Capital Planning Commission Regular Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 28, 2025
6:04 p.m.

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1. **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Capital Planning Commission was called to order by Mayor Joseph D. DiMartino on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 6:04 p.m. Prior to the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor DiMartino requested a moment of silence in memory of the Plainville firefighter who recently lost his life while battling a fire.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

Roll call was taken. Present were Mayor Joseph D. DiMartino, Mr. Hyder, Mr. Kurtyka, Ms. Widomski, Ms. Ezzo, and Mr. Gildea. The record reflected that five members were present, and a quorum was established.

4. Additions, Deletions, and Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor DiMartino asked whether there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda proceeded as presented.

5. Public Portion

Mayor DiMartino opened the public portion and invited members of the public to speak.

Brian Hall, Finance Director, City of Derby, addressed the Commission regarding agenda items concerning the 2024-2025 LOCIP allocations and capital expenditure plan. Mr. Hall explained that certain planned LOCIP expenditures, including work related to the Cottage Street firehouse project, were delayed and that approximately $45,000 would shift into fiscal year 2025-2026. He stated that eligible expenditures, including hazardous tree removal and fencing for the Little League field, were identified and reclassified in order to ensure compliance with LOCIP requirements and reduce any risk of returning grant funds.

Mr. Hall also provided background regarding the recommended capital items for a proposed bond referendum. The proposed list included two large dump trucks, a chiller, HVAC work at the library, a rescue truck for Storm Ambulance, a fire engine replacement for the Fire Department, the public safety radio system replacement, and contingency funding. He summarized the differing views regarding replacement of the rescue truck and/or acquisition of a rescue-engine style apparatus, noting ownership, maintenance, insurance, equipment capacity, training, operational command, and mutual aid considerations.

Gary Parker, Fire Commissioner, spoke in support of the Fire Department's apparatus replacement planning. He stated that the Fire Department previously reviewed the sustainability of maintaining five engines and had reduced to four engines. He noted the age of several fire apparatus, including vehicles from 1996, 1999, 2004, and 2009, and

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explained that current standards and replacement timelines supported the need for additional apparatus replacement. Commissioner Parker stated that a rescue-engine or squad concept could address most operational needs, although it would not carry all equipment currently carried by a heavy rescue vehicle.

Tom Lennart, Chief of Storm Ambulance, spoke regarding the need to replace the existing rescue truck. Chief Lennart expressed concern that a combined rescue-engine apparatus would not adequately replace the current heavy rescue vehicle or carry all necessary rescue equipment. He stated that Storm Ambulance has historically obtained rescue equipment through grants and requested replacement of the aging rescue vehicle so that personnel can continue to respond effectively without delays or reliance on supplemental apparatus for specialized rescue equipment.

Rich Mazzepo, Derby resident, spoke based on his experience with the Fire Department and Storm Ambulance. He stated that, in his view, combining the rescue truck and pumper functions would not work operationally because the equipment currently carried on the rescue truck would not fit on the proposed rescue-pumper apparatus.

Additional public discussion followed concerning mutual aid, specialized rescue equipment, apparatus capacity, and operational readiness. After asking three times whether any additional members of the public wished to speak, Mayor DiMartino closed the public portion.

6. Review, Approval, and Recommendation of 2024-2025 LOCIP Allocations and Capital Expenditure Line Items
The Commission reviewed the final 2024-2025 LOCIP allocations and capital expenditure line items as recommended by Mayor Joseph D. DiMartino. Mr. Hall clarified that actual expenditures had been updated, the Cottage Street facility amount had been adjusted, and eligible expenses including Little League field fencing and hazardous tree removal were included.

Motion: Mr. Gildea made a motion to recommend to the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen the 2024-2025 LOCIP allocations under Item 6, with the adjustment to the Cottage Street facility and related updated line items. The motion was seconded by Sarah. The motion carried.

Following the vote, the Commission was advised that the Public Works Commissioner had reported that the sidearm equipment, approximately twenty-nine years old, was out of service and may need to be addressed at a future meeting. Mr. Hall noted that the item would present budget challenges because it may not be LOCIP eligible and could represent a substantial portion of the capital budget.

7. Review, Approval, and Recommendation of Mayor's Recommended Capital Items for Bond Referendum.

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The Commission reviewed the Mayor's recommended capital items for a November 25, 2025 bond referendum. Discussion included the proposed $5 million bond amount, the age and replacement schedule of Fire Department and rescue apparatus, projected costs of apparatus replacement, and the potential financial impact of increasing the bond amount to include an additional fire apparatus.

Mr. Hall stated that the annual difference between a $5 million bond offering and a $7 million bond offering would vary by year, beginning at approximately $180,000 and declining over time. Commissioners discussed whether increasing the bond amount could address additional equipment needs and avoid higher future replacement costs.

Motion: Mr. Kurtyka made a motion to amend the recommendation under Item 7 to approve and recommend to the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen capital items for a November 2025 bond referendum in the amount of $6.5 million. The amendment was discussed and clarified to include two pumpers to replace Engine 13 and Engine 11, a rescue truck for Storm Ambulance, and the remaining recommended capital items. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gildea.

Following discussion, the motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Gildea made a motion to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kurtyka. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Desroches

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