

MINUTES OF THE DAVIS CITY COUNCIL
Meeting of October 3, 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 B. Vaitla, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Ceremonial Presentations Ceremonial Presentations of Proclamations Recognizing:
A. October 4 as Energy Efficiency Day, presented by J. Chapman
B. October 9 as Indigenous People’s Day, presented by G. Partida
C. October 24 as United Nations Day, presented by B. Vaitla
D. October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, presented by D. Neville
E. October as Dysautonomia Awareness Month, presented by W. Arnold
F. October as Filipino American History Month, presented by J. Chapman
G. October as Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month, presented by B. Vaitla

City Council recessed at 7:02 p.m. and reconvened at 7:16 p.m.

City Manager Announcements City Manager Mike Webb: October 4—G Street Design Community Meeting, on site between Second and Third Street. October 14—Natalie’s Corner Kick Off Event at Central Park. October 14—Fire Department Open House at fire Station 31. October 15—Davis Neighbors’ Night Out.

City Council Announcements and Liaison Reports None

Public Comments Mayor Arnold: Announced changes to public comments procedures: Will enforce two minute time limit and no longer allow submission of on screen presentations by members of the public.

- Ning Wan: Concerns about potential fire hazards at city properties.
- Lois Wolk, Citizens Committee Supporting Natalie’s Corner: October 14 event will feature plans, mock up versions of art and benches. Fundraising efforts ongoing—support by buying a brick.
- Alan Miller: Concerns about recent community events that have featured dogmatic approaches to topics on both sides of an issue.
- Alan Hirsch: Oppose change to public comment procedures. Public should be allowed to share presentations on screen.
- Connor Gorman: October 5—encourage community to support UAW labor union member efforts.
- Todd Edelman: Concerns about repaving multi-use path in South Davis along Putah Creek.

Consent Calendar

Amendment No. 1 to On-Call Engineering Services Master Agreement Task Order No. 6 for Sewer Lift Station Design, CIP ET8275
Approve Resolution No. 23-132 - Approving Amendment No. 1 to Task Order 6 for Additional Design and Construction Support Services with HDR for Lift Station Design

Amendment No. 3 to On-Call Engineering Services Master Agreement Task Order 3 for Mace Boulevard Reconstruction, CIP No. ET8257
Approve Resolution No. 23-133 - Approving Amendment No. 3 to Task Order No. 3 for Construction Support Services with Fehr and Peers for the Mace Blvd Reconstruction Project

Reject All Bids and Re-Bid Sports Field Improvements – Drinking Fountains Installation Project, CIP No. ET0002
Approve Resolution No. 23-134 - Rejecting All Bids for the Sports Field Improvements – Drinking Fountain Installation Project and Authorizing City Staff to Re-Bid the Project at a Later Date

City Manager Purchasing and Approval Authorization During Council Recess – Summary of Actions
Informational. Receive accounting of actions taken by City Manager with additional approval authority granted via Resolution 23-102 during summer 2023 Council recess

Commission Minutes:
 1. Bicycling, Transportation, and Street Safety Commission Meeting of June 13, 2023
 2. Historical Resources Management Commission Meeting of June 19, 2023
Informational

J. Chapman moved, seconded by D. Neville, to approve consent calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

The Promenade (Nishi) – Agricultural Mitigation Land Proposal

Real Property Manager Tracie Reynolds: Overview of the city’s requirements related to agricultural mitigation for development project—location, size, shape, soil condition, water quality and availability. Summarized the Promenade developer’s mitigation proposal. Location is within the Davis planning area and one of the city’s priority acquisition areas. Open Space & Habitat Commission reviewed proposal and supports.

Public comment:

Patrick Huber: Support accepting proposal as agricultural mitigation for the Promenade.

D. Neville moved, seconded by B. Vaitla, to Approve Resolution No. 23-135 - (1) Approving 94 Acres Owned By the Tauzer Family as the Agricultural Mitigation Land for the Promenade Residential Development with the General Conditions Outlined in This Resolution and (2) Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agricultural Conservation Easement in Conformity with This Approval, as Outlined in This Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Downtown Decorative Lighting: Amendment to the Davis Municipal Code Related to Prohibited Acts Street Trees and City Trees

Public Works Utilities & Operations Director Stan Gryczko: Currently, the Davis Municipal Code prohibits lights on trees. Need to balancing competing goals—remove wrapped lights on downtown trees that are harmful to tree health, minimize impact to tree health with future lighting scheme, yet still provide ambiance and atmosphere downtown. Temporary lighting scheme consists of lights minimally attached to trees. Tree Commission recommends the prohibition of lights on downtown trees until a pilot project is approved by City Council that include preserving tree health. Next steps—work on solution that protects trees and standardizes approach.

City Manager Mike Webb: Downtown lighting provides aesthetics and ambiance, low scale supplemental lighting of dark spots downtown.

Public comments:

- Alan Hirsch: Need permanent plan and standards that can’t be over-written because of business interests.
- Alan Miller: Read poem about lights in trees and impacts to tree health.
- Roberta Millstein, Marsha Lovesham, and Todd Edelman: Oppose lights in trees. Council should retain and enforce prohibition; protect trees because they provide environmental benefits.

- Colin Walsh: Need plan and consultation with community before any lighting is used. Downtown trees have been damaged by string lights.
- Aaron Wedra: Support lighting that contributes to ambiance and safety. Should implement best practices.

J. Chapman moved, seconded by D. Neville, as follows:

1. Introduce Ordinance Amending Section 37.02.040 of Chapter 37 of the Davis Municipal Code Regarding Prohibited Acts Related to Street Trees and City Trees and Finding Project Exempt from CEQA Pursuant to Sections 15061 (b)(3) and 15304 (e)
2. Approve Resolution No. 23-136 - Authorizing the Installation of Temporary Decorative Lighting by City Staff in the Trees within in the Downtown, amended to include a sunset date of March 31, 2024
3. Direct City staff to prepare documentation for an administrative exemption from City Municipal Code 8.17.030 - Outdoor Lighting Control General Requirements for the purposes of installing temporary decorative lighting in the Downtown

Motion passed unanimously.

City Council recessed at 8:34 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

Long Range Growth Subcommittee: Rubric Draft and Commission Review/Discussion

Community Development Director Sherri Metzker: Subcommittee presented interim criteria in April, and after direction to return with more detailed assessment, a draft rubric was presented in May. Between July and September, rubric was presented to several commissions for feedback. All commission feedback was presented to the Planning Commission, whose feedback was not to use the rubric in its current state.

B. Vaitla: Summarized revised rubric tool that is contextualized to Davis, creates foundation for upcoming General Plan update, evaluates and incentivizes moving beyond minimum requirements, simpler to understand, quicker to complete by applicants, easily converted for use in public communication. Five categories of indicators: housing, climate/environmental justice, circulation, conservation, and land use and community amenities. Intent for this to be a living document; items and weights can be altered as understanding of needs evolves. Forthcoming web-based tool. Goal is to pilot this rubric tool with existing projects.

Public comments:

- Patrick Huber: Support changes. Conservation indicator—appreciate inclusion of connectivity. Suggest develop some way to show current policy versus what would advance requirements.
- Judy Ennis: Impressed with public input process including commission input. Support “neighborhoods of the future” term. Need to incentivize affordable housing and green building innovation.

- Amy Madevoy, Davis Community Action Network: Appreciate focus on intersection of housing and climate. Rubric helps set vision for future. Support living documents that adapts, not focused on achieving perfection.
- Darryl Rutherford: Proposed changes improved rubric. Affordable housing should be more heavily weighted. Rubric will be a helpful guiding document. Should implement a General Plan update.
- John Johnston: Appreciate commission input on rubric. Revised rubric is simplified.
- George Phillips, representing Shriners project: Priority should be designing desirable, responsible, and sustainable neighborhoods that meet all requirements. Consider best practices and flexibility.
- Matt Kelsing: Support revised rubric.
- Johnathon London: Support adoption of rubric to guide peripheral development. Will contribute to better and more transparent decisions. Consider social equity when making decisions.
- Elaine Roberts-Musser: Need more time to review rubric. Rubric is too long and contains inaccuracies. Suggest developer input.
- Connor Gorman: General idea of rubric is useful, guiding tool for developers to address community needs. Affordability should be given higher priority.

City Manager Mike Webb: Suggest adopt rubric version 1.0 as a pilot and direct staff to work on creating an online tool to solicit feedback. Direct the Long Range Growth subcommittee to evaluate feedback from time to time, and return to Council with revisions as necessary.

J. Chapman moved, seconded by D. Neville, as follows:

1. Adopt Long Range Growth Rubric (Peripheral Growth Rubric (“PGR”)) as an initial version and a pilot, living document
2. Direct staff to work with the Information Systems Department to develop an online tool to solicit feedback
3. Ask Long Range Growth subcommittee to evaluate feedback from time to time, and return to Council with revisions as necessary

G. Partida suggest subcommittee consider adding “weights” to certain indicators: housing affordability, density and transportation. Council consensus.

Motion passed unanimously.

AB 1234 Reporting

D. Neville and G. Partida: Attended League of California Cities Conference.

Long Range Calendar

M. Webb: October 17 meeting has been rescheduled to October 24.

B. Vaitla: Agendize discussion of next General Plan Update. Council consensus.

M. Webb: Will bring back range of options, timelines.

G. Partida: Closed captioning for City Council meetings?

K. Stachowicz: Staff has been working on technical fixes to mobile version. Will be able to activate at next meeting.

G. Partida: Senior Center improvements update?

M. Webb: Senior Center improvements (outdoor patio; roofing and other structural improvements) already budgeted, will bid this fall. Project will be accomplished in phases.

B. Vaitla: Agendize discussion of future uses of 3rd & B Building.

Public comment:

- Alan Miller: Should consider increasing public comment time allotment per person.

Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Zoe Mirabile
City Clerk