

MINUTES OF THE DAVIS CITY COUNCIL  
Meeting of January 18, 2022

The City Council of the City of Davis met in regular meeting session beginning at 6:30 p.m. via teleconference or otherwise electronically. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Partida.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Present: Will Arnold, Dan Carson, Josh Chapman,  
Lucas Frerichs, Gloria Partida

Councilmembers Absent: None

Other Officers Present: City Manager Mike Webb, City Attorney Inder  
Khalsa, City Clerk Zoe Mirabile

Approval of Agenda D. Carson moved, seconded by W. Arnold, to approve the agenda.  
Motion passed unanimously.

City Manager & City Council Brief Announcements M. Webb: January 20—Mace Blvd community meeting will include an overview of plan concepts. Martin Luther King Jr celebration 2022 videos posted to the city website and social media.

Public Comments

- Connor Gorman: Support investing in community, including new department of Social Services and Housing. Need to provide long term funding for department. Should redirect funds from Police Department.
- John Whitehead: Smoke is hazardous to health.
- Alan Hirsch: Davis Enterprise did not feature Martin Luther King Jr Day nor did it cover visit by Congressman Garamendi and his speech in Central Park. Is newspaper reflecting community viewpoint?

Consent Calendar Crossing Guard Contract Amendment  
Approve Resolution No. 22-003 - Approving an Amendment to the Crossing Guard Contract with Safesite Guard Services, LLC and the Associated Cost-Sharing Agreement with the Davis Joint Unified School District

Amendment to Lease with Davis Community Meals and Housing  
Approve Resolution No. 22-004 - Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Amendment to the City's Lease with Davis Community Meals and Housing That Allows the Nonprofit Organization to Operate a Cold Weather Shelter at 504-512 Fifth Street

Appropriation of Vehicle Replacement Funding for City Fleet Vehicles

Approve Resolution No. 22-005 - Amending Fiscal Year 2021-22 Vehicle Replacement Fund Budget to Procure Two (2) Police Department Vehicles Due for Replacement in Fiscal Year 2022-23

D. Carson: Recused on the follow item: Although there is no defined financial conflict of interest, recused based on a family member's (who is not a dependent) employment with Tree Davis.

Disposition of Surplus Fleet Truck Vehicle to Tree Davis

Approve Resolution No. 22-006 - Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a Disposition Agreement Donating a Surplus Fleet Truck to Tree Davis That Would Serve as a Water Truck to Promote the Health of the Davis Urban Forest

AYES: Arnold, Chapman, Frerichs, Partida

NOES: None

ABSENT: Carson (recuse)

Resolution Regarding Recent Proposed Decision Related to Net Energy Metering

Approve Resolution No. 22-007 - Requesting the California Public Utilities Commission Place a Hold on the Recent Proposed Decision Related to Net Energy Metering Until More Information is Gathered and Analyzed

Commission Minutes:

A. Finance and Budget Commission Meetings of April 12, May 27, June 14, July 12, September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 3, 2021

B. Open Space and Habitat Commission Meeting of November 1, 2021 Informational

W. Arnold moved, seconded by J. Chapman to approve consent calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

Surplus Property Discussion: Richards Boulevard and Olive Drive

Assistant City Manager Ashley Feeney: Land locked parcel is located on north eastern edge of Richards Blvd/Olive Dr intersection. Overview of site parameters and existing easements.

Council consensus to support the exploration of declaring the property as surplus and disposal pursuant to City policies and state law and direct staff to return with a specific resolution for action at a future meeting.

Leaf Blower Ordinance Update Introduction

Assistant to the Public Works Utilities & Operations Director Adrienne Heinig: Overview of leaf blower topic, including history of city regulations, prior Council discussions and direction, AB 1346 which will prohibit the sale of gas powered equipment in California in 2024, results of community surveys, feedback from city staff and other jurisdictions, and commission recommendations with staff response.

Hannah Safford, Natural Resources Commission: NRC recommends the following: Short-term Actions: Make current Air Quality Index (AQI) limits on leaf blowers permanent for all City and City contractor use; prohibit use before 8 am M-F and before 9 am Sat/Sun; launch education and outreach campaign. Long-term Actions : By 01/01/2023—prohibit all use of gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums within City limits, with limited exceptions for public landscape, park maintenance and public safety needs. By 01/01/2024—prohibit all use of leaf blowers on residential lots.

Public comments:

- John Whitehead: Public health should take precedence over aesthetics. Support public education regarding leaf mulching and phasing out leaf blowers.
- Greg Rowe: Support short term and long term actions recommended by Natural Resources Commission (NRC). Should restrict leaf blowers. Noise impacts and fine dust particulates blown throughout neighborhood, gasoline exhaust. Use of air quality index is not relevant in all situations, neighborhood pollution is highly localized.

Councilmembers provided individual comments, including:

D. Carson: Support phase out of gas powered leaf blowers in city. Consider 3 year phase out for commercial, large properties. Could be 5 years for others, or coincide with 3 years. City should serve as example. Support maintaining rules currently in place. Temporary restrictions based on AQI. Open to tightening of hours of use. Follow up on incentive funds.

W. Arnold: Should follow state's lead. City should take action on our operations and procurements before we force it on small proprietorships and residents. Move quickly with city resources. Phase out others; interested in choosing dates even further in the future for phasing. Support incentives, explore opportunities. Enforcement will be problematic. Want to get to place where there are less negative impacts.

L. Frerichs: Support NRC short term actions. Long term—not support full phase out. Issues of technology, recent passage of state bill. Support city transitioning to all electric. Need for incentives. Combination of city and YSAQMD will hopefully devise incentive program, pursue state funding. Landscape and lawn care industry is a major source of employment. Percentage of minority owned and employed is high, major impact.

J. Chapman: Support incentives; be innovative and creative. To get behind recommendations, incentives must be a critical component. Enforcement—how? Need discussion. What is our process? How do we implement and make change effective? Look at what other jurisdictions have done—incentives and enforcement. City should take lead. Bring conversation to community—what city spent, what happened during transition. Support short term recommendations. Support phase out timelines of 3-5 year range.

G. Partida: Begin to make changes; will take a while to get right. Support short term actions. Incentives will be important. Long term—support switching to electric and city taking lead. Want to know more information about total bans in other jurisdictions—what are the conditions in those cities? Do they have large tree canopies? What happened to small businesses? With more information, maybe can do hybrid of banning leaf blowers in certain situations, with exceptions in others.

Hannah Safford, NRC: NRC recommends full ban. Not a lot of hard data from cities that have banned both gas and electric. Davis will be at the forefront; feasible in future, especially with improvements in technology.

City Manager Mike Webb: Heard Council consensus in support of short term recommendations from NRC. Support adjustment to allowable operation hours. Support for evaluation and incentive programs for conversion from city, Air Quality Management District, and other agencies. Interest in exploring enforcement options and limitations. Support city taking leadership role. Staff to come back to Council with options, timelines, cost benefit analysis of our own equipment transition to electric and phasing out. Interest in using our experience as a case study—will take additional analysis. Staff may return with cost benefit factors, time motion studies, a better understanding of what and how much it takes to maintain land. Look at lifecycle cost. Time necessary to use battery powered equipment vs time for gas powered. Take full range of time and cost into account.

City Council  
Principles of  
Civility

City Manager Mike Webb: Summarized principles and process to date.

Public comments:

- Connor Gorman: Civility is important, but some level of conflict can be helpful especially in terms of social and political issues. Should consider structural factors and systemic oppression.
- Alan Hirsch: Optimal level of conflict. Absence of conflict results in lack of diversity, but too much is destructive. Should ask for input before adopting.

City Council consensus support of having set principles to guide civil discourse and discussions.

L. Frerichs moved, seconded by D. Carson, to direct staff to add Principles of Civility to commission agendas within the next month or so to provide the opportunity for input prior to final Council adoption. Motion passed unanimously.

Long Range  
Calendar

L. Frerichs and G. Partida: Interested in receiving an informational item comparing varying definitions of “first time home buyer”

G. Partida: Request status update on other long range items without a set meeting date.

City Manager Mike Webb: Will check in with staff team to schedule items. Provide update on Council goals. Put together timeframe. List of items that have been put on pause during COVID. Will ask whether Council interested in restarting efforts.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Zoe Mirabile  
City Clerk