

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:27 P.M.

THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM FUNDING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:30 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE. THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT 8:02 P.M.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

of the City Council of the

CITY OF DARIEN

SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

8:02 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. **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
Sage Kavchak, Mayor for the Day
JoAnne E. Ragona, City Clerk
Michael J. Coren, City Treasurer
Bryon Vana, City Administrator
Gregory Thomas, Police Chief
Daniel Gombac, Director of Municipal Services

3. **DECLARATION OF A QUORUM** – There being seven aldermen present, Mayor Marchese declared a quorum.

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

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – September 8, 2026

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

Absent: None

MOTION DULY CARRIED

Alderman Stompanato, Council Liaison with Darien Park District, provided an update on his meetings with Darien Park District Commissioner Spiros. He explained, due to construction of Westwood Park, partnered events were limited this year. He will be sending Council a survey regarding plans for a joint meeting in January.

...Jackie Carson, Adams Street, regarding garage fire, tree removal, and ComEd.

...Heather Conroy regarding Environmental Committee.

There was no report.

There was no report.

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10. **DEPARTMENT HEAD INFORMATION/QUESTIONS**

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>Water & Water Depreciation Funds:</u>	Revenue \$2,597,820; Expenditures \$2,582,246 Current Balance \$2,933,038
<u>Motor Fuel Tax Fund:</u>	Revenue \$339,938; Expenditures \$227,729; Current Balance \$953,499
<u>Capital Improvement Fund:</u>	Revenue \$422,632; Expenditures \$2,654,623; Current Balance \$22,025,912

12. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administrative/Finance Committee – Chairwoman Sullivan announced the Administrative/Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. Liaison Sullivan provided a Citizen of the Year (COY) Committee update; COY nominations can be made online starting November 1 with a deadline of January 5, 2027.

Municipal Services Committee – Chairman Belczak announced the Municipal Services Committee meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

Police Committee – Chairman Kenny stated the minutes of the August 17, 2026 meeting were submitted to the Clerk’s Office. He announced the Police Committee meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Police Department Training Room.

Mayor Marchese announced the next meeting of the Darien Action Committee will be held on September 26, 2026 from 9:00 – 11:00 A.M. in Council Chambers.

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

Joe Myczek stated his reasons for being in favor of New Business Item 17A regarding the application for a Community Development Block Grant.

Linda Milbrandt spoke of Public Hearing notice. She stated social media should not be the platform to communicate with senior residents about significant City related problems (i.e. flooding issues on Gail & Linden Avenues); hand-delivered flyers in mailboxes would be a better option. She inquired about Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) results and future plans. Director Gombac responded.

LaNora Auriene encouraged all to read book entitled *Darien* by Darien Historical Society.

14. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

15. **CONSENT AGENDA**

There was no Consent Agenda.

16. **NEW BUSINESS**

Consent Agenda Items A & B were moved to New Business as Items C & D respectively.

A. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO EXECUTE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

Aldermen stated their reasons for being in favor of an application for CDBG funding through DuPage County for a proposed stormwater and flood mitigation project.

RESOLUTION NO. R-08-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO EXECUTE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE “CITY OF DARIEN FAIR HOUSING POLICY AND ACTION PLAN”

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

Alderman Kenny commented on Fair Housing.

RESOLUTION NO. R-09-26 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE “CITY OF DARIEN FAIR HOUSING POLICY AND ACTION PLAN”

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. AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 3 OF TITLE 2 OF THE DARIEN CITY CODE, “ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE”

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

Alderwoman Sullivan stated decision to repeal the Environmental Committee was not taken lightly; she commented on history and factors leading to Administrative/Finance Committee and staff recommending Council to disband the committee. Lengthy Council discussion ensued. Administrator Vana responded to Council questions.

ORDINANCE NO. O-35-26

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 3 OF TITLE 2 OF THE DARIEN CITY CODE, “ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE”

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Results: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Absent 0

MOTION DULY CARRIED

D. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF DARIEN

**ORDINANCE NO. O-36-26 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE
OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE
CITY OF DARIEN**

Absent: None

MOTION DULY CARRIED

Joe Myczek...

...commented on Direct Connect eNews being a good source of communication and agreed with Ms. Milbrandt on usage of flyers to address issues affecting smaller groups of residents.

...inquired about ComEd raising transformer box; Director Gombac responded.

Jesse Kilovos, Wirth Drive, regarding inability to hear meeting from back of Council Chambers; Administrator Vana provided update on sound system.

Alderman Kenny announced Fall Carnival will be held on September 25 – 27 at the Chestnut Court Shopping Center.

Alderman Belczak announced Oktoberfest will be held at Carriage Greens Country Club on October 3 from 3:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. featuring food, beer, live music, games and family fun.

Alderman Gustafson shared exciting news regarding a new chicken restaurant, Mini Hut, which will be moving into the location previously occupied by Charleys Cheesesteaks & Wings.

Mayor Marchese...

...commented on Silent Parade, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of 9/11, which was held on September 11. He suggested having a Silent Parade to commemorate 9/11 every year moving forward.

...thanked Sage's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Kavchak, for their donation to Kingswood Academy allowing her to be Mayor for the Day. There was a round of applause for Mayor of the Day, Sage Kavchak.

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

VIA VOICE VOTE – MOTION DULY CARRIED

The City Council meeting adjourned at 9:02 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 09-21-26.
Minutes of 09-21-26 CCM.