

3-13-2017

Davison residents, staff, and council,

Thank you for attending tonight's State of The City address. It is with pride that I as the Mayor have been afforded this chance to give it once again. It is also with pride that I am able to take these few moments to speak about the progress of our city, and touch base on the future we continue to build. I have only been the Mayor for a relatively short time, but I have enjoyed being involved in a place we call home.

As the State of Michigan continues to squeeze money without returning it, the City staff have done an excellent job of fiscally balancing our budget. The most recent audit presented shows how they have kept us in great shape, and give us a favorable outlook for the future. As the years have passed, they have given us the financial blueprint to keep needed continued services for the residents. By also using the Capital Improvement Plan, staff has been able to implement and track progress. It is always a good feeling to look at that plan and remove a line as it has been completed. Moving forward, council will be presented with some choices that will need a good hard look with important decisions to be rendered.

A slight change the council took this year was to not have an extended Goals and Objectives meeting. With the change in members from last November's election, we decided it would be best to take a year off and let the council catch up and become acquainted with the already established goals and objectives plan. It makes more sense to enter a so-called comfort zone with each other before we jump into larger ideas and goals. Besides, the goals and objectives set last year are still an excellent guide to continue progress on.

One of the bigger, immediate needs of the city is to fill the position of City Manager. Being the leader and key administrator, the position is obviously important to find the perfect fit for our small town. The Council, with help from the Personnel Committee, is working to make sure this need is fulfilled in the best interest of the residents. The staff didn't really miss a beat upon the departure of our last City Manager, and council will hopefully be making a decision in the near future as to transitioning into a new leader.

Certain things always go without saying, but I will mention them anyways. Office staff, public works guys, and our police officers deserve continued praise. As things in the city change, one thing that doesn't, is the impeccable customer service delivered by our team. Top notch, above and beyond, reliable, caring....just a few words that come to mind. Although we need many things to get projects done, nothing could be accomplished without you. And although it's a small town, we feel safer with you.

With the continued upgrades downtown, Davison has seen a steady progress with its goals. These goals will be carried out under staff guidance and council approval. The teamwork involved, producing positive results will be the measure of our success. It is with great confidence that the residents can live their daily lives as this team makes the City of Davison one of the best small towns to be in.