

**City of Davison
City Council Meeting
May 9, 2022
7:30 PM**

City Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Bishop, Ron Emery, , Chris Hinkley, Jamie Stebbins, Casey Clark and Stacey Kalisz

Absent: Jessica Abraham

Staff: City Manager Andrea Schroeder, Police Chief Don Harris, Treasurer Julie Pray, and DPW Director Brian Gist

Others: 43 general public

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION 75-22 APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Kalisz, and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to approve the regular agenda as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Circuit Judge Court candidate introduced herself.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARING – ESTABLISHING OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Mayor Bishop opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

See attached

Mayor Bishop closed the public hearing at 8:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Policy Committee Minutes – March 14, 2022

Senior Authority Minutes – March 16, 2022

Fire Authority Minutes – April 26, 2022

Library Board Appointment – Megan Asselin – Term ending December 31, 2023

Yearly Family Promise Race – August 13, 2022 Lake Callis/ Abernathy Park

Street Closing Application – DDA Yearly Events

MOTION 76-22 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Emery, and seconded by Ms. Kalisz to approve consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 77-22 APPROVAL APRIL 25, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Kalisz, and seconded by Ms. Stebbins to approve the April 25, 2022 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

MOTION 78-22 BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT

Motion by Mr. Hinkley, and seconded by Ms. Kalisz to approve the bills for payment in the amount of \$230,140.05. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

Genesee County Road Commission 2022 Road Improvement Program

APPOINTED OFFICERS REPORT

Monthly Permits, Inspections and Zoning Violation Report for April 2022.

Monthly DPW Report for April 2022.

Monthly Police Report for April 2022.

Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

An update was given on the M-15/W. Clark Street project and the M-15 garage sale. The employee/community park cleanup brought approximately 25 volunteers to start sprucing up Abernathy Park. Another work day is being considered for this fall. Thank you to The Pizza Company for donating pizza and breadsticks. We are and will be receiving a \$400 increase in our monthly bill from Republic Waste for fuel increase costs. It is mentioned in the contract that if diesel hits a certain price, a fuel surcharge cost will be assessed to our bill. Village Dr New Houses – 4 permits have been issued. No inspections yet for them. Parkview Place insulation inspections have been done on most of the units. Randol's Pizza's permit is approved.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
ENGINEERING REPORT

MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CITY OF DAVISON PENSION BONDING

Motion by Mr. Emery, and seconded by Ms. Stebbins to direct staff to move forward with pension bonding. Motion carried.

MOTION 79-22 SECOND READING AND ADOPTION ZONING ORDINANCE 2022-04 AMEND CHAPTER 1260, ADD & REVISED DEFINITIONS PERTAINING TO MARIHUANA FACILITIES & ESTABLISHMENTS & CHAPTER 1291, REGARDING MM MEDICAL MARIHUANA OVERLAY DISTRICT

Motion by Ms. Stebbins, and seconded by Mr. Clark to approve and adopt Ordinance 2022-04 amend Chapter 1260, add and revised definitions pertaining to marihuana facilities and establishments and amend Chapter 1291 regarding MM Medical Overlay District and rename M Marihuana Overlay District as presented. Motion carried 5/1

MOTION 80-22 SECOND READING AND ADOPTION ORDINANCE 2022-05 REZONING CHAPTER 1266.02 OF THE ZONING MAP 308 W. FLINT STREET (FROM A-3 TO C-2)

Motion by Mr. Hinkley, and seconded by Ms. Kalisz to approve and adopt Ordinance 2022-05 to amend Chapter 1266.02 of the zoning map for 308 W Flint Street from A-3 to C-2 as presented.

OPEN ISSUES LOG

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NEW BUSINESS

MOTION 81-22 RESOLUTION 2022-08 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT & CALLING FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIAL ASSESEMENT LEVY ON MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022 AT 6:05 P.M.

Motion by Mr. Emery, and seconded by Mr. Clark to approve Resolution 2022-08 Establishing Special Assessment District and calling for a public hearing on the distribution of special assessment levy on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6:05 p.m. as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote 5/1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOTION 82-22 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Clark, and seconded by Ms. Kalisz to adjourn the meeting at 8:51p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor Tim Bishop

City Clerk Andrea L. Schroeder

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PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

Alice Heldt-700 Salem: The fire department isn't doing just fire calls; they are doing resuscitation. When they call the fire department, then they call the ambulance, the police, so you have 3 vehicles that you're paying for. You've got the people on the fire truck, the dispatcher, the cops, and the ambulance drivers. Didn't used to be that you would call the ambulance if you needed to go the hospital or had someone deceased? Why does a fire truck with all these people and equipment have to go to a resuscitation? It doesn't make sense. I vote for the police to get more money, but the fire department doesn't need it to go to those types of calls.

Brian Flewelling-936 Oda Street: This is a public hearing so I'm not going to answer questions, however, anybody wants to come down to 403 S. Main Street can come down and ask me any questions they want, any day of the week. Chief Harris will tell you that many of his officers are not medically trained and it takes more than just knowing how to do CPR. The average wait time the last 13 months for an ambulance to respond is 14 minutes after the department gets there. The average wait time is 15-20 minutes. Chief Harris' officers can do CPR, but the officers aren't dispatched to every medical call. Fire based EMS is a national standard. I understand that some people find it unseemly that we do both, however, I just want to get up, because my understanding that this isn't a referendum vote. If you have questions for the Fire Chief, my doors always open and my phones always on and I can explain the process of how this works. However, as a 26-year member of this department, I can't stand here and listen to it be attacked. We are a professional, mostly paid on call force that takes great pride in serving this community of about 40,000 people in 72 square miles. If you call and the ambulance is too far away, they will call us, and we will take great care of you. If the ambulance is more than 8 miles away, they will call us for life threatening calls. If you don't get help right away, you may die. We stabilize and care for you until an ambulance comes. I don't want to sound harsh, but if any of you have questions about the department that serves you, please call 810-653-5671.

Bob Turley-832 Meadow Drive: When I needed the fire department, I called 911 and made it very clear what I needed them for. The Police Department didn't show because they didn't need to, and the ambulance didn't show because they didn't need to. But the fire department did get there and do what they were supposed to. They were friendly doing it and thorough. Maybe part of the problem is that you need to make it clear what you need when you call.

Howard Johnson-319 N. Dayton Street: I'm not challenging the need here. My winter and summer taxes, I see two items. I see the exempt items. For those wanting a refund. Exempt items are not a write off. Which is OK. But my taxes have gone up over the last 10 years, approximately 25%. By my pension I've been on over 20 years, hasn't gone up one nickel. I understand that you need it. And I'm not denying your needs. Give us a budget and tell us what you need. And we'll give you the money. Just don't ask for a blank check. I don't think anyone in here is willing to give you a blank check. I understand from time to time the city needs more money. And we all do. I see this assessment as a way for the Council to circumvent voting for money. If you want money from us, show us what you want, and let us vote on it. If it's for a good cause, you're going to get the money. But to come here and have an assessment, you've taken it out of our hands. I have no idea how much longer I'll be paying for the water system bond. But I knew for the school bond, I'll be paying for the new auditorium at the school, the running track, the artificial turf for the football field, and Hahn school might want a new roof. The city when they want more money, and you're going to have more wants, trust me. And I don't dispute that if you have the need. But going to a special assessment takes it away from us. I don't think this Council should morally accept that assessment. They should put it down in black and white, and spell out what you want and put it in front of the voters. I got a \$100 less back, because they said assessment aren't subject to a return. I support you and I agree with what you're trying to do, I just don't have the money to give you. If you spelled out, item by item, what you wanted on a millage, I guarantee it would pass. Everybody here supports you. We are not against you. We want to do what you want, but when the well is empty, you can't go to the well. We love this city, or we wouldn't be living here.

Fred Haver-607 Carriage Way: On your literature on page 4 of 7 it says estimate of the police and fire protection. This is what your proposal says. In trying to be fair, I thought the letter was very authoritarian and that what the letter says. You will pay a special assessment because we the council have made the decision. That's what it says. You

can't look in the budget, but you get very confused. I don't know how Andrea, or the city clerk can look at that crap, but I looked at the audit. First thing I came across was the water fund and it showed the amount collected and the expenses, for the Water fund. Collected. 1,300,000, with a profit of \$596,019, told to us. They were only passing on to the water bill for the sewers. But that seems as not. It seems from the audit you collected more money than what was needed leaving you with an extra cash flow. Public safety budget has \$310,000 and the city council spent more than a quarter of a million dollars more than was budgeted. You spent it and went well beyond the budget profit. You have a millage for public safety, but yet you spent more then what the millage provided. Where did the funds come from to pay for the additional quarter of a million dollars, the general fund? If people call down to the city and ask, can we do this or do that? The general answer from that office, is that there is no money in the general fund, yet they found \$247,000 to pay off your spending habits. The actual letter that you wrote, we find that you say we are at a severe economic downturn. Right now, unemployment is at 3.6%, and there are 12 million jobs in this country not filled. That not an economic downturn. You left the decaying infrastructure of the police department vague for a purpose. I took the 1.4936 mills you get, and you get \$310,000 out of that and I did some simple math, and by my math, 1.25 mills will produce for you \$210,483 coming out to 410,104. You get to decide what the tax payers are gong to pay. You are taking away our rights to control your spending.

David Vandesteene 519 E. Third Street: Looking for clarification on the information regarding this special assessment.

Kathy Madigan-726 S. Dayton Street: I'm one of those people that really doesn't know what's going on. I don't want to get on a computer. I did 40 years in health care and that's enough. I think I understand where the people are coming from about being confused, especially older, retired people. There's so much information to go through out there. I get a water bill; I live by myself and I'm very frugal. I average it out and its almost \$75 a month and I live by myself. My water bill for usage is \$17, but my water bill is over \$200 for 3 months. A lot of people are where I'm at, asking, what are all these things we are paying for. People don't have enough money to pay a high-water bill when I take a shower once and week and I don't cook. I'm not trying to criticize our assume, but it's hard on us. I had to have help getting a roof.

Kathleen Cook-733 Fitzner Dive: What I'm concerned about is not being able to vote in a millage versus a special assessment. If it is true that there are some tax consultant people within our group, that special assessments are not on your property taxes when you file your state and federal income taxes. My concern is that if you itemize, and my tax consultant told me that all taxes except special assessment would be able to be used on my state and federal taxes. If that is true, then this is the beginning of special assessments and I have a major concern on that. A millage would give the option of turning in an absentee ballot or come to the polls with enough time to read what you're voting on versus a special assessment. What I would like to see is what the home pricing/prices are now in the City of Davison, depending on if it's in Manford Park, Rosemore, Collingwood or Davison road area. Let's look at the taxable value of a home that is 180, I think that would help.

Carole Turley-832 Meadow Drive: To me, a special assessment is for a specific thing and a specific amount, and this sounds like its going to be a permanent increase. If its going to be permanent, I'm not for that.

Bill Teed-213 N. Main Street: We have commercial property and our current assessment right now on our taxes, we pay 37 something. We came off this pandemic and I took it in the rear along with my tenants and everyone in this country. I think the city should take a little bit and take it before the voters and put the special assessment to bed. Its not the proper time for it and everyone has had to buckle-down and the city should do that too.

Patty Bond-301Elmwood Drive: Listening, I am guilty of not coming to council meetings. I feel now that I'm sitting here, I should attend more often. Listening to everyone, none of us want to see anyone harmed. I think we need more information, and we could possibly find a common ground if we knew and felt confident what we were going to give, would go towards what we want it to be given to. There is a very big fear that things could be changed without our knowledge, because there is just no definite time frame for that. It's fearful to think things could go up, and to think what could happen in another year after that. If I could request something, it would be that you could give us an idea of where exactly it was going to go and make sure we have some information of what's been done and what would go to what. Thank you.

Jim Burger-836 Oda Street: I would like to suggest to this council that you've had two millages that didn't pass. I've lived in the city for over 30 years, and I don't remember them being on the ballot or that the money was needed. Come up with a millage like what Andrea said at 1.5 mills and how much it would create. Maybe what you need to do is put it to a vote and sell it. The schools got things that they probably didn't need, but they sold it, so we are paying for it. I'm a parent of a teacher that didn't teach in Davison but has been teaching for 25 years and I can understand what the education people are going through. I think the need must be demonstrated and show people and don't try to soft sell it but promote it. Don't go backdoor with a special assessment and without the peoples say. That's why you need to do, get a millage out there and sell it.

Pam Kiefer-124 W. Clark Street: One thing we need to do is to make items easier to find on the website. It's horrible. I finally figured out that Andrea posts notice in the Davison Index, but its behind the classified, on the portion of the paper I always threw out. That is where it tells the information to go to the city and get the information. It's there, but it's so hard to find. There must be a better way for the website, even for council meeting minutes. I don't know how to solve it. I am an accountant, and I can read the budget, but I got to find them, and damn it, I have trouble at times. I don't know the difference between and millage and an assessment and we should all get more involved, but its hard. Thank you.

Jack Sims-323 Rosemore Court: I've only been here 7 years. Why are we paying all these extra services, especially if they are going to Flint? People go to college they need to pay for it. The roads around here are rough, and we don't have no money.

Rick Young-350 Rosemore Drive: We need to grab ahold of the money we put out and not send it to the City of Flint for whatever. Genesee County Library, we have one here, Genesee County Road Commission. If we look, there are places we could save, and we don't need this. The system is aged and there are laws in the books that our fine police officers don't do anything about because they are so old.

Brian Serra-707 Hemlock: Is there assistance available? I know the Congressman helped the City of Flint Fire department years ago. If we end too far underwater, maybe we should contact our Congressman. It might not be the solution, but a possibility to bridge a gap and get a small piece of the pie.

Mary Simms-323 Rosemore Court: We should think about allowing a pot store in Davison to bring in money. Why miss out on money and it might also help the budget.