

2020 State Of The City Address

Davison City Council, staff, and residents, thank you for being here tonight for the State of the City speech and again for taking the time investing in your community. We've made it another year to this great occasion when I can speak on the progress and positives of the city, and also touch base on the future and our responsibilities as residents. It truly has been a year of progress in Davison, and we do have a long way to go. When you talk about the future, the talk should never end. Its our job as a group of leaders to make sure that talk continues, and we set up the future Davison and for the next group to talk.

I look at this particular group on council now and feel we have made it each our responsibility to work together and make the best decisions for our residents. It's a group of mostly newer people in the last few years that make up council, which I personal feel is a great representation of the community. This is a group of seven, that are all regular, everyday people without personal agendas. We are a good mix of ages and interests that have different ideas and priorities, but still respect the council as a whole, representing the best interests of Davison City.

The true backbone of the City is also a group of people that we may rarely see, but owe so much gratitude towards. The majority of residents will never come into direct contact with the water treatment plant operator, the city Treasurer, a police officer, hopefully, or the building inspector, but these are the ones we really owe the thanks to. Daily living just wouldn't happen without them. They also spend much of their time planning and looking for a better way to so things for a better future.

In the past year Davison has seen its share of change and positive growth. It will be interesting to see what the 2020 census numbers show about our town. It will also be interesting to see what changes that will hopefully bring in state shared revenue. We are hoping that, and some help from other options will start with funding projects in the cities capitol improvement plan. This working document is the basis for city projects, perspective dates, and funding options. It is reviewed

yearly by several boards within in the city and approved by council. The best part about this document is when we remove an item because it was completed.

Financially the city is in excellent shape. The city staff worked an entire year to once again get a very high stamp of approval from the auditors. Working with a few less employees, they made it happen! Although we could always use more money from the state, our staff has found ways to get the most out of our resources. We are in the same boat as most communities, and don't have a forest of money trees to access for projects. Again, that's where staff and council come into play, making those decisions for the good.

Downtown is booming lately. I really don't think I've ever seen so many cars on a weekend evening in this town. The hiring of a new DDA events coordinator will defiantly add a needed spark to the extra events that happen there. Plans for Pumpkin Fest, Trunk r Treat, the Holiday Parade and weekly car cruises are all in full swing. The DDA is also looking into several beautification and upgrade projects for this year and will keep council updated.

The future of Davison is really going to depend on its residents this year. Tomorrow we have a bond vote that will dictate what happens to our school. With many needed upgrades and repairs, the board and Superintendent have requested a sizeable bond to make those needed items happen soon. We have prided ourselves in having a destination district to this point, and we need to show our support as voters for the school's plan. In the City, voters have rejected two different proposals to help fund much needed public safety issues and road/infrastructure issues. At the council's recent yearly goals and objectives meeting, the discussion about forming a citizens advisory group came up. Being the public has a say in how to spend their money, we feel it is best to involve a broader group of citizens to help think of and consider different ways to best facilitate the needed repairs. This is very important at this point, and some roads are nearing emergency status. Let me be very clear, staff and council is wanting involvement from its citizens with this issue. I am a firm believer that if you have time to complain, you also have time to help. Let's turn that energy into a positive for this community.

This election year will see turn around on council. Several members have indicated they will not run for re-election and this presents another opportunity for some of our residents to serve. Although the commitment is a four-year term, the work load isn't rigorous. I've always said that people have an abundance of time to watch CNN or Fox, then get into debates about Trump or Pelosi....yet, they haven't a clue as to what the issue at their local meeting that night will be. Get involved, run for council if you want to work with us. We want thinkers and workers, not people with beefs and people who think they need to solve the cities problems. If your that person, pull a petition, run for office, and grab a chair.

Again, thank you to everyone for being here or tuning in to listen tonight. Although it is my speech, I feel I speak for the entire council and staff when I thank you being great residents. Without you, we wouldn't have a cause. Without your complaints and ideas, we don't have direction. AND... From the residents, thank you to council and staff. You MAKE Davison our great little town and KEEP it that way.