

**City of Davison
City Council Meeting
May 23, 2022
6:00 PM
City Council Chambers**

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

Absent:

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

Others: 52 general public

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION 83-22 APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Abraham and seconded by Ms. Kalisz to approve the regular agenda as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dawn Weier introduces herself as a candidate for Genesee County Circuit Court Judge.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

REGONITION OF HOUSE OF CARDS ROBOTICS TEAM

PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL ASSESSMEN LEVY

Mayor Bishop opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

See attached

Mayor Bishop closed the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

DDA Minutes May 4, 2022

Planning Commission Minutes – May 17, 2022

MOTION 84-22 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Emery and seconded by Mrs. Abraham to approve consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 85-22 APPROVAL MAY 9, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Abraham, and seconded by Ms. Stebbins to approve the May 9, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

MML Worker's Compensation Dividend Credit

Genesee County 911 EMS Service Agreement

Genesee County Free Tire Recycling Day

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Schroeder gave a progress update on the M-15/W. Clark Street project. Golf outing fund raiser for the park is August 19th at Sugarbush. Invites to go out within the next few weeks. Our playscape is 25 years old and the Davison Index has a nice article about it. This is a big election year and elections are scheduled for August and November. Festival of flags parade is June 8th and Comedy for the Parks is June 11th.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Kalisz: Senior Authority budget is not complete. Flower sale fundraiser at Wojos on June 4th. They will tour the building for needed repairs.

Mr. Hinkley: Planning Commission has officially moved their meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Bishop: DDA contracted with Clip N Dales for landscaping and maintenance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ENGINEERING REPORT

Leanne Panduren presented her report.

OPEN ISSUES LOG

MOTION 86-22 PLANTE MORAN ENGAGEMENT LETTER & FEES CITY OF DAVISON

Motion by Mrs. Abraham and seconded by Ms. Kalisz to approve Plante Moran engagement letter and fees for the City of Davison as presented. Motion carried.

MOTION 87-22 PLANTE MORAN ENGAGEMENT LETTER & FEES DDA & LDFA

Motion by Mrs. Abraham and seconded by Ms. Kalisz to approve Plante Moran engagement letter and fees for the DDA/LDFA as presented. Motion carried.

MOTION 88-22 SET PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR DWRF PROJECT PLAN FOR JUNE 27, 2022, AT 6:05 PM

Motion by Mrs. Abraham and seconded by Mr. Clark set a public information meeting for the DWRF Project Plan for June 27, 2022, at 6:05 p.m. as presented. Motion carried.

MOTION 89-22 RESOLUTION 2022-09 TEDF – SUPPORT FOR THE CATEGORY B GRANT APPLICATION

Motion by Mrs. Abraham and seconded by Ms. Kalisz to approve Resolution 2022-09 TEDF – Support for the Category B Grant Application as presented. Motion carried.

BUDGET REVIEW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to the DPW for sweeping the streets. DHS graduation is June 6th.

MOTION 90-22 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Emery, and seconded by Mrs. Abraham to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried.

**MOTION INDEX
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MOTION 90-22 ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Dave Bond-301 Elmwood Drive: Last month Andrea mentioned that you had an attorney draft the letter, you neglected to mention that, that same attorney did a presentation on how to basically get around the taxpayers to impose a special millage. I know that was done on March 28th. It seems underhanded and I have information from different groups on how the misuse of these special assessments work. I know you can do it for a specific thing to show the value, like for a street and things like that. It should have a time frame and an amount, and this has nothing. You could change it every year and you could do it forever. I know Mr. Emery said you brought it to us twice and we voted it down. There must be a reason for that. Get out and sell it and let the people know. The letter this time stated that the taxable value was an average of \$50,000. That's way low. I got it from a realtor, its twice that. Walgreens was annexed to the city. Is the city collecting on that? So, we have additional revenue there.

Jerry Gillean-324 Veit Street: I'm all for the fire department and police departments in this town. Came here in 1959 originally and moved back around 10 years ago. What I'd like is under this special assessment that can be done every year, annually, without the taxpayers vote on it, under article 33. The \$172,000 that this would raise, I feel the letter leaves it open-ended to who would get that money. We know that the police and fire departments would both have it, but it doesn't say what percentage would go to each. Out of \$1532 we provide service to Richfield Township and Davison Township, and places in Genesee County because of our capabilities. Sure, would be nice if we could take this to the people within the city, push this and make them understand that we need it, and let us pass it, instead of having it shoved down our throat.

Brandon Abraham-808 Star Drive: I'm for this special assessment. To get another police officer on the street, when we only have one per shift, wed don't deserve that, we deserve more. For the fire department it gets more expensive every day, and this would bridge the gap. I'm all for it.

Patty Bond-301 Elmwood Drive: My husband and I looked at a couple other things and I wonder if possibly there are other options to save some money. What about annexing our police department with Davison and Richfield? We've heard of some things that for EMS and the fire department is all trained in medical, but two, why are all of the firemen going. Some fire department only a two or so-many go to a call at a time, or for a certain week they will have those people and try to save some money. I curious if other things have been looked at that would help this whole community. We have a small community, small area, small number of runs. I hope it proportional for what we are going to pay, because you're not seeing as many calls in the city as you would in Davison Township. I'd like to know that you are sharing information with us and taking care of us. I've talked to a lot of people in the past few weeks to come to this meeting and hear what's was going on, and give you ideas of what we want, but they said they don't want to go because they aren't going to listen anyway. That's really sad. So, I'm really hoping that you will listen to us as citizens, because we want to back these safety departments, but we also see a huge amount of taxes, that higher than Davison and Richfield Townships, because I've lived in all three and the city is hugely higher in this amount of space.

Brian Flewelling-936 Oda Street: Couple things I would like to point out; we are a fire authority. The \$1523 that was mentioned that is billed per run for each municipality. That price fluctuates every year with the budget. The investment the city makes in our fire department, is about 5% of the total city budget, for public safety and I'm putting that out there as fact. This is historically accurate. We have 30 part-time people. We cover 72 square miles and over 40,000 residents. We do this will part-time, paid on call people. I'm a bit disappointed, 45 years old, born and raised here. Two weeks ago, I gave the address and phone number that I could be reached for questions, and I didn't get one call, not one question. For the second meeting in a row, and this is nothing personal towards anyone. We have a Medstar contract that took affect May 9th, 9 months after it was signed because of the political hurdles we had to work around in the county. There's a lot of different aspects to our fire department, and I'm more than happy to answer any questions that anyone ever has. I make the same offer as Chief Harris, I'll come to your house. I'd rather come for that and answer questions. There's a lot that goes into public safety in this town. Chief Harris needs another police officer. This special assessment might not do anything to enhance the fire department, the bottom line is we need cops. One per shift isn't enough. Someone questioned last time, why can't the police officers run medical calls. When they are doing CPR, there neighbor might be getting broke into. They only have one on the road. The other part of that is, when the fire department gets on scene, we must stay there until an ambulance shows up. When I

expressed the need to run medical calls last meeting, that is based on historical data. God forbid you have a heart attack; you are going to want someone there. One police officer on the road doesn't cut it, secondly it takes 6 months of training to become medically certified. Who's going to be on the road when they are taking medical training? This is a cooperation, a community we are talking about. Your fire department covers all three units and has for a very long time. We work hard at what we do, and let's be honest, many of you have lived here longer than I have. I would challenge any of you to mention one time we have had to pay out of pocket, for this fire department. I'm not supporting or opposing this assessment, but time and again the last two weeks, the questions revolve around the fire department. I'm the fire department, 26 years I've supported this town and I didn't get one phone call or knock on the door. We do the best we can, with what we have, and we are going to continue to do that. We would love to enhance our service to the community, but for now, we will keep responding when you need us. The doors always open and the phones always on. If you have question or just want a tour, there are people in here that probably have never been in the fire station. We would love to show you around and show you what we have.

John McLachlan-615 N. Genesee Street: I've been in EMS and fire for 35 years. I do support police and fire by all means; however, I do have some concerns; not knowing what percentage is being delegated to the police and fire. I think we need to know that. The other thing I have, Brian is right, we have a contract with Medstar, and I think that is a poor choice for this community. The idea of the contract and what's in it is poor and there's no accountability to that agency, but we won't get into that. If it's been in place since May 9th, let's give it more time to figure out to see if we would need the assessment. You are absolutely right, and there are fire departments that dedicate a firefighter for a shift. That shift can be allocated to be spread out. It doesn't have to be a 10, 12 or 24 hours, whatever makes it work. Over the years, I've been at Oakland County and other departments assign people to a truck for certain responses. It can be cost effective. If we were at a call and a 10-19 was called, all others responding would go back to the hall. You only need so many people on scene. The rest would go back to the station and cover. If you send more than one truck to some calls, you are not being sufficient or cost effective. I support fire and EMS, as I've been in it for 35 years. However, I'm sorry, we need to do a better job out there by sending the correct number of apparatus and personnel to a call. There are many call you don't need to send two or three trucks. You can hear the lights and sirens going all times of the day and that's not necessary. That's ridiculous and sad, I hope you listen to people.

Kathleen Cook-733 Fitzner Dive: Some years back there was a radio announcer that used to say, it's not the cause or the reason; it's the amount. I would listen to him everyday on my way to different places. If this special assessment is allowed to be approved, by this board, the roll of tide of pandoras box this will open, for the taxpayer that may turn down a millage for whatever reason. It's the beginning of something I've not been or won't be able to utilize on my tax form for my federal or state government, when I'm having my taxes done. It's my understanding, again, that a special assessment, whether you have a 800 square foot house or a 5,000 square foot house, the amount would be for everyone that owns a house, property of business is the City of Davison. I feel if you decide tonight to make this decision, all taxpayers that pay taxes or renters, possibly your rent could go up. You need to understand, this is your pandora box. I don't get to say yes or no. This assessment could open many other options that you feel is good valid reasons to do it again. It eliminates everyone that is a citizen to vote on things that are very important to them in their budget. So, I ask if you can see the forest through the trees and understand how many taxpayers are on a fixed income and they are the majority that do your volunteer work. Your core people that are being looked at for increasing their taxes has the right to say yes, or no and they will have no choice except to stay where they are or continued to live the life, they are with more going out than possibly coming in, or an increase in social security to help cover this. So, ask that you think about how often you think about other ideas to raise money for those who say yes or no. It's absolutely going to affect any millage or any increase that the Davison School board is going to come for. You must understand that there is only so much that your citizens can handle, and you have no right tonight to say yes. I understand it was presented before and the answers were no. Maybe there was not enough information. I'm in the reserves for Chris Swanson and I understand the importance of do the right thing. Considerations should be looked at for the size of the house and what they would pay. If you could remember that the majority of your community will vote yes or no to future bonds or millages. You have an opportunity tonight to look at the forest through the trees.

Kerry Answald-611 Bay Street: I'm concerned about the 50% rise in five years. Is there anything we can do to educate the community and reduce this millage? I'm all for the police and fire department, but maybe as citizens we need to help them, and I don't know how. Maybe a neighborhood watch and things like that.

Pam Keifer-124 W. Clark Street: My husband and I are for the fire and police, and we understand that. But I'm a little disappointed, that when we met last time, it was promised that it would be provided on how we would spend this money. When I went to city hall we got reason for a special assessment, but nothing that said; this is going here, and this is going there. I'm just disappointed because when we went to the first meeting it was said, yes, we will get you those figures. I went to the website and the additional information was the same handout we got the first time. So, I'm just a little disappointed that pencil wasn't put to paper and numbers weren't given to us.

Ron Emery-325 Bay Street: I did some research on my tax bill and my taxable value is \$67,241.00 this would be \$100 per year for me or .25 cents per day. I don't think there is a soul in this room that can't come up with .25 cents a day. Maybe I'm wrong, but that's where I stand. It's not a phenomenal amount of money, but every time we talk money, it's a phenomenal amount of money. It's like we are all going to go bankrupt, and our pensions are going to go away. That's what 1.5 mills on a \$67,000 house would cost. Last week, two weeks ago, people didn't know what they paid in taxes. They see a bill for a total amount of \$1800 or \$2000, whatever it is. He shared a pie chart to show what people pay in city taxes compared to everything else. Most of the money goes outside, like, to the county, the state, the airport. Folks always think that the total amount goes to the city to fatten up our budget. We've been struggling for years, trying to figure out for years. We've cut budgets, we've done this and that and go for grants. It's gotten to the point, and I can't give you an exact number, but any police millage that would come out of this, would go for manpower. Where it would go exactly for the fire department, I'm not quite sure, I'll be honest with ya, it's not a huge sum of money, I think it's more the principle of raising your taxes without input.

Dean VanWagnen-312 Elmwood Drive: My biggest concern with this is, they turned down the millages before. When someone says they want to raise my taxes, I say, no, I don't think so, and I can't afford it. Proper education as to why we need this might have been beneficial. Now it comes down to a special assessment. I describe it as jamming it down our throats. This is worse than voting yes on a millage in my mind. If there was a better education on why we needed those millages, I might have voted, yes. The idea that this can be renewed every year without our input, saying I don't want this special assessment. Now we have this out there that we either say yes to a millage or we are going to have this special assessment jammed down our throat. It might make more sense to explain why we need it. The special assessment doesn't say really what it's going for. Is half going to police department and half to fire department? I don't really know that, and it makes me nervous, because I have no idea, and it can be renewed every year, and that makes me nervous. Please consider a millage again, with an education of all the information. And tell the certain amounts and where it's going to go to. To hire 3 police officers and to maintain fire department equipment. Give us an education and choices.

Garnet Hickcok-522 Balsam Drive: Why can we have this assessment for one year and evaluate.

Chris Hinkley-314 E. Lexington Street: We are in a situation that we have a need, and we need to find a way to pay for it. We've had clean audits since I've been involved with city council and planning commission. We've always had clean audit, and nothing is out of the ordinary. We spend in areas and follow best practices, and I am confident that our treasurer tells us there isn't anywhere to cut without giving up something we are getting and needing. I'm hearing that people want it as a millage and if we sell it as a millage, they will vote for it. I would ask, is there community members that would volunteer to help education their neighbors and come up with a plan to sell it. If I'm hearing people correctly, people will be willing to vote for it we educate and sell it. If you're willing to commit tonight, come talk to us and we'll consider that. I would love to work with community members that want to get the word out, but I am wondering what people are willing to live with if we do have to cut \$175,000 out of the budget somewhere to staff our police department. If someone is working 12 hour shifts for 15-16 days in a row, that's going to wear on a person. I was on a long layover for a plane that was delayed, and my buddy said, they should just call some pilots in. I said, look, I don't want to wake a pilot up to come and fly the plane. You want people to be at their peak performance. We are at the lowest number of officers we can run a police department with, and we are wearing them out, so we won't get the peak performance we could get. They won't get the proper sleep time, or vacation time. It's something that we need, and we need to find a way to do it. I'm in education and seen many school bonds pass, but we are in a situation that needs to be fixed. In the past when millages were turned down, but we having people putting on social media that there are 4 police cars showing up at one time, but I don't think we have ever had 4 city police officers on at one time, unless it's a parade. We need to take care of our people so they can take care of us. That's where I'm at, but please volunteer if you would like to help. Come talk to us.

Jessica-808 Star Drive: We meet two times a month in these council chambers, and we decide a lot of things. We would love to see this many people at every meeting, when we are talking about water, leaf pickup, a new police car. We spend money, and we save money. Roughly two years ago when I became a council member, we made the decision for you to end medical runs. I don't know if you knew that, but we couldn't afford it, so we are currently back to running medical calls. We were grossly over budget running with the fire department. I live in the city, on Star Drive, across the street from the post office in Laurel Heights subdivision. My neighbor lives in the township and they had medical calls. At that time, if my husband would have suffered a heart attack, I would have had to drug him to my neighbors in the township to have the fire department respond if an ambulance wasn't available. The fire department funding is extremely near and dear to my heart. We've had the fire department to our home when our son was choking, and we've utilized the police department many times. I don't know a person in this room that if you called 911, wouldn't pay that \$1500 out of pocket to save a loved one. I don't think \$8 per month, I would pay that for all of you to be able to know that the members in my community are protected and well cared for.