

Special Meeting of the City of Davis and Davis Municipal Authority

April 2, 2025, 6:00 PM
Davis City Council Chambers
308 S 3rd St
Davis, OK 73030

Agenda Item #1: Call to order Davis City Council

- Meeting called to order by Mayor/Chairman Brian Davis. Time: 6:00 PM

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call.

- Mayor/Chairman Brian Davis – present; Vice Mayor/Vice Chairman Stan Jones – present; Councilman/Trustee Josh Oakley – present; Councilman/Trustee Clint Grinstead – present; Councilman/Trustee Jeremy Bumgarner – present.

Agenda Item #3: Prayer

- Prayer led by Jones.

Agenda Item #4: Pledge of Allegiance

- Pledge of Allegiance led by Davis.

Agenda Item #5: Consideration and possible action to enter into executive session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B)(1) discussing the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee:

- a. Resignation of City Manager – Ricky Harness
 - Motion to enter executive session made by Oakley. Second by Grinstead. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes. Time: 6:02 PM
- b. Appointment of Interim City Manager – Susan Suther
 - Motion to enter executive session made by Oakley. Second by Grinstead. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes. Time: 6:02 PM
- c. Appointment of Interim City Treasurer – Sirena Gaddis
 - Motion to enter executive session made by Oakley. Second by Grinstead. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes. Time: 6:02 PM

Agenda Item #6: Consideration and possible action to return from executive session.

- Motion made by Oakley to return from executive session. Second by Bumgarner. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes. Time: 8:02 PM

Agenda Item #7: Presentation of executive session minutes by City Attorney to City Clerk/Treasurer.

- Executive session minutes presented to the City Clerk/Treasurer by email from the City Attorney.

Agenda Item #8: Consideration and possible action regarding items discussed in executive session:

- a. Resignation of City Manager – Ricky Harness
 - Motion made by Davis to accept the resignation of City Manager Ricky Harness effective April 11, 2025 at 5:00 PM. Second by Grinstead. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes.
- b. Appointment of Interim City Manager – Susan Suther

- Motion made by Davis to appoint Susan Suther as Interim City Manager effective April 11, 2025 at 5:01 PM with 37.1% increase to her current salary. Second by Grinstead. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes.

c. Appointment of Interim City Treasurer – Sirena Gaddis

- Motion made by Davis to appoint Sirena Gaddis as Interim City Treasurer effective April 11, 2025 at 5:01 PM at a payrate of Grade 14, Step 9. Second by Bumgarner. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes.

Agenda Item #9: Consideration and possible action to approve amend or deny Resolution #702 Authorizing Signers on all Accounts.

- Motion made by Davis to approve Resolution #702 Authorizing Signers on all Accounts amending to include Bumgarner and Grinstead. Second by Grinstead. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes.
- Presentation of Resolution #702 by Susan Suther, City Clerk/Treasurer. With the appointment to Interim City Manager, Suther needs to be removed from the bank accounts as a signer and Sirena Gaddis needs to be added in her place. Bumgarner volunteered to serve as a signer when/if needed. Grinstead agreed to remain a signer on the accounts.

Agenda Item #10: Consideration and possible action to approve amend or deny Resolution #703 Authorizing Business Officers to apply for credit on behalf of the Davis Municipal Authority.

- Motion made by Davis to approve Resolution #703 Authorizing Business Officers to apply for credit on behalf of the Davis Municipal Authority. Second by Oakley. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes.
- Presentation of Resolution #703 by Suther. Currently the purchase card is in the name of Ricky Harness this needs to be removed from his name and assigned to another individual, Susan Suther, Interim City Manager.

Agenda Item #11: Presentation of proposal by Wright Water for Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant Management

- Introduction of Shawn Wright, Wright Water made by Harness. Wright provided a presentation about the privatization of Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant Management. His focus was on the benefits of privatization with any management firm, not just Wright Water. Discussion of an aging work force and the lack of licensed operators. Highlight of program benefits including QAQC program, maintenance program, and asset management. Discussion of the back up/depth and lack of succession plan in municipalities. Wright opened the floor to questions from the council/board. Grinstead asked if there are errors/mistakes under a privatization contract, is that grounds for a release from the contract? Wright responded with the explanation of the “get out” clause. Grinstead asked about these services being offered with a 12-month contract. Wright confirmed that the contract is a five-year contract. Harness clarified that the contract is based on an annual rate, multi-year contract, of five years. Grinstead asked if there are fines or assessments from DEQ or other legal issues under a privatization contract, is Wright Water responsible for those. Wright responded that anything after control changes and under Wright Water control is their responsibility. He did state that if something was reported to the municipality, that was the responsibility of the municipality, and it was not addressed and resulted in the fines or assessments, that would be the responsibility of the municipality. Further discuss of the management process was had. For references, Wright provided Bethany/Warr Acres, Holdenville and El Reno. Wright stated he would provide the contract for the council/board members to review. Kristin Jarman, City Attorney, asked if it is a standardized contract. Wright confirmed that it is with the exception of which plant, or both plants, line maintenance or no line maintenance. Wright also added that the contract is a five-year with two five-year roll overs. Question asked if the rollovers would be at the same rate. Wright stated each five-year roll over will increase at a rate of 5% or CPI, whichever is greater. Bumgarner asked about maintenance

being included. Wright stated routine day-to-day maintenance is covered, but other will fall to a third party. If parts are needed, plant staff will source quotes and provide to the municipality for order placement. Wright stated that the cause of privatization above the municipality cost to staff is 20%. Looking at our current staffing levels, it is a much higher percentage because we are not staffed adequately for the management of the plants we operate. Harness stated that his concern is with the new Wastewater Treatment Plant that is under construction. Once it is completed, if it is understaffed the way our Water Treatment Plant has been since it was built, we will not get the anticipated life expectancy from it.

Agenda Item #12: Discussion and review of proposed City of Davis and Davis Municipal Authority FY 2025-2026 Budget, all funds.

- Presentation of the budget documents in the packet by Harness. SUM C and DMA C are the budget documents for privatized contract management of the Water Treatment Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. SUM1 and DMA1 are the budget documents for municipality managed plants adding three additional licensed employees to each plant. SUM 2 and DMA 2 are the budget documents for municipality managed plants adding one manager over both plants and two additional employees to each plant, all licensed. SUM SQ and DMA SQ is operating the plants as we have now with one Public Works Director and four water/wastewater employees to cover management of both plants and all line and lift station maintenance. Harness stated we cannot go back to where we were. We have a hard time finding and keeping employees. Harness would like to find a good mix and highly recommends privatization. Grinstead stated where we are is not from current management it came to be like this as a result of 40 years of operations. Bumgarner would like Harness and Suther to reach out to surrounding cities for comparisons to their operations. Harness mentioned he reached out over a year and a half ago to Wright Water as they were highly recommended by Parkhill and Garver. Davis asked if there were any more questions. Harness stated he wanted to present to the council to give time to be considered along with City Hall discussion. Most likely City Hall will be a multi-year solution due to funding.

Agenda Item #13: Adjourn

- Motion made by Davis to adjourn. Second by Jones. Vote: Bumgarner – yes; Grinstead – yes; Oakley – yes; Jones – yes; Davis – yes Time: 8:50 PM

ATTEST:

/s/Susan Suther
Susan Suther
City Clerk/Treasurer

/s/Brian Davis
Brian Davis
Mayor/Chairman