

Council, Staff and residents, thank you for joining us tonight for the 2022 State of The City address. Once again, I am privileged to be the one delivering it to you. It's one of my highlights of being the mayor, in between silly phone complaints and long talks in line at Kroger. It's when I get to highlight the city, its services, its employees all while giving a glimpse into what to expect in the next year or so. It's been a rather simple and quiet year, yet full of changes as we emerge from the pandemic. Looking forward, 2022 will be one to watch the city move into business as usual and continue to grow as much as we can.

The council recently had its annual Goals and Objectives meeting which sets us up to concentrate on the items compiled on the city's capital improvement plan. This will defiantly be a year to visibly see growth in our town. The Michigan Department of Transportation will start a large scale project in the next few weeks on M15. This project has been in the works for almost three years with the city poised to piggyback its own improvements at the same time. Clark street and M15 will have several upgrades which is very important to the safety of our children who cross at the intersection for school. Staff has had many meetings with MDOT and the immediate residents in that area to hear all the concerns and address them. With the warmer temperatures this week, I'm sure it won be long until we see orange barrels signifying the start of that project.

Some residential building has started up in the city again. There are only a few lots in the city that allow new home construction, so any movement here brings excitement. Its not much, but in the long run it will add value to existing neighbors and maybe bring some new residents into the area. Unfortunately, not having much land for new development hinders the ability to grow much residentially, but that gives us the opportunity to work on projects that maintain our city or grow in a business sense.

We will also see a major business project move forward, as the blank property on M15 in the middle of town is developed. Preliminary plans show a \$1.3 million plaza to be built on the former site of three dilapidated houses which were torn down several years ago. This is another project that has had many hands work on it for several years and will come to fruition this year. It will be one of the city's largest single commercial developments in many years. They are also working on the second phase of Parkview Place, adding more townhouses on Dayton Street.

The city purchased new equipment for the Department of Public Works, a coaster climber in the park, and two new scoreboards for the baseball fields. These were done through grant money, the Community Foundation, and a collaborative effort in the area. Staff continues to work on ways to maintain and improve the city while searching out the many avenues of funding that will help. No matter how big or small, they will look for not only cost savings on our end, but any grants or free money available to help our needs.

The Downtown Development Authority has stepped up the last year and will continue to do so this year. A new slate of events has been discussed to draw different crowds downtown. This will hopefully be giving the merchants all the exposure they need and at the same time giving the residents a safe, fun local activities to enjoy. At the same time, the DDA will be able to fund plans for new accent lighting and an audio system throughout the downtown for ambience and events.

The safety of the residents will always be a top priority of staff and council. This year will bring a few important choices on the direction we want to head in regards to that. Currently being looked at is the affordability of a second police officer. The department has depended on the ability to utilize part time officers to fill in. Currently the need to get back to two full time officers on duty in the city at a time is being discussed. Recently the city signed a contract with MedStar to provide ambulance service in the 48423-zip code. This will decrease response times and aid our fire department with medical emergencies in the area. Since the agreement was ok'd recently, I've noticed an ambulance parked at the cities fire station each day. At the same time, the closer ambulance will also help reduce some of the calls the fire department will respond to. This in turn will be a cost savings measure that will allow the department to fund equipment, and possibly a new station in the near future.

The city needs more people willing to invest a little time into making their environment the ideal place for us all. Recently it has been a bit challenging to find members for our boards and commissions. If you've ever considered having any input on you community decisions, please let us know...we've got spots. I'd guess that many of the people currently serving spend far less time at our

meetings, than do most people inserting their comments on Facebook or driving around all day for six recall signatures. Don't wait for a reason to become involved, just do it anyways.

In closing, I'd like to thank all the employees at every level in the city. From department heads to part time DPW guys, you are the reason we get to live like we do. The overall perspective of the city is extremely favorable, and we owe to all of you. The job of big decisions often comes to this council table. I feel that this group is a gathering of forward positive thinkers. Your work is underappreciated by most, but you've taken on the task that most won't even consider. I feel that I speak for most when I say that I am grateful for each and everyone of you here tonight, as well as those on staff who aren't. I look forward to 2022 as another positive year for growth and improvements in the City of Davison.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'P' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.