**MINUTES**

**CITY OF DARIEN**

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Monday, September 28, 2026**

**PRESENT:** Alderman Thomas Belczak – Chairman, Alderman Ted Schauer, Alderman Ralph Stompanato

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS:** Mr. Dan Gombac – Director, Mr. Ryan Murphy – City Planner

**Establish Quorum**

Chairperson Thomas Belczak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Darien City Hall, 1702 Plainfield Road, Darien, Illinois. Chairperson Belczak declared a quorum present.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**New Business**

a. **Ordinance – Amending Section 9-7-4(E) of the Darien City Code to grant administrative hearing officers the authority to enter orders prohibiting further code violations and additional powers.**

Mr. Ryan Murphy, City Planner reported that this goes back to 2021, and that some citations are not enough for people to comply. He reported that they would take the case and file a motion to have the administrative hearing officer order compliance, and that they would work with Attorney Murphey. He further reported that they would update the ordinance to match the new state law, and that they would make a clerical fix to align mailing requirements with the rest of the code.

Mr. Dan Gombac, Director clarified that they had provided a supplemental memo to explain the mailing requirement update.

Chairperson Belczak questioned why they would not use certified mail.

Mr. Gombac stated that is would take longer, and that the common practice is regular mail.

Mr. Murphy added that there had been issues with people refusing to certify mail.

Chairperson Belczak recommended defining the type of mail.

Mr. Murphy stated that Illinois law states “service by mail.”

Chairperson Belczak stated that they should be more specific. He questioned what would happen if a vehicle was registered to a different address.

Mr. Murphy stated it would be a case-by-case basis, and there would be other policies to develop.

Mr. Gombac clarified that the violation would go with the property owner.

There was some discussion regarding updating the internal administrative process for mailing.

Mr. Murphy explained the current code process. He clarified that they would change protocols to match the new procedure, and the fines were not for money generating but to achieve compliance.

There was some discussion regarding the monthly hearings.

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

**Alderman Stompanato made a motion, seconded by Alderman Schauer to approve an Ordinance amending Section 9-7-4(E) of the Darien City Code to grant administrative hearing officers the authority to enter orders prohibiting further code violations and additional powers.**

**Upon voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 3-0.**

b. **Motion – Accepting a proposal for a Maintenance Agreement, for the Vactor 2100i, serial number 23-04V-21705 sewer cleaner from Standard Equipment in an amount not to exceed $8,500.**

Mr. Gombac reported that is equipment is very expensive and the city mechanic is not certified to do all maintenance. He reported that the $8,500 is a per year agreement, and that they would re-negotiate after three years. He further reported that the maintenance would be scheduled out as part if a large inspection checklist.

There was some discussion regarding renting out versus city-use of the equipment.

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

**Alderman Schauer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stompanato accepting a proposal for a Maintenance Agreement, for the Vactor 2100i, serial number 23-04V-21705 sewer cleaner from Standard Equipment in an amount not to exceed $8,500.**

**Upon voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 3-0.**

c. **Motion – Accepting a proposal from Spring Grove Nursery for the purchase of parkway trees in an amount not to exceed $20,267.**

d. **Motion - Accepting a proposal from Apex for the delivery, planting and mulching of the parkway trees in an amount not to exceed for $15,881.50.**

Mr. Gombac reported that this is a new program based on the tree consortium, and is a co-op for the best prices. He reported that the nursery would allow them to pick and tag the trees, and the planting would come after. He further reported that the program would involve two vendors and two different payouts, and there would be a new protocol for planting that would not allow residents to choose trees. Mr. Gombac reported that a variety of trees is needed in each area to maintain the tree canopy, inventory and diversity. He stated that this would be a great program, and there would be a potential spring planting implemented.

There was some discussion regarding the 50/50 parkway program. Mr. Gombac clarified that the choices were at the discretion of the city arborists.

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

**Alderman Stompanato made a motion, seconded by Alderman Schauer accepting a proposal from Spring Grove Nursery for the purchase of parkway trees in an amount not to exceed $20,267 and accepting a proposal from Apex for the delivery, planting and mulching of the parkway trees in an amount not to exceed for $15,881.50.**

**Upon voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 3-0.**

e. **Motion – Extending a contract to Yellowstone Landscape in an amount not to exceed $190,520.00 for the City's 2026/27 Tree Trimming and Removal Program.**
f. **Motion - Landscape restoration in the amount of $2,480.**

Mr. Gombac reported that the annual tree trimming program would cover about 1,750 parkway trees, and that the pricing was an extension from Yellowstone who had been a very responsive vendor. He reported that there would be about 1,750 trees trimmed per cycle per year, determined geographically, and each cycle would be trimmed every five years.

There was some discussion regarding the tree inventory and determining what trees to remove.

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

**Alderman Schauer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stompanato extending a contract to Yellowstone Landscape in an amount not to exceed $190,520.00 for the City's 2026/27 Tree Trimming and Removal Program and for landscape restoration in the amount of $2,480.**

**Upon voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 3-0.**

g. **Minutes - <u>August 24, 2026</u> Municipal Services Committee**

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

**Alderman Stompanato made a motion, seconded by Alderman Schauer to approve the August 24, 2026 Municipal Services Committee Meeting Minutes.**

**Upon voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 3-0.**

**Director's Report**

Mr. Gombac reported that the Plainfield wall was under construction, and they would next bring in the block and work on the bid of the latticework of the fence. He reported that the road widening had been completed.

Mr. Gombac reported that a resident on Elm had concerns with speeding, which were unfounded by the Police Department, but there were still traffic concerns in that area. He reported that a radar speed flashing sign would be installed mid-block.

Mr. Gombac reported that Tri-State Fire notified that a resident had been dumping gas into the storm sewer on 67th Street, and that the EPA had been called. He reported that the remediation would cost around $150,000, and they would be developing a protocol to determine the responsibility of the estimated 50 gallons dumped.

**Next Scheduled Meeting**

Chairperson Belczak announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business before the Committee, Alderman Schauer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Stompanato to adjourn. Upon voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, and the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

X

Thomas Belczak
Chairman

X

Ted Schauer
Alderman

X

Ralph Stompanato
Alderman