

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS HELD IN THE ELEANOR ROHRBACH MEMORIAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DES PLAINES CIVIC CENTER, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Des Plaines, Illinois, was called to order by Mayor Goczkowski at 6:00 PM in the Eleanor Rohrbach Memorial Council Chambers, Des Plaines Civic Center on Monday, April 20, 2026.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated the following Aldermen present: Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad, Merlin, Walsten, Smith, and Charewicz. A quorum was present.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Merlin to adjourn to Closed Session for Probable & Imminent Litigation, Pending Litigation, Acquisition of Property and Personnel. Upon roll call, the vote was:

AYES: 8 - Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad,  
Merlin, Walsten, Smith, Charewicz

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT: 0 - None

Motion declared carried

**RECONVENED**

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Oskerka, the City Council meeting was reconvened at 7:04 p.m. Upon roll call the following members were present:

PRESENT: 8 - Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad,  
Merlin, Walsten, Smith, Charewicz

ABSENT: 0 - None

Motion declared carried

**PRAYER AND PLEDGE**

The prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America were offered by Mayor Goczkowski.

**PROCLAMATION**

City Clerk Bronakowski read a proclamation recognizing Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kenneth Killips, resident of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward, shared an experience with the Des Plaines Police Department while he was panhandling on River Road and requested to connect with city staff regarding the interaction.

KT Peterson thanked the City Council for participating in the sustainability survey and encouraged the City to hire a sustainability coordinator. In addition, residents were encouraged to attend a movie showing at Trinity Lutheran Church on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Go Green Selection Committee presented the inaugural Go Green Sustainability Award to Neena Volupe.

John Wayne Speckman, a Des Plaines resident, shared concern about rainfall and expressed a desire to see improvements addressing river flooding issues. He proposed making amendments to support significant investment in related infrastructure projects.

Adam, resident of the 1st Ward, is new to Des Plaines and an avid cyclist who frequently bikes to work, shared his support for bike lanes. He also commented on the importance of building protected bike lanes and referenced an experience on Lee Street.

**MAYORAL  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Goczowski thanked City staff for their flood response and their round-the-clock dedication in keeping the City safe during flooding. He noted it was the biggest flood in the last 43 years, and it did not impact the City significantly.

He thanked volunteers for participating in the Community Clean-Up with Clean Up, Give Back Des Plaines.

On April 22nd, the Sustainability Survey will open and encouraged residents to participate.

On April 25th, the Police Department will be hosting its DEA Take Back Day.

The Des Plaines Community Garage Sale will take place May 1-3, from 8:00 AM to sunset and he encouraged residents to participate.

**ALDERMAN  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alderman Charewicz thanked Chief Anderson for attending the 8th Ward meeting. On June 2nd at 7:00 PM at the Conservatory, the guest speaker will be from the Attorney General's Office and will discuss how to prevent scams and identity theft. He encouraged residents to attend Earth Day celebrations with the Des Plaines Park District which will take place on Saturday, April 25th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Leisure Center. In addition, the Des Plaines History Center will host a meet and greet with State Representative Cochran and Mussman on April 28th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, with tours of the Kinder House available during the event. He also thanked City staff for their diligence in improving infrastructure and assisting with flood prevention efforts.

Alderman Oskerka shared that a new DMV has opened on Lee Street, located at 1533 Lee Street, with hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. In addition, on May 2nd at 10:00 AM, Jet City Coalition will be hosting an event at Potawatomi Park to sign up new community members to help mow laws this summer.

Alderman Sayad thanked the City for honoring the Armenian Genocide. He also thanked Brad Goodman for his emails in keeping City officials informed about the work they do.

Alderman Merlin thanked City staff for their flood prevention efforts in the City.

Alderman Walsten thanked City staff for their help with flood prevention. He also shared that there will be a 6th Ward meeting on April 30th at 7:00 PM at the Arndt Park Field House. In addition, the Des Plaines Theatre will be hosting "The Amazing Caterpillar", on April 22nd at 7:00 PM. In addition, this summer, The Des Plaines Theatre will also be showing family movies on Tuesday nights for \$1, providing an opportunity for families to get together. Regarding data centers, an informational meeting will be held on May 20th at 6:30 PM at the Des Plaines Library, to discuss the impact of data centers on communities.

Alderman Smith thanked Des Plaines City staff for their response to the flooding and encouraged residents to attend the Des Plaines Community Foundation Comedy Night fundraiser on April 22nd.

**CITY CLERK  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Clerk Bronakowski reflected on a successful 4th Ward meeting hosted by Alderman Sayad and thanked all the volunteers who participated in the City of Des Plaines' Clean Up, Give Back, and the Lions Club forest clean-ups.

**MANAGER'S  
REPORT**

City Manager Dorothy Wisniewski thanked the Police, Fire, and Public Works teams for their response to flooding. She noted that the river has just passed 18 feet in height and is expected to peak tonight.

**COUNSEL  
REPORT**

No announcements at this time

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Oskerka, to Establish the Consent Agenda. Upon voice vote, the vote was:

AYES: 8 - Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad,  
Merlin, Walsten, Smith, Charewicz

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT: 0 - None

Motion declared carried.

Moved by Smith seconded by Merlin, to Approve the Consent Agenda. Upon voice vote, the vote was:

AYES: 8 - Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad,  
Merlin, Walsten, Smith, Charewicz

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT: 0 - None

Motion declared carried.

Resolution R-99-26, R-100-26, R-101-26, R-102-26, R-103-26, R-104-26, R-105-26, R-106-26, R-106-26, R-107-26, and R-108-26 were approved. Regular Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2026 were approved. Ordinance M-5-26, M-7-26, M-8-26, and Z-7-26 were adopted.

**APPROVING  
PURCHASE AND  
INSTALLATION OF  
US DIGITAL  
DESIGNS ALERTING  
SYSTEM**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-99-26, Approving Purchase of US Digital Designs Alerting System Equipment and Installation from Digicom Installations, Inc. – Fire Department Equipment and Professional Services Funds. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-99-26**

**APPROVING  
PURCHASE OF  
OPERATIONAL  
KNIVES FROM  
MICROTECH  
KNIVES**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-100-26, Approving the Purchase of Operational Knives from Microtech Knives, Inc. in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$28,465. Budgeted Funds – Foreign Fire Insurance Board/Equipment. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-100-26**

**APPROVING  
PURCHASE OF  
FIREFIGHTER PPE  
AND SERVICES  
FROM DINGES FIRE  
EQUIPMENT**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-101-26, Approving the Purchase of Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment and Services from Dinges Fire Equipment in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$185,970.18. Budgeted Funds – Fire Department/Emergency Services/Equipment. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-101-26**

**APPROVING T.O.  
CHRISTOPHER B.  
BURKE ENG. FOR  
DEVON AVE WATER  
MAIN  
IMPROVEMENTS**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-102-26, Approving Task Order No. 3 with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Rosemont, Illinois for Devon Avenue Water Main Improvements in the Amount of \$57,100.00. Budgeted Funds: Capital Projects. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-102-26**

**APPROVING T.O.  
CHRISTOPHER B.  
BURKE ENG. FOR  
DEVON AVE  
TRAFFIC SIGNAL  
DESIGN**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-103-26, Approving Task Order No. 4 with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Rosemont, Illinois for Devon Avenue Traffic Signal Design in the Amount of \$39,500.00. Budgeted Funds: Capital Project. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-103-26**

**APPROVING T.O.  
WITH FGM  
ARCHITECTS FOR  
CONSTRUCTION  
ADMINISTRATION  
SERVICES**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-104-26, Approving Task Order No. 2 with FGM Architects Inc., Oak Brook, Illinois, in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$199,500 plus \$500 for Reimbursable Expenses for Professional Construction Administration Services. Budgeted Funds: Facilities Replacement Fund. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-104-26**

**APPROVING  
REPAIR OF POLICE  
SQUAD #55 BY  
AUTOKRAFTERS**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-105-26, Approving, in the Best Interest of the City, the Repair of Police Department Squad #55 in the Amount of \$27,871.61 plus a Contingency in the Amount of \$1,500 for a Total Amount of \$29,371.61 by AutoKrafters of Des Plaines, Des Plaines, Illinois. Source of Funding: Risk Management Funds. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-105-26**

**APPROVING T.O.  
WITH BERGER  
EXCAVATING  
CONTRACTORS**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-106-26, Approving Task Order No. 13 with Berger Excavating Contractors, Wauconda, Illinois in the Amount of \$450,000.00. Source of Funding: Water Fund. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-106-26**

**AWARDING BID  
FOR HOWARD  
WATER TANK  
PAINTING TO ERA-  
VALDIVIA  
CONTRACTORS**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-107-26, Awarding the Bid for Howard Water Tank Painting to Era-Valdivia Contractors, Inc., Chicago, Illinois in the Amount of \$1,877,180.00. Source of Funding: Capital Improvement Projects. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-107-26**

**APPROVING  
LICENSE  
AGREEMENT WITH  
EZEE FIBER TEXAS**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Resolution R-108-26, Approving a License Agreement Between the City and Ezee Fiber Texas, LLC. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**Resolution  
R-108-26**

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of the City Council meeting of April 6, 2026, as published. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda

**SECOND READING –  
ORDINANCE M-5-26**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Ordinance M-5-26, Approving the purchase of a John Deere 160 P Excavator through Sourcewell Contract# 011723-JDC, from West Side Tractor Sales Company, Naperville, Illinois, in the Amount of \$288,984.97. Budgeted Funds – Equipment Replacement. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda

**SECOND READING –  
ORDINANCE M-7-26**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Ordinance M-7-26, Approving a New Class “A” Liquor License (Tavern Seats 250 or Less - On-Site Consumption Only) for White Hill Hospitality LLC d/b/a Fairfield Inn Chicago O’Hare at 2350 Mannheim Road. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda

**SECOND READING –  
ORDINANCE M-8-26**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Ordinance M-8-26, Approving a New Class “A” Liquor License (Tavern Seats 250 or Less - On-Site Consumption Only) for Los Azares Mexican Grill, LLC at 1290 Miner Street. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda

**SECOND READING –  
ORDINANCE Z-7-26**

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin, to approve Ordinance Z-7-26, Approving Text Amendments to the City Code, Title 12, Zoning Regarding Regulations for Off-Street Parking, Accessory Uses Related to EV Readiness and Drive Through Facility Operation and Layout Design Regulations. Motion declared carried as approved unanimously under Consent Agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION** – Alderman Sayad, Chair

**WARRANT  
REGISTER**

Alderman Sayad presented the Warrant Register.

**Resolution  
R-110-26**

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Oskerka to Approve the Warrant Register of April 20, 2026, in the Amount of \$5,399,336.44 and Approve Resolution R-110-26. Upon roll call, the vote was:

AYES: 8 - Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad,  
Merlin, Walsten, Smith, Charewicz

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT: 0 - None

Motion declared carried.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** – Alderman Moylan, Chair

**APPROVING 6B  
INCENTIVE FOR  
ELSE II LLC & MID-  
STATES**

Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Rogers reviewed a memorandum dated April 13, 2026.

The applicant, ESLE II LLC and Mid-States Recycling, Inc., is seeking the City’s support



investment, along with deferred maintenance since that time, has not been sufficient to eliminate the current blighted conditions.

Birchwood Venture LLC is requesting the City’s designation of the property as a blighted area in need of substantial rehabilitation, along with support and consent for a Class 7a incentive. The applicant proposes to purchase the property and invest approximately \$550,000 in new physical improvements, as reflected in the building permit value. This exceeds the City’s minimum investment requirement for approval of a Class 7a incentive under City Council policy.

Alderman Walsten supports this initiative.

Moved by Walsten, seconded by Sayad to Approve Resolution R-117-26, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION DESIGNATING 1645 BIRCHWOOD AVE AS BLIGHTED AREA. Upon voice roll, the vote was

AYES: 8 - Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad,  
Merlin, Walsten, Smith, Charewicz

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT: 0 - None

Motion declared carried.

Moved by Walsten, seconded by Oskerka to Approve Resolution R-118-26, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING COOK COUNTY CLASS 7A TAX INCENTIVE FOR BIRCHWOOD VENTURE LLC. Upon voice roll, the vote was:

AYES: 8 - Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad,  
Merlin, Walsten, Smith, Charewicz

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT: 0 - None

Motion declared carried.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**– Alderman Smith, Chair

Community and Police Social Worker, Angelika Danek reviewed a memorandum dated April 20, 2026.

The 2026 Social Service Funding notification, application, and timeline were made available on the City’s website on January 30, 2026. Applications were due February 27, 2026.

HS contacted agencies that received funding in 2025, those that inquired about the program throughout the year, and those that applied for funding in prior years but did not request funds the previous year.

The City received a total request for social service funding in the amount of \$365,380 from 40 agencies. All agencies have expressed gratitude for the City’s program and emphasized how valuable local support is in leveraging funding from public and private sources, which strengthens their service capabilities for residents.

Mayor Goczkowski shared his support for this program to help service the residents.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Merlin to Approve Resolution R-113-26, CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AWARDDING 40 GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR 2026 SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAM FUNDING IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$275,000. Upon roll call, the vote was

**AWARDING 40  
SOCIAL SERVICE  
GRANTS FOR 2026  
FUNDING**

**Resolution  
R-113-26**

AYES: 8 - Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad,  
 Merlin, Walsten, Smith, Charewicz

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT: 0 - None

Motion declared carried.

**ENGINEERING** – Alderman Chlebek, Chair

**ADOPTING 2026  
 ACTIVE  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 PLAN**

**Resolution  
 R-112-26**

Assistant Director of Engineering, Becka Shipp reviewed a memorandum dated April 9, 2026.

In 2011, the City of Des Plaines adopted its first Active Transportation Plan, affirming a commitment to improving safety, comfort, and accessibility for all modes of travel. Since that time, the City has advanced numerous recommendations from the 2011 Plan and incorporated its priorities of safety, connectivity, and accessibility into other major planning efforts.

The 2026 Des Plaines Active Transportation Plan builds upon this progress. The updated plan refreshes the goals outlined in 2011, incorporates changes in planning practices, infrastructure, and community needs, reflects evolving travel patterns, and addresses current safety concerns. It also expands the envisioned network and outlines clear strategies and priorities for future implementation. This updated plan will guide the City’s continued efforts to create a safer and more connected environment for people walking, biking, and rolling throughout Des Plaines

Mayor Goczkowski shared his support for the Active Transportation Plan.

Colin Tyson, with Bike/Walk Des Plaines, shared his support of the plan; however, he would like to see some larger projects take place.

Moved by Chlebek, seconded by Sayad to Approve Resolution R-112-26, CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE 2026 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN. Upon roll call, the vote was

AYES: 8 - Chlebek, Moylan, Oskerka, Sayad,  
 Merlin, Walsten, Smith, Charewicz

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT: 0 - None

Motion declared carried.

Alderman Walsten thanked the Director of Communications Brad Goodman for all of his help during the last week of heavy rain.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Sayad, seconded by Merlin, to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion declared carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dominik Bronakowski – CITY CLERK

APPROVED BY ME THIS 4<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF May, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Goczkowski, MAYOR