

MINUTES OF THE DAVIS CITY COUNCIL  
Meeting of May 2, 2023

The City Council of the City of Davis met in regular meeting session beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Chambers, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, California. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Will Arnold.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Present: Josh Chapman, Gloria Partida, Babu Vaitla, Will Arnold

Councilmembers Absent: None

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

Approval of Agenda W. Arnold: Propose amending agenda to postpone all consent calendar items and all regular items with the exception of opening and continuing public hearing to May 16. Agenda to be as follows:  
Item 1: Update and Briefing on Two Homicides and Knife Assault  
Item 2: General Public Comment  
Item 3: Open and continue public hearing

B. Vaitla moved, seconded by J. Chapman, to amend the agenda as noted above. Motion passed unanimously.

Update and Briefing on Two Homicides and Knife Assault Police Chief Darren Pytel: Provided update and status report on crimes. April 27: David Breaux was found deceased on park bench in Central Park, had been stabbed multiple times. April 29: Karim Abou Najm stabbed multiple times in Sycamore Park, deceased on scene. May 1: Kimberlee Guillory stabbed through tent multiple times at Second Street and L homeless encampment. Currently receiving care at the hospital, critical condition but making progress.

City Council recessed at 6:43 p.m. and reconvened at 6:51 p.m.

Additional investigators and officers have been brought in from regional partners to step up patrol presence in town and to quickly respond to tips. Collected significant amount of evidence from three crime scenes, submitting evidence for analysis by Department of Justice. Asking community to provide photographs or video that may depict possible suspect in the area. Exploring any connections between the crimes. There are similarities, but still considering all options.

Department is determining where temporary cameras can be deployed in strategic locations. Can look and see if there are areas in parks where additional lighting could be advantageous.

Social Services and Housing Director Dana Bailey: Unsheltered Community Response Plan: (1) activate crisis response network of service providers and community organizations, (2) increase outreach to unhoused community, (3) actively engage unhoused community in safety planning, and (4) expand sheltering capacity and support those who choose to remain outdoors.

Public comments:

- Mason Henry: Support city not calling for a curfew.
- Three unnamed individuals: Increased surveillance will add to culture of fear. Many are skeptical of police response and don't want to call and speak to police hotline. Suggest text hotline for people to submit imagery. Concerned about increased police response and how that might lead to biased profiling.
- NJ Mvondo: Need to keep mental health in mind, organizations and programs to help people deal with fear. Should provide updates on hotlines for services that people can access.
- Alan Miller: Brazen attack, people were around during incidents. Need to look out for each other and not use this as opportunity for grandstanding on political agendas.
- Dillan Horton: Distraught and fearful community. PD is looking at placement of remote cameras, hope that happens quickly. Question how city can help unhoused who have pets and are not able to be sheltered.
- Jennifer Onjehaus: Need to communicate with businesses. Obligated to take care of personnel, take action to make sure employees that open or close businesses are safe.
- Lindley Hernandez, Ryan Collins, Jerry Johnson, Askyn Rojas, Jordan, Asher Daughta, Jordan Varney, Sergio: Support services to protect the unhoused. City should open emergency shelter. Advocate for long term help for unhoused individuals, proactive measures.
- Brandon Merrit: Need security cameras at strategic points throughout city, especially at major routes and thoroughfares. Need greater resources and staffing for PD.
- Andrew Bensch: Dissatisfied with police response. Jurisdictional lines between law enforcement agencies should not impact necessary response.
- Sean Brooks: Now is not the time to remake safety and security response procedures. Oppose expanding use of surveillance cameras and license plate readers.
- Clark Singh: May be correlation between victims. Are people of color being targeted? What are similarities between victims?

D. Bailey: There are options outside Davis that accept unhoused with pets. Discussing alternative ways to manage pets.

D. Pytel: Able to accept texts and pictures to 9-1-1. Will look into accepting images on tip lines.

Public Comments

- Alan Miller: Oppose public comments that have taken opportunity to attack police for mistakes. Impressed with dispatch and first responders.
- Connor Gorman: City should give all unhoused residents shelter for foreseeable future, hopefully non-congregate.
- Traci DeWit: Students and parents need to feel safe in parks, attending athletic events and classes. Need to invest in technology to combat crime as well as greater police response.
- Becky Marino, Davis Community Meals and Housing: Housed over 20 people tonight and provided meals, room available for everyone that needs help. All are welcome.
- Natalie: Consider creating a safe camp space to address issue of pets and storage.
- Joseph Rocurrio: Concern with capacity of police. How will police appropriately respond to tips if lacking resources?:

Public Hearing: Lift Actions Under WSCP; Adjust Sprinkler Restrictions

Mayor Arnold opened the public hearing: Lift Demand Reduction Actions Under Shortage Level 2 of the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) and Adjust Sprinkler Irrigation Restrictions

G. Partida moved, seconded by B. Vaitla to continue public hearing to May 16. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m. in memory of David Breaux and Karim Abou Najm.

Zoe Mirabile  
City Clerk