

3/14/2016

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending tonight's meeting and State of The City Address. It is with privilege that I once again get to do this as charged by our Charter. Sometimes, great speakers will have a writer compose a wonderful speech full of facts and focused highlights that keeps the audience interested. I however, found no such allowance in the budget, so you get my best shot at showcasing the past year in the City of Davison.

After seeing an aggressive project unfold in on Main Street the past few years, we will continue to watch as things continue. In conjunction with State grants, the Downtown Development Authority will keep on its task of awarding merchants money to complete renovations on their buildings. The entire project, over recent years has been an excellent way to utilize committies, staff, and merchants for the shared vision of downtown. I do believe over the next few short years, we will have nearly completed what started as "Should these canopies come down?" It sometimes seems as if blue and grey, north and south, have finally shook hands and moved on. I look forward to the continued progress.

As we watched a crisis unfold only miles away in Flint, we in Davison were reassured our confidence in our water system. I think most of that is due to the fact the we are privileged to have such a high level of professional staff that takes care of us. Personally, I received most of my water education as council and staff worked thru a water reliability study and a rate study. I also appreciated that our Department of Public Works took the time to have an open house/tour of our plant for council and Congressman Kildee, who still talks about it when I see him. Those two items, as well as staffs willingness to help, have been great resources for education. And all of this came in handy when residents would question our own water supply. When they did, they were usuall amazed at how Davison takes care of that aspect of everyday life.

One of the challenges we will face as a City, is infrastructure repair and replacement. For now, Davison has a very stable

system, but we need to prepare for the future. A bright spot is that several years ago, council approved a water and sewer rate that insures funding for future maitianacne. The roads...not so cut and dry. Our City Manager and staff continues to do its absolute best to pool all the money from our own revenue, and at the same time pry as much funding from the State as possible to fix our streets when we can. Obviously we are not the only city in this situation, and all we can do is keep plugging away and prioritize what can be done.

We are on the midst of an economic development movement for our city. Recently, we have started on the formation of an Economic Development Committee. By bringing together people from several business and development backgrounds, we should see a think tank of ideas for Davison. This has been a topic at the last few goals and objectives meetings, so we are now moving forward to achieve this.

This is an election year, if you couldn't tell, and come November, this council may or may not change. I want to take a quick moment to praise this particular group. I personally came into city politics during the fallout from the canopies discussion. A topic that led to many full council chambers, and much fighting outside these doors. Not too long after that, there was a group seated here that made some bad decisions in view of the public and were subsequently removed from office. Ive seen this particular council take all that in mind and basically leave it in the rear view mirror. We've completed several major projects, done a few major studies on cities functions, and at the same time, worked on current city issues that required attention. We've hired a great team of department heads, and formed committees to study our needs. From where I sit, I can honestly say that at this moment in the City, all is pretty good. Staff continues to deliver a high level of service in all departments, and that has never really waivered. It just seems like good people continue to work for our City, and it

makes our residents feel comfortable knowing this. With all that said, I want to just say that as Mayor, I am thoroughly proud of the current state of the city.

It doesn't end there, as there is much work to be done still. We will continue to listen to our residents, and we will continue to make decisions for the best of our City. It will be important to make sure we all do our roll to assure the bright future for Davison. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'R. P.' or similar, written in a cursive style.