

A WORK SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY MAYOR MARCHESE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ITEMS ON THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 AGENDA WITH THE CITY COUNCIL. THE WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 7:26 P.M.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

of the City Council of the

CITY OF DARIEN

SEPTEMBER 8, 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
John Austin Jump, Deputy 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**—August 17, 2026

It was moved by Alderman Kenny and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting of August 17, 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

7. RECEIVING OF COMMUNICATIONS

Alderwoman Sullivan received communication from...

...Lynn Novak regarding traffic and parking concerns on Evergreen Lane due to drop off & pick up of students for Cass Junior High School. The Darien Police Department is working with school staff.

...residents of Bailey Park & Carriage Greens subdivisions regarding flooding and water concerns. She commented on Municipal Service providing troubleshooting assistance.

Alderman Kenny received communication from...

...Jeff Prince regarding water main break/low water pressure.

...Bonnie Kucera regarding fallen electrical lines.

...Sylvia McIvor and Brian Liedtke regarding Flock cameras.

8. MAYORS REPORT

A. A MOTION TO ADVISE AND CONSENT THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN AUSTIN JUMP AS THE DARIEN POLICE CHIEF EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 14, 2026

Mayor Marchese read a statement for Council's advice and consent for the appointment of Deputy Chief John Austin Jump as the next Chief of Police for the City of Darien effective November 14, 2026. He explained that Deputy Chief Jump was his choice to

lead the Darien Police Department based on his experience, leadership, knowledge of the department, and commitment to the City.

Mayor Marchese commented on Chief Thomas' eleven years of outstanding leadership and service; he extended his appreciation.

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

Alderman Kenny asked for a moment of silence to recognize Deputy Chief Jump's father-in-law Kevin O'Connell, a friend, confidant, mentor and former police officer who recently passed away.

MOTION NO. M-110-26

A MOTION TO ADVISE AND CONSENT THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN AUSTIN JUMP AS THE DARIEN POLICE CHIEF EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 14, 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

Chief Thomas explained Deputy Chief Jump's family were not in attendance due to the passing of his father-in-law. He spoke of Mr. O'Connell's distinguished career in law enforcement and asked that his family to be kept in our prayers.

Chief Thomas stated Deputy Chief Jump is a tremendous choice; he, along with Deputy Chief Norton and soon-to-be Deputy Chief Lorek, the City will have the "Dream Team" in place.

Deputy Chief Jump thanked all for supporting his family at this difficult time. He explained the dedication to serve because he comes from a law enforcement family. He expressed being honored and humbled by the appointment and thanked Mayor Marchese and Council for their confidence. He recognized Chief Thomas for his leadership and guidance, thanked the community for their messages of support, and thanked his family for supporting him through the long hours, late night calls, and sacrifices that come with the profession.

Deputy Chief Jump stated his goal as Chief, is to make sure the Police Department remains a department our community knows, trusts, and is proud to call its Police Department. He spoke of support, developmental plans, and building relationships with residents, schools, businesses and law enforcement agencies.

B. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BONNIE KUCERA, JANE MOSS, CAROL MALLERS, AND TRACY THOMSON JOHNSON TO THE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

It was moved by Alderwoman Sullivan and seconded by Alderman Gustafson to approve the reappointment of Bonnie Kucera, Jane Moss, Carol Mallers, and Tracy Thomson Johnson to the Citizen of the Year Committee.

MOTION NO. M-111-26

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BONNIE KUCERA, JANE MOSS, CAROL MALLERS, AND TRACY THOMSON JOHNSON TO THE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 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

C. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN CALLAN TO THE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE

It was moved by Alderwoman Sullivan and seconded by Alderman Schauer to approve the appointment of John Callan to the Citizen of the Year Committee.

MOTION NO. M-112-26

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN CALLAN TO THE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 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

Clerk Ragona administered the Oath of Office to Bonnie Kucera, Jane Moss, Carol Mallers and John Callan.

Bonnie Kucera...

...announced Citizen of the Year (COY) and Honoree celebration will be held on Friday, March 5, 2027 at Ashton Place; cost is \$60/person and will include a family-style dinner, open bar, dancing and socializing.

...shared the clubs and organizations that will be recognizing honorees.

...stated COY nominations will be available online November 1 with submittal by January 5, 2027, with information to follow in Direct Connect eNews and City publications. The COY nomination will be announced on Monday, January 18, at the City Council Meeting. She reiterated that COY Committee does not openly choose the honoree; nominations come from residents, friends and club members. The nominee criteria considered includes: diversity of activities, length of service, degree of involvement in the community and impact to the City.

Mayor Marchese noted that Alderwoman Sullivan will resume the role of Council liaison working with the COY Committee.

D. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MELODY JANKOWSKI, LESLIE SWEENY AND TRACY THOMSON JOHNSON TO THE HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Alderman Kenny and seconded by Alderman Belczak to approve the reappointment of Melody Jankowski, Leslie Sweeny and Tracy Thomson Johnson to the Holiday Home Decorating Committee.

Mayor Marchese stated the responsibility of the Committee has expanded to include a Halloween Decorating Contest in addition to the Holiday Home Decorating Contest.

MOTION NO. M-113-26

**A MOTION TO APPROVE THE
REAPPOINTMENT OF MELODY
JANKOWSKI, LESLIE SWEENY AND**

**TRACY THOMSON JOHNSON TO THE
HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING
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

Clerk Ragona administered the Oath of Office to Melody Jankowski.

E. POLICE PENSION STUDY PRESENTATION – JASON FRANKEN

Treasurer Coren introduced Jason Franken, Foster & Foster Inc. actuary and consultant for Darien's Police Pension Fund. Mr. Franken spoke of a strong market return and reviewed highlights from the City of Darien Police Pension Fund Actuarial Valuation as of May 1, 2026. He addressed questions regarding pension target number, actuarial liability, state benefit plans/administrative expenses, money market account management and assumption numbers.

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

Chief Thomas received communications regarding Flock; department is keeping frequently asked questions updated on the transparency portal page.

B. MUNICIPAL SERVICES – NO REPORT

12. **TREASURER'S REPORT****A. WARRANT NUMBER 26-27-09**

It was moved by Alderman Schauer and seconded by Alderwoman Sullivan to approve payment of Warrant Number 26-27-09 in the amount of \$443,219.24 from the enumerated funds, and \$699,681.01 from payroll funds for the periods ending 08/20/26 and 09/03/26 for a total to be approved of \$1,142,900.25.

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 – MAY 2026**C. MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2026****D. MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2026**

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

<u>General Fund:</u>	Revenue \$6,300,835; Expenditures \$4,567,496; Current Balance \$8,229,403
<u>Water & Water Depreciation Funds:</u>	Revenue \$1,219,444; Expenditures \$1,896,078 Current Balance \$2,240,830
<u>Motor Fuel Tax Fund:</u>	Revenue \$251,935; Expenditures \$188,699; Current Balance \$904,526
<u>Capital Improvement Fund:</u>	Revenue \$353,699; Expenditures \$1,615,537; Current Balance \$22,996,066

13. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administrative/Finance Committee – Chairwoman Sullivan clarified the Audit Report will be presented to Council at the October 5 City Council Meeting. She announced the Administrative/Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

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 announced the Police Committee meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2026 at 6:00 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**

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-114-26 | A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED FUNDS UP TO \$15,000 TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COPS AND FIRE TESTING SERVICE TO CONDUCT TESTING TO ESTABLISH AN ELIGIBILITY LIST FROM WHICH TO HIRE POLICE OFFICERS TO FILL ANTICIPATED OPENINGS |
| B. ORDINANCE NO. O-31-26 | AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF DARIEN (PD) |
| C. ORDINANCE NO. O-32-26 | AN ORDINANCE APPROVING VARIATIONS FROM DARIEN ZONING ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WALK-IN COOLER WITH A ZERO SIDE YARD SETBACK ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CONVENIENCE STORE LOCATED AT 402 PLAINFIELD ROAD (PZC-26-14: 402 PLAINFIELD ROAD – PRAMVEER SINGH) |

D. ORDINANCE NO. O-33-26 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4 (BUILDING REGULATIONS), CHAPTER 3 (SIGN CODE) TO ALLOW ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTERS BY-RIGHT, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

E. ORDINANCE NO. O-34-26 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, BUILDING REGULATIONS, DARIEN BUILDING CODE, OF THE DARIEN CITY CODE (BUILDING CODE UPDATE: 2021 EXISTING BUILDING CODE)**

Roll Call: Ayes: Belczak, Gustafson, Kenny, 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 announced a Silent Parade, commemorating the 25th Anniversary of 9/11, will be held on Friday, September 11, at 6:30 P.M.; he shared parade route, participation details and encouraged community support.

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 8:24 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 09-08-26.
Minutes of 09-08-26 CCM.