

MINUTES OF THE DAVIS CITY COUNCIL
Meeting of February 4, 2025

The City Council of the City of Davis met in regular meeting session beginning at 6:34 p.m. in the Community Chambers, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, California. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bapu Vaitla.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Present: Josh Chapman, Linda Deos, Donna Neville, Gloria Partida, Bapu Vaitla

Councilmembers Absent: None

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

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

Ceremonial Presentation Proclamation Recognizing February as Black History and Black Futures Month, presented by B. Vaitla.

City Council recessed at 6:38 p.m. and reconvened at 6:40 p.m.

City Manager Announcements M. Webb: February Polar Pedal Challenge encourages students to ride bikes in the winter. February 17—City offices closed in observance of Presidents Day. February 19—Yolo County Day of Remembrance of Executive Order 9066, film screening co-sponsored by Human Relations Commission.

City Council Announcements and Liaison Reports None.

Public Comments

- Alan Miller: Representing Old East Davis Neighborhood Association. Numerous traffic accidents at 5th and J Streets, dangerous intersection. Request barriers next to left turn lanes at I, J, and K Streets.
- Gerry Howlett, Stories on Stage Davis: Present established and emerging authors and actors, host in-person events. Thank city for grant funds, dedication to the arts is making a difference.
- Elaine Roberts-Musser: Consent calendar item Down Payment Assistance Program Framework Ordinance—oppose. Cost to administer program and no dedicated funding source. Hope Fiscal Commission takes a hard look at program costs.

- Alan Hirsch: Consent calendar item Public Works Design Standards—does not mention bus stops and lack of shade. Bike lanes are inadequate for e-bikes.
- Joel Rapaport, Davis Music Initiative: Thank city for grants to support musicians and music venues. Able to fund musicians at restaurants and bars.
- Mark Husing: City should push the envelope on transportation. Focus efforts on mode shift, encourage biking.
- John and Katherine Keller: Consent calendar item Down Payment Assistance Program Framework Ordinance—Concerns about funding. Need tight program guidelines. Criteria should exclude student eligibility and prioritize young families.
- Connor Gorman: Consent calendar item Community Park restroom replacement—Support. Should also upgrade Central Park restrooms. Consent Calendar Item Human Relations Commission Film Screening—important educational event to not repeat history.
- Todd Edelman: Consent calendar item Ordinance All Way Stop at 6th & C Streets—new Daylighting law should be applicable at intersection. Should pull item for City engineer to explain decision.

Ryan Chapman, PWET Assistant Director: Working with neighborhood association to address traffic issues. Next steps will be outreach to neighborhood about traffic calming options and impacts. Will return to Council with final proposal.

Consent Calendar

Community Park Restroom Replacement, CIP No. ET0025
Approve Resolution No. 25-011 – Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract for Pre-Fabricated Building Manufacturing and Installation with the Public Restroom Company (PRC) for the Community Park Restroom Replacement Project, and Finding the Project Exempt from Review Pursuant to CEQA Regulation Guidelines Section §15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

Replacement Storage Area Network (SAN) for the Police Department
Approve Resolution No. 25-012 – Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase a Replacement Storage Area Network from HPE/Immer1 Technology Group

Public Works Section V Transportation Systems Design Standards Cleanup
Approve Resolution No. 25-013 – Adopting the 2025 Public Works Section V Transportation Systems Design Standards

Establishing an All Way Stop at the Intersection of 6th and C Streets

Introduce Ordinance Designating a New Stop Intersection, Amending Chapter 22 of the Davis Municipal Code, and Making a CEQA Exemption Determination

Second Reading: Ordinance Amending Section 18.05.020 (Definitions) and Adding a New Section 18.05.080 (Down Payment Assistant Program Framework) to Chapter 18 (Housing) to Establish a Framework for a Down Payment Assistance Program for Income-Eligible Households
Adopt Ordinance No. 2672 (Introduced 01/21/2025)

2025-26 City Council Liaison Assignments

Approve modifications to Council assignments for the following 2025-26 liaison appointments:

1. Appoint Linda Deos as the regular liaison to Human Relations Commission
2. Appoint Bapu Vaitla as the alternate liaison to Yolo County Housing

Commission Action/Update: Human Relations Commission Co-Sponsoring Film Screening in Recognition of Day of Remembrance of Japanese American Incarceration During World War II

Informational

Commission Minutes:

1. Human Relations Commission Meeting of November 21, 2024
2. Planning Commission Meetings of August 28, September 11 and 25, and October 9, 2024

Informational

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

Preliminary Discussion and City Council Direction on Initial Steps of Creating an Economic Development Strategic Plan to Achieve the City Council Goal of “Stepping Up Eco-

Economic Development Director Katie Yancey: Overview of current and potential economic development activities and creation of Strategic Plan. Seek Council feedback on key efforts.

Public comments:

- Tim Keller, Inventopia: Support efforts. Over past 8 years, have incubated over 40 companies. More than half of existing businesses in Inventopia are food tech.
- Alan Hirsch: Need to categorize business types, distinguish which will stay and grow in Davis. Should focus on businesses that generate tax revenue. Need a music venue and more high-end restaurants.
- Elaine Roberts-Musser: Support moving forward with Economic Development Plan. Downtown needs improved safety and business facades/aesthetics and diversification of business types. Address sales

conomic Development Activities”

tax leakage and workforce housing needs. Should include commissions and stakeholders.

- Connor Gorman: Support city addressing economic development. Should have robust community input, including commissions. Support discussion regarding living wages, including workers’ benefits such as medical coverage and paid time off. Consider commercial vacancy tax or commercial rent control.

Councilmembers provided individual comments, including:

- Support vision of aligning community identity with specific goals to generate revenue.
- Support hybrid approach allowing simultaneous implementation of immediate programs while developing a Strategic Plan.
- Support economic gardening—focus on youth, minority and women owned businesses.
- Support Living Wage objective.
- Need more analysis to understand which strategies and approaches will work. What is the deliverable? Cost? Who are key partners?
- Engage in regional efforts.
- Local businesses—address barriers. Support permit streamlining. Address issue of planned development overlays.
- Support Economic Development Plan by end of calendar year.
- Determine what deliverables define Davis. Sustainable food/ag/design/buildings and innovation. Attract businesses that focus on sustainability.
- Interested in branding/Davis identity.

B. Vaitla moved, seconded by D. Neville, to create the following Council Subcommittees:

1. Business Retention and Expansion and City-Business 2x2 Committee (or Standing Subcommittee) (G. Partida and L. Deos)
2. Business Attraction and Economic Growth (D. Neville and J. Chapman)

Motion passed unanimously.

M. Webb staff clarification: Process streamlining efforts are universal irrespective of target sectors, includes update/modernize and streamline zoning. Business outreach efforts are ongoing. Staff will look into re-establishing City-Business 2x2.

G. Partida moved, seconded by L. Deos, to direct staff to move forward with a hybrid approach to continue working on the creation of an Economic Development Strategic Plan while simultaneously implementing key proposed programs or activities, with further input and guidance from the two Council Subcommittees. Motion passed unanimously.

By consensus, the newly created Council Subcommittees will discuss and recommend target industry sectors to focus local economic development efforts.

K. Yancey staff recommendation: Focus on the following programs: permit streamlining, Chamber MOU update, business climate improvement activities including business walk and small business preservation, and workforce development efforts included in Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan.

Council consensus to move forward with staff recommendation for next steps.

By consensus, Council supports utilizing a “living wage” objective for business and job growth.

AB 1234 Reporting

L. Deos: Attended League of California Cities Councilmember Training

G. Partida, D. Neville, L. Deos, and J. Chapman: Attended Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner

Long Range Calendar

M. Webb: Next meeting February 18. Will work with Mayor to add items to long range calendar.

Public comments: None

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Zoe Mirabile
City Clerk