure; Basis for Data; Water Main Materials & Installations; U.S. Report Card on Drinking Water; Unaccounted Water; Replacement Schedules; Broken Water Mains; City of Darien Water Main Breaks from 2020-2025; 2023 Report Study Highlights; Main Breaks per Subdivision; and Where We Go From Here?. He addressed Council questions.

12. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

A. WARRANT NUMBER 25-26-17

It was moved by Alderman Belczak and seconded by Alderman Kenny to approve payment of Warrant Number 25-26-17 in the amount of \$204,248.88 from the enumerated funds, and \$348,385.28 from payroll funds for the period ending 12/25/25 for a total to be approved of \$552,634.16.

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. WARRANT NUMBER 25-26-18

It was moved by Alderman Schauer and seconded by Alderman Stompanato to approve payment of Warrant Number 25-26-18 in the amount of \$1,346,937.81 from the enumerated funds, and \$420,185.15 from payroll funds for the period ending 01/08/26 for a total to be approved of \$1,767,122.96.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

MOTION DULY CARRIED

C. MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER 2025

Treasurer Coren reviewed year-to-date sources of revenue, expenditures, and fund balances through the month of December 2025.

General Fund: Revenue \$14,501,302; Expenditures \$11,440,199; Current Balance \$7,161,088

Water & Water Depreciation Funds: Revenue \$5,872,263; Expenditures \$5,686,498; Current Balance \$3,395,833

Motor Fuel Tax Fund: Revenue \$613,923; Expenditures \$498,682; Current Balance \$715,197

Capital Improvement Fund: Revenue \$710,291; Expenditures \$2,854,751; Current Balance \$21,325,471

13. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administrative/Finance Committee – Chairwoman Sullivan announced the Administrative/Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. She noted final Budget Draft will be presented to Council on February 11. Committee-of-the-Whole 2026-2027 Budget Workshop Meetings are scheduled for February 18, and 25 (6:30 P.M. in Council Chambers); March 2 after the City Council Meeting; and, if needed, March 4.

Municipal Services Committee – Chairman Belczak announced the Municipal Services Committee meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. Director Gombac noted commercial parking of vehicles will be reviewed.

Police Committee – Chairman Kenny announced the Police Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Police Department Training Room.

Liaison Stompanato stated minutes from the touch-base meeting held on January 12 by City of Darien Aldermen and Darien Park District Board of Commissioners will be presented to Council in February.

Mayor Marchese announced the next meeting of the Darien Action Committee will be held on Saturday, February 28 from 9:00 – 11:00 A.M. in Council Chambers.

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 Belczak and seconded by Alderman Stompanato to approve by Omnibus Vote the following items on the Consent Agenda:

**A. MOTION NO. M-01-26 A MOTION TO PURCHASE AMMUNITION
FROM KIESLER’S POLICE SUPPLY IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$18,876.48**

**B. ORDINANCE NO. O-01-26 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE
OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE
CITY OF DARIEN**

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

MOTION DULY CARRIED

17. **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business

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

Mayor Marchese...

...reiterated Citizen of the Year/Honorees celebratory dinner/dance will be held on Friday, March 6.

...announced Dancing with the Darien Starz will be held on February 6 at Ashton Place. He stated tickets are available for purchase on the City’s website, with proceeds benefiting Cancer Smashers.

...encouraged all to make reservations.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

VIA VOICE VOTE – MOTION DULY CARRIED

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:59 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 01-19-26. Minutes of 01-19-26 CCM.