

MINUTES OF THE DAVIS CITY COUNCIL
Meeting of September 19, 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, Donna Neville, Gloria Partida, Bapu Vaitla, Will Arnold

Councilmembers Absent: None

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

Approval of Agenda J. Chapman moved, seconded by D. Neville, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Ceremonial Presentations

- A. Proclamation Recognizing September 15 – October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month, presented by G. Partida
- B. Proclamation Recognizing October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Acknowledging the Local Efforts of Thriving Pink, presented by D. Neville
- C. Proclamation Recognizing October as National Bullying Prevention Month, presented by B. Vaitla

City Manager Announcements City Manager Mike Webb: Welcome to Davis sign has been updated in partnership with Davis Odd Fellows. UC Davis academic year starts September 17, Dive into Downtown events September 21 and 24. Fire and Police personnel training will occur over the next several weeks at University Mall prior to demolition activity. Police Department Strategic Plan Community Meetings September 26 at University Covenant Church and 27 at Davis Senior Center.

City Council Announcements and Liaison Reports None

Public Comments

- Alan Hirsch: Oppose proposed Caltrans project to widen I-80.
- Alan Miller and Todd Edelman: Regular calendar item—Nishi project (Promenade). Project now includes an overpass when it was intended to have an underpass. Oppose. Projects should not change after voters vote on a Measure J/R/D.

- Kevin Wan, Davis Downtown: Thank Council and staff for continued support of DDBA. Challenges going forward, mainly on G Street. Hope to be partner on project.
- Michael Palmer, Brendon Nakahara, Noah, and unidentified individual: Regular calendar item ARPA Update and Funding Allocations—Support funding to upgrade Skatepark. Limited amount of facilities that cater to skaters. Sport is for all ages and backgrounds. Safety issue with current facility—irregularities and poor construction. Want children to have a safe and fun place to learn how to skateboard.
- David and Sydney Schapira, and Kiana Lee, Davis Youth Softball League; and Suzanna Shiyama: Regular calendar item ARPA Update and Funding Allocations—Support funding to Community Park restrooms. Need resources and staff time to get bathrooms in better condition. Visiting youth team players don't like using the bathroom and sometimes refuse to participate in games due to poor conditions.
- Brett Lee: Visited Sister City in Inuyama, Japan. Presented gift to Council from city.
- Dawn Meyers, Yolo Adult Day Health Center: Thank Council for considering contributing American Rescue Plan Act funding to expand center.
- Eric Rios, Running Rivers Café and Wine Bar, and Juliette Beck: Thank Council for awarding arts grant. Excited to hold a Harvest Festival on the Autumn Equinox at West Lake Plaza. Showcase Davis businesses and celebrate regional artists.
- Connor Gorman: Labor struggles and organizing—auto workers are on strike and UC Davis labor groups fighting for better wages. Support workers in fight.
- Scott Steward: Support youth climate activities, climate strikes, and Davis Fridays for Future. City should do more to recognize youth as leaders on this topic. Need to make sure all future developments are carbon neutral.

Consent Calendar

Agreement for Provision of Animal Control Services for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Approve Resolution No. 23-125 - Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Agreement Between County of Yolo and City of Davis for Animal Control Services for FY2023-24

Renewal of Contract for Public Safety Mobile and Portable Radios
Approve Resolution No. 23-126 - Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a 5-Year Agreement with Day Wireless to Support the Public Safety Mobile and Portable Radios

Commission Minutes: Open Space & Habitat Commission Meeting of June 5, 2023
Informational

Proclamation Recognizing October as Fire Prevention Month Ceremonial

J. Chapman moved, seconded by B. Vaitla, to approve consent calendar as listed above. Motion passed unanimously.

Removed from Consent Calendar:

Item removed by B. Vaitla.

Professional Services Agreement for Preparation of EIR for the Village Farms Proposal

B. Vaitla: Scope of services—Request Environmental Impact Report (EIR) look at fewer alternatives, but include detailed scenarios that are more than qualitative, but less than equal weight alternative analysis. Interested in analysis of higher density project. Get cost and timeline estimate. Notice of Preparation (NOP)—Request after 30 day public scoping comment period, return to Council to make modifications to scenarios.

City Manager Mike Webb: Proposed scope of services will evaluate up to 7 alternatives at qualitative level of analysis, a few are required under state law. If Council wishes to explore fewer alternatives with more data and evaluation, could confer at staff level with consultant, identify cost and timelines, return to Council with revised scope.

City Attorney Inder Khalsa: Able to analyze alternatives at deeper level, but comes at a cost. Consider deeper evaluation on only 1-2 alternatives. Often see alternatives that are reduced scope of project; easier to model impacts of reduced project, rather than evaluate substantially different project. Matter of budget and timing.

Community Development Director Sherri Metzker: Traffic study could generate additional analysis, cost is already more than half the budget.

M. Webb: Alternatives will be finalized after scoping period ends. If move forward with approving contract as proposed, can modify scope as needed when NOP is scheduled for Council discussion. Staff will include information on cost, timing, and what benefit could come with higher level of analysis.

D. Neville moved, seconded by G. Partida, to Approve Resolution No. 23-127 - Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Raney Planning & Management, Inc. for Planning Services and Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the Village Farms Project. Motion passed unanimously.

Professional Services

Item removed by D. Neville.

Agreement for Preparation of Second Addendum to the EIR for the Promenade (former Nishi/Gateway) Project

City Manager Mike Webb: Addendum to Environmental Impact Report (EIR) related to amended project layout and possible mitigation measures as a result, ultimate alignment of grade separated overcrossing with respect to site plan.

Public comments:

- Alan Hirsch: Public Utilities Commission put a stop to the underpass. Congestion is no longer considered in EIR analysis.
- Ron Glick: Five years since Nishi project was approved by voters as a Measure J/R/D project. Consider bike/pedestrian undercrossing and auto overcrossing, could be a good compromise.

M. Webb: Measure J/R/D baseline features identified a grade separate crossing, but the decision of whether it was an undercrossing or overcrossing is the jurisdictional authority of Union Pacific.

D. Neville moved, seconded by J. Chapman, to approve Resolution No. 23-128 - Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Ascent Environmental, Inc. for Preparation of a Second Addendum to the EIR for the Promenade Project. Motion passed unanimously.

City Council recessed at 8:01 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Public Hearing: CAPER for Program Year 2022

Social Services & Housing Director Dana Bailey: Presented annual report of accomplishments and evaluation of projects and programs in the areas of housing, community development, public services and facilities, and services to homeless individuals. Fifteen organizations, including the city, completed or continued 11 projects, which primarily served low- and moderate-income residents. All projects met at least one of the city-defined critical needs developed by the Social Services Commission and approved by City Council. Most projects had area-wide impact and benefit. The Social Services Commission reviewed the CAPER; they supported what was included in the plan, but concerned with ability to spend some of the funds.

Mayor Arnold opened the public hearing, and after no comments, closed the public hearing.

D. Neville moved, seconded by G. Partida, to Approve Resolution No. 23-129 - Authorizing the City Manager to Submit Program Year 2022 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Fulfill Required Reporting on City Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Funds. Motion passed unanimously.

Parks & Community Services Inclusive Programming Update

Parks & Community Services Director Deanne Machado: In 2021, Council allocated American Rescue Plan Act funding to create programming for under-resourced youth. Staff analyzed gaps in programming: geographic, age range, and financial aid. Identified barriers: technology/logistics, cost, transportation, program hours, awareness, community connectedness, language, and cultural norms. Summarized pilot programs:

- Mutual Housing Series—Free recreation classes on site at affordable housing sites Adelante and New Harmony, with the greatest density of children. Also offered introductory swimming lesson and open swim day at Manor Pool including transportation, swag bags with beach towel and pool toys, and a pizza lunch.
- Migrant Center Soccer Program—partnership with Yolo County Housing to provide a three-day, onsite soccer program. Hosted program with Spanish speaking options, included snow cone truck and pizza party.
- ESL Program at South Davis Montgomery Library—partnership with Yolo County Library. Library provided free evening classes to parents, city provided onsite recreational programming to children of program participants and dinner to each family. City also provided self-contained tablets pre-loaded with literacy-based apps for different age groups.

Public comments:

- Ron Glick: Support program. Council should continue to support. Staff is executing program in cost efficient manner.
- Dillan Horton: Support city putting focus on accessibility in all forms.
- Unnamed individual: Support Skatepark upgrade.
- JT: Staff should review overall functioning of parks and amenities. A lot of maintenance updates are needed.

By consensus, City Council expressed support of program and interest in expanding in the future.

Update on G Street Activation Project and Proposed Parking Modifications

J. Chapman: Recused himself from item due to business interest within 500 feet of project and left the room.

Assistant Public Works Engineering & Transportation Director Ryan Chapman: Update on activation project—added directional sign and pavement arrows to G Street Parking Lot, retained consultant to develop preliminary designs, completed survey of street, developed street layouts for community meeting, and installed additional bike racks. Community meeting will be held on October 4 to solicit feedback. Anticipate returning to Council with recommended designs in early 2024.

Developed parking alternatives to maximize available parking. Overview of two alternatives for 2nd to H Street Parking Lot and 3rd to 5th Street Parking, and proposed loading zones for G Street and 2nd Street and G Street and 3rd Street. Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission (BTSSC) recommendations:

1. The road be made one way heading north; and
2. A class IV southbound bikeway be installed from the activation zone to 2nd street; and
3. The parking on the west side be eliminated and replaced with bike parking/planters

Public comments:

- Alan Miller: Oppose G Street closure. Cars are now parking where bikes used to be located, lots of confusion, diagonal parking is worse for bicycles.
- Chris Granger: Support G Street closure. Interested in experimenting with further closures, possibly all downtown on a Sunday. Cool Davis could work with city to develop plan.
- Connor Gorman: Bikes and people should be prioritized over vehicles as long as enough parking is provided for people that are disabled. Support additional enhancements to G Street area and extending closure to other areas, especially downtown.
- Alan Hirsch: Need to consider best practices related to trees and shade. Need Downtown Tree Plan.
- Brett Maresca, Davis Downtown Business Association: DDBA looking forward to design workshop, have invited member businesses to participate. Hope feedback will allow city to make quick decisions, support maximizing parking space and loading zones. Appreciate ongoing communication from staff on this project.

D. Neville moved, seconded by G. Partida, to approve proposed commercial loading zone locations and times and direct staff to come back with an ordinance establishing them. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Neville, Partida, Vaitla, Arnold

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chapman (recuse)

B. Vaitla: Suggest delay Council decisions on parking modifications until after community workshop and additional feedback. Council consensus.

City Council recessed at 9:38 p.m. and reconvened at 9:46 p.m.

ARPA Update and Recommendations

Assistant City Manager Kelly Stachowicz: Summarized previous funding allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Available funding: \$2,451,795.

for Additional
Allocations

Overview of recommendations:

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Implementation
- Climate action efforts – Cool Davis
- Community Park Improvements (bathroom, fencing)
- Community Park Skatepark Improvements
- Park Safety Rehabilitation
- Economic Development Funds, strategic planning
- Respite Center, beautification of site and programming
- Housing Transition Assistance

Existing allocations that require additional Council direction:

- Yolo Adult Day Health
- Homelessness services
- Downtown programming
- Downtown maintenance—trees and signage
- Downtown infrastructure—G Street project

Public comments:

- Tadashi Moody; Dane Olmoss; Unnamed individual; and Chris Sinclair, DYSA President: Support allocation of funds for Community Park bathroom and fencing improvements. Project should be expedited. Girl softball players feel uncomfortable and unsafe using bathroom during tournaments. Important to continue to address inequity in girls' sports funding.
- Luke Turner, Carmen and Alma Hernandez Day Turner, Chris Burnar, Eli Bing, Cameron Perry, Santos, Isaiah, Daniel Fueror, Chris Cassias, Luke Turner, Nicki Hart, Emmette McQue, Ruddy Gustaffson, Adam, Vladamir Sokoll, Ty, and five unnamed individuals: Support allocation of funds for improvements to the Community Park Skatepark. Skatepark is outdated. Skating is a good way for youth to spend time and stay healthy. Skate culture is active in the city. For many youth, traditional team sports are not a comfortable way to express themselves in safe and community environment. Improvements will allow more people to access.
- Chris Granger, Cool Davis: Look forward to working with staff and Council on implementing the CAAP. Important to have resilient buildings, systems, streets in order to face weather events of the future.
- Brett Maresca, Davis Downtown Business Association: Propose additional Davisphere events in the future located in the downtown core instead of at Central Park. Intend for future events to be self-sustaining. Support additional funding to assist businesses in recovering from COVID.
- Alan Hirsch: Need to allocate additional funding for downtown trees and downtown tree plan.

J. Chapman: Recused himself from discussion related to ARPA funding allocation for the downtown due to business interest and left the room.

G. Partida moved, seconded by D. Neville to Approve Resolution No. 23-130 - Authorizing the Provision of ARPA Funds to Fund Programs and Projects That Benefit the Downtown's Economic Recovery. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Neville, Partida, Vaitla, Arnold

NOES: None

ABSENT: Chapman (recuse)

J. Chapman returned to the dais.

B. Vaitla moved, seconded by G. Partida, as follows:

1. Confirm \$225,000 allocation for Yolo Adult Day Health
2. Confirm \$910,623 allocation for existing homelessness services
3. Authorize City Manager to make additional adjustments if necessary

B. Vaitla amended motion to include: Authorize Council Subcommittee on Homelessness to work with staff on allocating the proposed amount of \$297,000 to be used toward support of existing homelessness services in the community. Accepted by second.

Motion passed unanimously

W. Arnold: Interested in staff returning to Council with plan to improve usability of park restrooms.

City Manager Mike Webb: Potential to use park safety rehabilitation funding for interim measures related to additional cleaning of park bathrooms. In longer term, Council has approved an assessment of park facilities leading to update of Parks Master Plan.

J. Chapman moved, seconded by B. Vaitla, to approve funding recommendations related to:

1. Community Park Improvements (bathroom, fencing) – \$1 million
2. Community Park Skate Park Improvements – \$600,000
3. Park Safety Rehabilitation – \$142,795

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Vaitla moved, seconded by J. Chapman, to direct staff as follows:

1. Set up a City Climate Trust Fund with \$500,000 from General Fund
2. Backfill General Fund by allocating \$500,000 in ARP funds towards projects already identified and approved

3. Approve allocation of \$100,000 in ARP funds to Climate Action Efforts – Cool Davis
4. Allocate minimum amount from city Climate Trust Fund to open a Climate Trust Fund account with Sacramento Community Foundation to establish a mechanism for community donations

Motion passed unanimously.

M. Webb: Staff will work with Council Subcommittee on CAAP to allocate climate trust fund dollars.

D. Neville moved, seconded by J. Chapman, to approve funding recommendations related to:

1. Economic Development Funds – \$50,000
2. Respite Center – \$25,000
3. Housing Transition Assistance – \$34,000

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Vaitla moved, seconded by J. Chapman, to approve Resolution No. 23-131 - Authorizing the Provision of ARPA Funds to City Programs and Projects Affected by COVID and to Amend the Budget to Allocate Funds Necessary for the Allocation, amended to include the changes noted above. Motion passed unanimously.

AB 1234 Reporting

G. Partida: Attended Yolo County Court Appointed Special Advocates Gala at city expense.

Long Range Calendar

City Manager Mike Webb: Next meeting is October 3. Possibly bringing back peripheral development rubric with commission input. Caltrans I-80 widening project draft EIR has not been released yet so October 17 is no longer a critical date for submitting comments. Possibility to move meeting from October 17 to October 24. Will poll Council schedules.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:49 p.m.

Zoe Mirabile
City Clerk