

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Gatt welcomed everyone back to our regular scheduled Novi City Council Meeting. This is the first meeting back since COVID, so it has been about 17 months since we have all gathered here. He expressed to the audience and to all watching on TV, we are happy to be back.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch

**ALSO PRESENT:** Peter Auger, City Manager  
Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager  
Tom Schultz, City Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Gatt added two "Presentations to the Agenda, 1. Jennifer Whitaker, from DTE and 2. North End Flooding. He also added "Cranbrooke Road Drive Sidewalk" to Mayor and Council Issues.

**CM 21-07-092 Moved by Casey, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Agenda as amended.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-07-092**                      **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt**  
**Nays: None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Gatt stated last Wednesday, a fast and furious storm moved throughout the whole area. It hit Novi and the surrounding areas very hard. He stated that thousands of people in Novi were without power for several days. He said the storm happened on Wednesday, around 4:30 p.m. and the power went out all over the City at that time. Some people got it back that day and some did not get their power restored until Sunday. He asked City Manager Auger if there were still people without power. City Manager Auger said to his knowledge everyone was back up with power as of this morning. Mayor Gatt confirmed the worst-case scenario, it was Wednesday through Sunday. He asked City Manager Auger to arrange to have someone from the DTE Corporate Office to come in. He promised her we were not going to beat her up that evening, she certainly did not do anything wrong. She was there to give them a report on the extent of the damage and the fix, if you will. He stated that after she was done talking, he would open it up to Councilmembers for any questions that she may be able

to answer, and if not, answers she can get back to them. He said he is the Mayor, he represented people up here, but he is also a citizen, taxpayer, homeowner, and he could tell you unequivocally that he was without power from Wednesday through Saturday evening, and it was a very difficult road to travel during that period. He said he was fortunate enough personally where he had invested in a portable generator and was able to keep his refrigerator and freezer running. He did not lose any food, but he knows of people up here who family lost hundreds of dollars' worth of food as well as hundreds if not thousand of people in Ohio. He thought they should hear from the representative of DTE, Jennifer Whitaker. He asked her to come down to the podium and brief them of what Edison's point of view is on this storm and then he will open it up to questions.

Jennifer Whitaker said she is the DTE Government Affairs Liaison to the municipalities in Oakland County. She said she was asked to come that evening to discuss the outages that have happened to Novi residents because of the storms. She stated that unfortunately, she only had preliminary information. She said most of their crews and engineers are still working on follow up activities from last week's storm, she had a little information, but felt it was not going to be enough to satisfy a lot of your questions and she understood that. She reiterated that we had a storm that came through Novi, Farmington, Farmington Hills, and the Bloomfield areas that produced straight line winds of more than 70 miles per hour and heavy rain. The weather caused significant damage to their equipment across the territory, including nearly 1,000 downed power lines, and many broken poles. The tree related damage was tremendous, including snapped branches and completely uprooted trees, which brought down lengths of poles with wires and equipment attached. She said she has been with DTE for almost 30 years, and this was one of the largest storms she has seen with a lot of damage that we did not expect. She apologized for the length of time it took to restore the service. She stated that during most storms, their field crews try to do is to restore the service quickly and safely, and before we make permanent repairs, we just could not do that, we had the trees, the large limbs and large trees that fell on the wires and we had to get the trees up off the wires before we could put the wires back in service. She said she knew that Novi residents received several estimates for restoration. She said digging deeper and speaking to our field teams, we discovered was that as crews came on the scene to begin their restoration work, they uncovered more and more damage that they were not expecting. She said this caused the change in estimates as field crews consider the number of resources and the materials that were needed to make full restorations. She explained that once we have completed their restoration follow up work that we will have our engineering and technical teams review what happened. She said they will share specific findings with the Mayor and City Manager Auger. She said they will analyze their own restoration processes as we do after every catastrophic storm. They look for opportunities to improve the customer experience and she apologized for the length of time residents were out of power. She agreed it was longer than any of us wanted. She said DTE is grateful for the partnership that we have shared with the city of Novi and its residents for many decades. She committed to following up with City Administration and how they could continue to improve that relationship going forward. Thank you.

Mayor Gatt thanked Ms. Whitaker for addressing the issue, and said we appreciated it. He said before he opened it up for questions, he had a few questions and a couple of comments. He said she did not mention that your customers kept receiving notices that the power is going to be restored by 11:30 p.m. tonight, which was on Wednesday night. He said Wednesday, they said it would be restored by Thursday at 11:30 p.m. Thursday, they got a notice saying it is going to be restored by 11:30 p.m. and then of course Friday came, and it was not restored. He said Friday morning he received a notice on his phone saying power was restored and he went to his basement to turn on the power and that was false, it did not happen. He said when the power came back on was when four Detroit Edison trucks and two Davey trucks pulled down his street. He lives on a court, the Davey people went up in a boom and cut down a branch, the Edison people went down to the end of the street, and they replaced a fuse. He understood that is what they call it, it is a lot more than a fuse, but within 10 minutes, the power was back on. He said it occurred to him and the 50 people in his subdivision that had Edison had enough crews out working perhaps they could have fixed their power instead of waiting four days. He felt it could have been done much sooner. So, his question or complaint was how many crews Edison sent out, you said this was one of the biggest storms you have seen. You said it was Novi, Farmington Hills, and the Bloomfield area. It was not the whole metropolitan area. He suspected that we got all the crews here. He said in fact, he thought Edison said in one of their messages he received they had a bunch of crews coming in from out of state. Ms. Whitaker replied, yes, they did. Mayor Gatt asked why it took until Saturday at 5:30 p.m. to send crews to put a whole subdivision back in service. Ms. Whitaker said she did not know the particulars for his subdivision. She said in certain cases where you are in an area where the power is out you may not see the trucks right away. She stated sometimes upstream there is a downed wire that must be repaired, and that can affect everything downstream from that wire. She explained it depends on how much work that needed to be done upstream could have affected how long it took for them to get to you at that end. Mayor Gatt said he understood, he stated he was out driving around the area and he did not see anyone working within a half a mile or so. He said most of the work was being done in the Village Oaks Subdivision which is almost three quarters of a mile away from his subdivision. He said his last questions is regarding where he lives in Meadowbrook Lake and other people at the table will attest to it, is that they have lost power three times this year. He asked that DTE investigate what is causing that and asked that they get it fixed. He thanked Ms. Whitaker for coming out.

Member Crawford followed up on one of the Mayor's comments. He said fortunately he did not lose his power this time, although everything you were looking at out his dining room window was going sideways. He said his power usually does go out, but it did not this time. He stated a few years ago, power was out for almost a week. He said when the crews finally got out, they went across the street, cut a limb off a wire, the wire was not down, and they power was back on within a half an hour. They were out for a whole week. He said he knew they are trying to restore the most people the soonest, but sort of what the Mayor said earlier, if you had some other crews or a small crew that could check on these little isolated spots, there is probably only 10 or 15 people at this applied to, but it was out for a week, if they could go around and see is that was a simple fix, it would be nice. He said it is very frustrating to again be without power for a week, and

then 15 minutes after Edison shows up the power is back on and was thinking could not that have been done five days ago. He said it is a sort of observation and complaint all rolled into one. Thank you.

Member Casey thanked Ms. Whitaker for coming. She asked Ms. Whitaker how DTE decides to go first, how do you triage hazards first. Ms. Whitaker said any public essential services such as police, fire, hospital, anywhere there are downed wires those must be managed first. She stated we had so many downed wires, the folks that those want the one-man crews that we send out that might have been able to do those simple fixes have to check on each and everywhere a downed wire that is called in. She said there are instances where some folks are out of power and they call in a downed wire, they still must go out and check on it to make sure it is a valid request. She stated that they check on all the hazards first, then as Council stated, we go to the larger areas where the outages are so that we can restore the larger areas first, and then we triage from there. We have assessors that go out and try to assess how much damage is out there so that they can match the resources and materials to the case. That is continuous throughout the storm, so it is hazards, and then the largest outages first. Member Casey echoed the previous comments about having an understanding from DTE about the condition of the equipment in our City that services that subdivision that has been out two times outside of the major storm that we had last week, two times in a year. She said each of them know of resident who have invested in generators, because there are frequent enough power outages that becomes a worthwhile investment. She said she would appreciate understanding the condition of the equipment that services Novi, that would be helpful as well. Ms. Whitaker said sure.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he had a little bit of a different angle on this. He said when he was driving around on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, he was watching where the crews were working in. He noticed that the trees had completely overwhelmed most of the power lines in some of these areas. He said there is a subdivision called Willowbrook, where he saw a lot of yellow tape, so a lot of wires were down, he saw a lot of crews, but he could hardly see the lines because they were running in through the trees. He said what can we do as a community working with you, maybe the Homeowners Associations and the residents to start cleaning this up. He said he remembered, growing up where the power company would come constantly, and in especially these older subdivisions, it is interesting his subdivision has underground power, so they have different problems. He said this subdivision has old lines, and these trees have just completely overwhelmed them. He wondered if there was something that we can work in partnership with DTE on in getting these lines clean. He said he has heard varying opinions about it is the resident's responsibility to keep them clean, it is DTE, or it is the Homeowners Association. What is not happening is that they are not clean, and we got the worst-case scenario with these microbursts 70 mile an hour winds that took down all these small limbs in addition to bigger trees. He said some of this must be preemptive and not wait until the next big storm, we need to start trimming some of these and clearing the lines. He stated if there is something the City can do, something we can do with DTE, we have got to do this because that subdivision had he would have guessed were about 20 spots that he saw lines down. He wondered if DTE had anything in the works with municipalities in



helping to clean this up or is this the responsibility of DTE, who will ultimately makes sure that this does not happen in the future. Ms. Whitaker said they are investing in more tree trimming; we are putting all our circuits on a five-year cycle. She said she will have to check where they are at in particular to where all the outages were at in the last storm. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt stated he could guarantee the area that he was looking at has not been trimmed in five years, and probably much longer because there were areas where you could not even see the poles or the lines. He said he has talked to many of the residents, clearly, they understood there was potential for a problem, because there had been discussion in their Homeowners Association about trimming trees. He thought there seemed to be a real public relations issue that DTE has made it clear who is responsible for doing what. Ms. Whitaker explained that DTE as part of their maintenance program, we clear the lines that are in our easement area 10 to 15 feet from the center of the line, right. We have instituted that five-year plan, but it was recently instituted, so she will check again, when the last time that circuit was trimmed. She stated they have not gotten to all of them since it is a newly instituted process. She said it would not surprise her if it has been a while and that subdivision that was mentioned, those trees that are outside of that easement line though are on private property. She said if they fall on their line, they fall on our line so then they must manage the maintenance and getting them off their lines if it causes a power outage. She said the lines that go from the pole to your home, are the homeowner's responsibility. She said if the tree trimming is required there, the homeowner would need to hire a contractor to trim those lines to from your service job. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said these were largely pole to pole. Ms. Whitaker responded and said those are DTE's to manage. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he lives close to the Mayor and Member Casey, and we seem like we are disproportionately down with power. He said the last major power outage he could remember was seven or eight days. He said you cannot exist anymore with power down, especially with the number of seniors we have in our community. He said putting a nice little van in the library parking lot with water and ice, that did not help them because they do not have vehicles to get to those things. He thought we must be far more preemptive, or we are going to have some serious long-term issues. He said the City gets hit constantly. He said maybe it is our responsibility to take pictures of the map, and after four to six times in a year, show you how many times we have been down. He thought somebody in engineering or somewhere needs to figure out what it is about this area. He said he looked at Metro Detroit, that area that was read on the map, the only place in the entire Metro Detroit areas was that spot and Novi were three of us live. He said we are a little more tuned to it than most people, but it happens over and over and over. He said if it happens again, soon, we are going to ask you to come back, and maybe bring one of your bosses to explain why this area gets hit over and over. Thank you.

Member Fischer thanked Ms. Whitaker for coming that evening. He said this is a fun topic to discuss, and he will continue to harp on the same topic. He certainly hoped that when you share this report with the Mayor, hopefully the rest of Council that these pockets that we are talking about are addressed in there. He said he gets many comments, many residents complaining from the same areas, whether it be Village Oaks, Willowbrook Lake, those areas tend to go down a lot, he believed she heard that. He thought someone needs to deep dive that and hopefully that can be in your report. He said his

mother, who is a senior citizen on a fixed income, also had to throw a lot of food away. He said he saw on social media, and residents that have reached out to him. He wondered if there was any anticipation that DTE would offer some sort of credit or some sort of reimbursement for the length of time that the power was out and what it caused? As far as spoilage for these residents? Ms. Whitaker apologized and said she did not know. She said she will find out. Member Fischer said that would be helpful. He said he thought it was fair, from an aspect to what the Mayor was talking about, there was a lot of confusion on the estimates that were coming out. He said when he spoke with his mother, they believed the power would be on within 24 to 48 hours which they relied on as to on whether to move food or do different things. He said they ended up having to throw quite a bit away. He said obviously residents are impacted, but two, the importance of those estimates and communicating them to residents and making sure that they are accurate. He hoped she could take that back as feedback as well. He thanked her again for coming and sharing what she did now and said he appreciated it.

Member Mutch thanked Ms. Whitaker for stepping forward and being willing to answer these questions. Member Mutch asked Ms. Whitaker how long she had been in this position for Oakland County. She said she has been in this position for Oakland County since March 2020. Member Mutch said the reason he asked that was that we had an email last August, that was signed, Ms. Whitaker, and he wanted to confirm. He said one of the things that you shared in that email with us, and this was sent to our City Manager, and he shared it with City Council. He read the email to provide a little context. He quoted from that email in 2020, "the majority of the customers in the areas of 10 Mile and Meadowbrook, which is the area that the previous speakers have been speaking about, have experienced one to three outages and one to three momentary interruptions due to tree interference in electric and equipment problems. We do have the circuit on a regular tree trim maintenance scheduled for next year." He asked, and he knew she may not have the answer that evening, did any of that tree maintenance that was scheduled happen this year or is that still pending? He quoted from the email that went on to say "in our experience electric reliabilities improved by 60% once trim maintenance is performed. This number of outages is considered slightly higher than our system average, which I noted at the time seemed high to me to have up to six outages in a year. So, we understand your residents concern, especially with many of us working from home, our engineering team continually analyzes the performance of our system. I will update you if we were able to make more improvements to the circuit yet this year." Member Mutch said obviously, one of the things he did is that he went back and looked through the reports that we have had about outages over the years and the Mayor noted the number of times it happened in the current year. He said we have had quite a few over the past number of years and in particular around Willowbrook, Village Oaks, and Meadowbrook Lake where the Mayor was noting the number of outages he has experienced personally. He stated it has been an ongoing basis. Member Mutch said it has been on an ongoing basis. He stated he went out, took some photos of some of the damage that was done to your system, we had a power line go down across I-275, where they actually had to close the freeway, and these poles were literally sapped in half. He recognized that at the same time, it seemed to him that there is a reliability issue in these areas that it has been ongoing. The best work he could use is a redundancy

issue, in terms of if a line in a particular neighborhood or a couple lines in a neighborhood go down, there does not seem to be any way to continue to bring power to that area. He said he knew next to nothing about electrical systems at the level that you deal with it, maybe this is just the nature of the systems. He thought that we needed more redundancy in our system so that if a tree lands on the line in the Mayor's neighborhood, it does not take out every home in that neighborhood, and it is not down for a week at a time. He said then somebody goes out and removes that one tree limb and replaces the fuse and things come back on. He said as he was going back through some of the information that has been shared with us, he has seen some references to system improvements that have been done to try and address that. He said essentially, if something faults that circuit, it will continue to check that circuit until that problem clears and then it would automatically bring everything back online. He said those are the kind of improvements he thought he would be looking to hear more about from DTE because that is the issue from his viewpoint. He understood we cannot control the trees falling on the lines, except to the degree that DTE is out there clearing them. He said he was surprised when Mayor Pro Tem Staudt noted that there are neighborhoods where the trees have grown up that much on the lines, because from what he has seen around the City, at least on our main roads, whoever you use for tree trimming, they are not going to take a little bit off just for aesthetics. They know they clear those lines significantly, and you see those big old mature trees that got the big v-notch through them. He said considering what has been shared with us previously he thought that we need more information. He knew he had more commentary than questions, he did not know if you can answer that one about the tree trimming done in Novi, whether it has been done, Ms. Whitaker said she had to check on it. He said his last comment on this issue is that he has been here a long time and seeing these issues come up and seeing City Administration has tried to work with DTE to get some of these problem areas addressed. He thought they have not made the progress we need to make. He thought the outages that are occurring and in this storm was significant, but he was sure the Mayor could attest, there are days when the winds are not blowing and the power goes out. He said he talked to some residents about this, a resident who lived in the Island Lake area which is on the far west side of the City said their power goes out all the time, sometimes 10 times in a year. It is not one of these extended outages, but there are some issues there. He suggested to his Councilmembers and City Administration that we should give some consideration to bringing in some outside expertise to assist us in looking at this because while DTE is responsible for supplying the power into this community, we as a City Council have the responsibility to provide oversight of that utility service being provided. He understood most of that is done at the state level, but he thought we need another set of eyes on this that can sit down and talk to the folks at DTE and try and get a handle on what are the kind of improvements that are needed to happen around various parts of the City, particularly focused in the southeast Novi areas because it is an ongoing problem. He stated he will only be here another four months, so someone else will have to carry this forward. He said we have reached the point that we just haven't seen enough improvements in the system, and we continue to suffer outages on a regular basis that we have got to try something different, we have to work with DTE and he appreciated that partnership. He said Ms. Whitaker noted they have been doing improvements to the system, but something is missing, or something different needs to be

done in this process to ensure that we can share with our residents that these outages are not going to continue to happen at the frequency they happen, regardless of whether the weather happens, or when the wind is not blowing. We need to provide reliable power in our neighborhoods. He believed that is something we should consider because we need more answers than we have gotten so far. He would like to see a plan to provide that level of assurance to our residents. Thank you.

Member Maday said she would not reiterate what everybody said on Council. She said it is clear how we all feel about this issue. She hoped that you see from all our comments how important it is to us and how urgent we feel it is that it gets solved, and that you are going to work to get something done, which was Member Mutch's point he made earlier. She he said it has been happening since at least the date he gave, and nothing got done. She hoped by bringing his issue forward that something gets accomplished. Thank you.

Mayor Gatt thanked Ms. Whitaker again for coming out and for being so brave to face this crowd tonight. He said he looked forward to hearing your report. He asked that she please take our comments and feeling back to her bosses.

Mayor Gatt mentioned that next Presentation on the Agenda is a report regarding the north end and flooding. He said in the last several days, the Council has received a lot of letters and emails and other ways of communication from residents in our north end who have a real problem with flooding in their homes, basements, and their lots. There is nothing worse than having water come in your house. He said he has had flooding and he knows exactly. He said we are going to get a report from our City Administration, and our engineers. He stated this is not something the City Council embraces, it is not something that we condone, we will not just sit back and say they are working on it. He said they are going to demand action, we are going to demand some resolution to your problems, because we feel for you, we truly do. He said again, there is nothing worse than having water come in your home, whether it is rainwater or sewage, because he has personally had both and it is a terrible thing. He said they have asked the City to prepare a presentation for us before you guys have a chance to talk, because he wanted to hear what the City has to say. He stated that City Council is a part-time gig up here, the Councilmembers are not full-time employees. He explained that they administer over the City Manager and the City Manager administers a day-to-day work schedule. He said they trust what they put into action happens and we certainly never put in the action people in the north end having this kind of problem, so with that he gave it over to City Manager Auger.

City Manager Auger asked DPW Director Herczeg to come down to the microphone. He asked Mr. Herczeg to not only deal with the north end, but all the storm sewer issues, because it was not the only area where we had issues in the City. He said they were hoping to have something before you this evening, but we did not get the estimates in time to get them in the packets to upgrade a system in the north end. He said there is a section we can do and move forward from our plans; we had in our future a little bit. With that, he asked Mr. Herczeg to bring Council up to speed.



DPW Director Herczeg said City Manager Auger wanted to give a general update of the storm with the high winds as a little less impactful as far as rainwater goes, but the week prior to that on June 25, the region received a significant amount of rain in a short period of time. He reported the totals ranged between two to six inches all over the region and Novi received about three to three and a half inches of rainfall, plus or minus the eight-hour period. He said given the rainfall in a few hours, water surcharges would be expected since our design standard for stormwater capacity and systems is based on a 10-year storm event which is roughly three inches of rain in a 24-hour period. He stated the three to three and a half inches of rain that we had fell into much less timeframe in a 24-hour period. He said most drains functioned as designed, and the water receded after a few hours. He said there were several problem areas that DPW addressed the day of the storm and then the week following. He stated that 10 Mile and Taft had a field culvert, our crews were out there last week to repair that and fix it, he believed it still needs to be restored. He reported Ridge Road East had an obstruction in their system which was cut out by a contractor on July 6 and restored. He stated Beck Road between 11 mile and Grand River we had a blocked culvert there, which also needed to be cleared immediately. He said some other areas that did need ditching that we could not access because of the high-water levels, they are still on our to do list. He said one of them is 10 Mile and the railroad crossing was a problem that night. He said Taft north before us also has some culvert clearing that needs to be done, as well as Chapman at Meadowbrook Lake, which was part of a stream bank stabilization project that we have in the queue for 2022, but it does need immediate attention to unblock that. He said several areas that needed to follow up on after we cleared just debris from the catch basins, which was a big problem. He said the amount of rain that fell carried a lot of sediment leaves that black swan that caused some flooding and once those were cleared, that water receded, that happened in multiple areas. He stated our Neighborhood Road Program (NRP) construction also suffered from some impactful flooding. He said we have sediment control fabric otop of the catch basins during those projects and the rate of the rain that fell caused problems, but as soon as the contractor got out there and removed the fabric that water receded quickly. Some of those areas had high water. He stated there were some private concerns, several that they are working through; Brookstone, Christina Lane, Sarah Flynn, Strath Haven, some that have traditionally been a problem that we are working with the Homeowner's Associations and the residents with remedies that can solve the issues. He explained that we do expect that in a rainfall that significant there is going to be a period where there is some water that does not recede quickly. He mentioned Martin Street in particular, which is what Mayor Gatt was referring to. We had a complaint out there and reviewed it. He said after June 28 they walked the site, talked to a few residents there, got some feedback, we do know that the development next door is not keeping the water on their site. He stated the stormwater runoff has created a big problem there, which was addressed by our project engineer via email on July 6, and a report on June 28. He said they followed up again today with preventative steps, actions, a berm, some stabilization, some other mitigation efforts to get that corrected ASAP. He stated we are holding them responsible and are evaluating whether there will be a violation to their soil erosion permit from that event. He said after we redid the site, we had a complaint in

2020 as well, flooding, which we had the contract or the developer kind of small swale between the houses and Wainwright, and 13 Mile, we also encountered a pipe obstruction at the time, a basketball, and there was a significant root obstruction from a willow tree which coincidentally fell over from part of the storms and is now gone at the south end of the Martin drain. He reported that they agree the pipe that runs north and south by Martin is potentially undersized, we engaged our consultant for a fair cost estimate to improve that. He stated in combination of the site runoff being controlled and then the upsizing of the pipe, we are confident it will make a big difference in the poor existing conditions. He said they did get that estimate, but not in time to put in the in the packet, it is roughly \$44,000. He said he would be happy to bring that back to Council for further discussion at a future meeting. He stated that while the calculations do check out for the stormwater runoff, we do believe the drainage needs to be improved and would have likely been evaluated as part of road improvements. He said the Lakeview development finished, we are waiting for the development to finish before we go in there and do any road improvements. He said it is the truck traffic is still happening, so it makes sense. He said he met with a few more residents out there, he believed last Friday, and discussed it. He said our recommendation if you could have your well to send us forward with that project. He stated last week, during the storm with high winds on July 7, the DPW also responded to the service requests, 16 intersections lost power, most of them restored relatively quickly. He said we had separate signage based on priority from public safety put out and then they responded to 55 storm related trees down in the right-of-way. He said they tried their best to accommodate residents if they had things on their private property that could get to the curb to chip it because of the nature of the storm, that is something we would usually do. He said the crews were out anyway, he knew our contractor was out for four days in a row, and then our in-house crew also supplemented as much as they could. He said they were stretched a little bit because of the cart exchange for GFL and Waste Management. He said he had crews working on that also. He said it has been an eventful couple of weeks, he thought we ultimately came out better than a lot of communities around us. He stated there are issues that we are working on. He said he was available to answer any questions that they may have.

Mayor Gatt said he listened intently to everything that Mr. Herczeg said. He tried to put himself in the brains and the bodies of the people sitting behind you. He stated that two years ago he was out in the north end walking the neighborhood with Councilmember Breen. He said he met a lot of the people up there and they were talking about drainage issues. He said he came back and talked with City Manager Auger. He said everybody promised that we would take care of that, and he made a promise to the residents that we were going to take care of that, because that is what was sold to me. He said, here it is, two years later. He said we had big storms, we had a lot of rain, we had a lot of water, but there should never be a time when the water from the rain or from the drains go back into people's homes. He said you know either the drainage system is not adequate, the pipes are not adequate, or something is not adequate. He could not speak for seven people, but he would bet there would be the consensus of this body that whatever it takes to fix it, let us fix it. He did not care what it costs, because we can't have the whole north end living in their homes and having to worry about water coming

in their basements or their homes every time it rains. He said it is going to rain, we are going to get storms all the time. He said we cannot make excuses, this pipe was clogged with the ball, it is our job to make sure that the drainage system in the City works. He understood that there are 100-year rains that will cause some flooding somewhere it happens, but that is not what happened last week. He said yet these people are all confronted with this problem in their backyards, and their homes, and their basements, and it is just not right. He said whatever it takes from the Mayor and City Council, they want commitment from the City that you are going to fix it right. He said whatever costs that is what it costs. He said that is what they are here for.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said it seems to have been an ongoing problem with the development by the Robertson Brothers. He said he had multiple phone calls from multiple residents that area there has been changes of elevations and their land filled. He said we did not hold these people responsible to do their job correctly, which was to contain the water on their site. He said going forward with these types of projects, we must have a far better ideas of what our expectation is in the potential problems we are going to have. He said we have seen pictures of water running down the side, and this was not particularly terrible rains, and he has seen water running down the site, from their development down the street into Charlotte, like, these are things that just cannot happen in this development has been wrought with these kinds of issues from the beginning. He said he did not know what penalties you must impose, but this needs to get fixed. He suggested it get fixed before the next rain. He said he has seen pictures of basements filled with water, these after normal rains, there is something seriously going on there. He stated this is our responsibility to stop it, it is our responsibility to take care of the things. He said he would like to have seen it in front of us this evening, but we need to get this fixed now. He stated that this is an older part of the City, he was sure our pipes are not up to standards in that part of the City, it is time to take care of this. He said it was time to take care of this several years ago, but here we are now having the same discussion. He said he did not have any questions, he has seen the pictures they have sent to us, and he has gotten dozens of calls and lots of emails. They are here tonight to talk more about it. He said this is the beginning of the end, we need to fix this.

Member Maday thought the problem was two-fold. She thought we need to hold the developer responsible for any issues that he has caused. She said after that, we need to fix everything that needs to be fixed from an infrastructure perspective. She was willing, just like all these people, to do whatever it takes to make it right for these residents for years to come, not just to the next storm, or the next storm, but for years.

Member Fischer commented strictly about the north end and the rain that we had last week. His own subdivision had some backups in the streets, and thankfully did not get into the houses, he said that was a big rain. He was concerned about the fact that, from what he has heard, and what he has seen this type of flooding in the north end has happened several times and to the Mayor's point he was invited out a year or two years ago to do a walkthrough. He said there was already an issue at that time. He stated since then, there have been two and three other times, from what he has heard from the residents where this continued to happen, and they received no reaction from the City.

He wondered why we after a year of are the Mayor going out there, just finally getting a quote, and we do not even have the quote to approve this evening. He stated that is what he is concerned about. There is no urgency and no focus when residents bring these concerns up that seems like that is coming from the department. DPW Director Herczeg explained the 2020 incident that we had to report on that we went and investigated and found the instructions and then had the developer cut, that is swale and then there was improvement. He said we did not have a lot of rain between that, he did not receive any specific complaints regarding flooding between that one and the event that we had this and then on June 25, so the site was on schedule, completed and operating like it should be technically it should work. He did not want to say it was a wait and see aspect of it, but without the significant rainfall, to say yes, there is an undersized pipe it is a private system there. So, it is also not right away with that system is not part of the Novi system. He stated there must be some idea there is some issues with working on private, we will have to get easements from the homeowners we will have to get, we have to do some driveways cuts. He stated that is a significant project too. He stated it is a \$400,000 project that we are looking at. He did not want to say that there is no lack of urgency there is, but to just go into this one without, had the developer kept the water on site, he was not so sure that the June 25 would have been as devastating as it was. He said they did not, and that is on us. That is our responsibility, and we are going to hold them accountable for that. He believed that improvement there would improve the existing poor drainage condition. Member Fischer said he understood that his concern is that this should be a little more of a science than an art. He felt like we do a lot of fixes recently, where it is a more wait and see approach. He stated Council is very reactive. He said we are all clamoring, wondering why we do not have a quote tonight to approve, because if you bring us one, we want to get these things fixed. He said his commentary is that he is very excited to see the solution in detail, hopefully, very soon. He hoped to get it in the admin packet before we even wait for our next Council meeting. He asked City Attorney Schultz if Council could approve an authorization to move forward with this project anyway, with a blanket is estimated at \$400,000. City Attorney Schultz replied that he thought that would be something that you will have to wait for a quote for, review the quote and do it in the normal process. Member Fischer wondered if they cannot waive their ability to do the purchasing process as a Council. City Attorney Schultz you are talking about an appropriation and expenditure without a contract in front of you, and he has not seen the bid either. He thought it would be a stretch. Member Fischer said he will defer to you on that, but there is an urgency that we want to see these done. He wanted to see a little more reaction, a little more action, when these issues bubble up from the residents. DPW Director Herczeg said our course of action is what will expediate the processes to change order existing project that we have now. He said we needed an idea of what the magnitude of the project was, we have that now so we can apply the unit prices for projects that we had and do a change order. He stated we will not have to go through a bid process, none of that will be necessary if we can if the contractor is willing to do the work for us. He said that is the plan. Member Fischer said he was excited that there seems to be more of a plan, again, it is just the time that it took to get to this point, having water in your basement, having this type of situation several times within a year is not what we expect for residents. He said it is not what any of us think is an appropriate situation, and we need to fix it soon.



Member Mutch echoed the previous speakers about the urgency to address this issue, he believed the residents will address this in their presentations. He said it was clear from the timeline, this has been an ongoing issue with this development with the river of brown water that comes off that site. He reiterated that the developer was not retaining their water properly. He said then they are also not managing their site in a way that is keeping that from flowing into the resident's backyards into the garages and homes. He stated the one thing that he did not want us to lose in the urgency is to ensure that what we are putting in place is not just a short term, fixing this for the immediate future. He said there is not a lot of developable land up there. He said right there at the corner of Martin and 13 Mile, he understood there are two new homes that are planned to be built there. He thought that was going to be more impervious surface right at the point where that water flows currently. He knew at least one of the residents are going to address runoff from Robertson's development on the west side of Novi Road. He hoped that as we are looking at this, we are looking at the fixes that need to happen here, that we are really looking in the long term, so that this is not an issue in three to five years, and he understood your point. He said once Robertson Brothers gets all their improvements in place, according to the engineers, according to all the calculations, we should not have this problem going forward. He said according to the engineers, and the calculations are the system was sized to accommodate the amount of water that was flowing into it. He said now we are saying, maybe not, and from the resident's perspective, there has been a loss of trust. He said we have to rebuild that with them and assure them that it is not going to be just a short term fix to get until the next big rainstorm, this is going to be the fix that is going to take the water not only from the Robertson site, but any of the surrounding properties that may be developed, and ensure that we have the capacity in the system to as best as possible accommodate the amount of water. He did not think there is any resident who thinks, we can build a system that is going to accommodate a massive monsoon rain, what we should try to do as best we can, is to have that goal that looking beyond just Martin in those backyards, but looking at this entire area, because as you noted, this is an older part of the City, a lot of it was developed. He thought before we even talked about things like stormwater runoff, we are much more sensitive to what is going into the waterways. He said we do not want sediment and other things flowing into Shawood Lake or down into Walled Lake either. He hoped that we would step back a little bit and say, not to stop, he did not seem to step back and stop, he wanted us to step back and as we are moving that portion of it forward, also looking at this entire area, and ensuring that whatever work needs to happen. He thought whether it is in the immediate future, or for improvements that are going to take some time, that those are worked into the future work plans, capital improvement plans, for the drainage systems in that area, because it is something that we need to address. He said the residents have put up with a lot of that. He thought that we need to work on that.

Member Casey said obviously Mr. Herczeg was moving with haste to try to do a change order, which helps speed up the process of getting the quote in from of Council, which hopefully will be at our next meeting, she asked what a reasonable timeframe was to expect them to use the vernacular "shovel in the ground". DPW Director Herczeg said it will depend on the contractor availability. He said reaching out with those conversations

right now, they have expressed interest. He could not give an approximate time, but he should be able to by the next meeting. Member Casey asked how long the duration of the project would be. Mr. Herczeg said it should not be that long. She asked Community Development Director Boulard to answer a question regarding the developer. She asked what we are doing with the developer, and if we are having conversations to get him back into compliance with the requirements that we have in terms of maintaining water on the site. Director Boulard said beginning with the rain events of the past few weeks our staff had been out daily. He said they have been in constant contact, not only our Code Compliance staff, but also Mr. Herczeg's team, the engineers working together with the consultant that does our monthly solo version inspections and his many years of experience, and we have been working to stop anything that can be stopped using additional measures, working on cleaning up any the soil that has left the site, and also working on measures, working on additional measures , whether it is matting, seeding, things like that to try to limit that, it is difficult. He said construction in and of itself, you always have the soil is open, and the intent is to not have anything leave the site that obviously did not happen. He said they are working to try to find and maintain what is there and add additional measures to keep that from happening any further. He said to get that stabilized going forward as soon as possible. Member Casey thanked both Mr. Herczeg and Mr. Boulard for their explanations.

Mayor Gatt commented that Mr. Herczeg has heard from Council on what they want to see happen and there is a sense of urgency, but we want it done right. We want a forever fix, not just a temporary fix. He wanted to help these people because as he said when he spoke with the representative from DTE, we are also residents and homeowners. He said we feel for them, there is nothing worse, so we are going to address it.

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:**

City Manager Auger stated it has been a challenging stretch, with Mother Nature acting up, above normal rainfall in short periods of time that the first two presentations covered. some of the issues we are dealing with, plus the Waste Management pickups that were delayed a week, our DPW crews go out in the field, and assisted Waste Management moving forward to get the cars off the streets. He said it is a good time to remind people that we just refreshed our website, it is still [www.cityofnovi.org](http://www.cityofnovi.org), but we have revamped it. He said when reporting issues, we have a system on there, if you go to the buttons on the bottom and find request assistance, then you put your issue right in that box right there. He said you will also get follow up emails on when the issue is taken care of. He stated the behind the scenes, we have been working on trying to get all the bugs out, we have two systems and work there they were the software can talk to each other and make sure we get the right crew to the right place, but also be able to follow up on it, sometimes that was not happening before. He recommended incidents like this past week show there are multitude of reason why you would want to call us out in the field to get something done. He said that usually is the quickest and best way to do it to get into the system so we can respond to it, not rely on us just getting out on the streets and find whether it be a pothole, a garbage can that was not picked up, or a storm drain issue, get it in the system right away.

City Manager Auger mentioned he wanted to talk to Council tonight about advancing the infrastructure for a more robust Older Adult Services we affectionately call OAS. He stated the storm of the government forced shutdown of our society drove us to relook at what, how and why we operate Older Adult Services. He explained we have since started to restructure the department to add to our programs both the quality and the quantity of activities and services that we provide. He said we have eliminated at least for the time being an administrative position and are in the process of hiring a full-time recreation supervisors position focused on older adult services. He said this is for "boots on the ground" position, we are moving to have more direct interaction with our aging population that we serve. He said this person will develop and run special events, games, travel, fitness, that we have done in the past, but also build on the SOS initiative, as well as support department wide, large events such as Veterans Day, and Memorial Day. He stated these types of programming duties have been previously handled by part-time employees. He said we currently have 25 applications for this position, and we hope to have a new member on our team very soon. He said we are building a more robust system based on outreach facilities and programming, and the outreach during the shutdown. He said the Mayor introduced, and the City Council concurred that we should focus to attempt to reach those in our older adult service category and other people with different challenges to ensure we could assist them in any way we could to help them with the issues that were hoisted upon them due to the shutdown and the rules that limited human interaction. He said this program was successful as we made over 1100 calls to residents 60 years or older, made 90 home visits to those who could not be reached by phone and reached out to 20 churches, 25 medical therapy providers, 40 Homeowners Associations. He said through these efforts we referred 53 residents use services they were previously unaware of programs such as Senior Housing, Ask the Lawyer Estate Planning, Transportation, and our Medical Equipment Loan Closet. He said in addition, over 250 additional Files for Life packets have been distributed in conjunction with the Novi Fire Department. He said the region storm where nobody saw what we just mentioned earlier, a lot of power outages, we used the same SOS platform and made 115 calls to senior population 85 years of age or up we made 21 calls that stated they have no need related to the storm activity, several stated that their power went out, but services were wrapped up within 24 hours. He said we were able to assist as an example, one woman, who had a tree fall on her house, we assisted and facilitated the needed services, some of what she was not aware that we could do. He said going forward, we are examining how we reach our residents to ensure that those that need or want services we provide, know that we are here. He stated that Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services is reengaging with AARP to discuss the Age Friendly Novi program where we design life activities for all ages and ability. He said we are also listening to items of value we may add to increase the quality of life for those in older adult's service range and those with different needs. He said the facilities aspect we are re-examining our facilities in our lifetime, most of us has never witnessed a time where societal interaction was prohibited. He stated that space that was used that was sufficient for our needs became unsuitable due to capacity restriction. He said staff is currently evaluating the needs to make modifications to the Civic Center, Meadowbrook Commons, and Park Facilities to better accommodate the need and demand for outdoor gathering space and

distancing for indoor programs. He said the new staff member will also be tasked with making connections to other facilities in Novi, that our senior focus to discuss private public programs in space collaborations. He said we are also looking at other communities and some of the amenities that are offered to find best of class and see if we could add value to our Older Adult Services population. He stated that we anticipate bringing some of those ideas forward in the very near future. He said the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service staff have worked with the management team at Meadowbrook Commons throughout the shutdown to provide as many programs as possible and services allowed based on the federal, state and county restrictions. He said this was challenging as there were times when the previously mentioned level of governance, dictates and mandates did not always work hand in glove. He said they understood the dissent sent mixed messages to our Novi populations, but more specifically with our Older Adult Services population. He stated our team has worked with and reviewed with KMG who operates Meadowbrook Commons on our behalf on ways to improve engagement and better connectivity if we should ever face these drastic measures in the future. He said loosening of restrictions KMG has also restructured a staff position that will now be responsible for offering programs and services to the residents such as Book Club, Technology Club, game tournament, and sing a long, etc. He said this will provide an added benefit to the residents and allow Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services to focus on programming, not only for the Meadowbrook Activity Center, but the new Lakeshore Park facility and the Civic Center for the entire senior population of Novi, as well as the Meadowbrook Commons residents. He said those will include lunches and events, fitness, and nature walks, etc.

City Manager Auger said the new Parks, Recreation and Cultural service programming will be placing a greater emphasis on getting older adults out and active with fitness classes and activities in the parks. He said we are also seeking to expand intergenerational programming and increase the number of programs that focus on mental health, especially during the winter months. He stated as we grow the program site of Older Adult Services, we would anticipate the opportunity to find additional full-time recreation supervisors to continue the momentum of engagement, being creative, creating new activities, as well as our staples such as our car groups, transportation services, pickleball, etc. He stated we are well on our way of revamping how we provide services to a much-endearred population that we have here in Novi.

Mayor Gatt explained that he had City Manager Auger give a long-detailed report because we have had several people call him in the last few weeks and voiced concerns with Meadowbrook Commons and in the senior population. He said when we started the SOS program, it was a wonderful concept, and he applauded the staff for everything that they have done and everything that they continue to do. He pointed out that being a senior sometimes when you call senior citizens and ask are you okay, do you need anything, they just kind of shrug it off. They say I am okay, when in fact they are not, and in fact, they need personal care and personal help and attention. He said his concern with Meadowbrook Commons, he said, in a public meeting is that when he read their last newsletter, they did not have any activities, and he hears COVID, COVID, COVID. He stated that you should also know that a couple of weeks ago, a private citizen of a former



City employee had a gathering over at Paradise Park and over 150-200 seniors showed up, paid \$10 dollars each to be entertained, because that is all they are looking for. They are looking for entertainment, they are looking for some sort of activity. He said this Council said earlier that evening about money for the DTE problems, money for the north end drainage problems, if the City needs to hire some people, it was not in the budget, come to us because he was pretty darn certain that at least four or five of us will say yes, if not all seven, because the senior citizen population in this community is begging for help. The COVID probably hurt them more than any other demographic, they did not get out there. He said they were trapped in their home, and we need to do something. He felt this was an urgent matter that needed immediate attention, just like the north end problem. He expressed if anyone needed something, to come to Council, but we are going to count on you, we are going to count on our Parks and Recreation Department to pick up the ball and get these people back living. He asked if anyone else had any comments.

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Steven Angus, Linhart Street, Novi said he has been a resident in the north end of Novi for over 22 years. He said about three and a half years ago, March of 2018 he came to the City Council meeting and spoke right here and said this area you need to be careful. He said there is an existing wetland pond, this new development that they are developing is up on a hill, it is 15 to 20 feet higher than the rest of our properties. He said be careful, do not fill in the pond. He said you can see the time lapse of 2018 to 2021, where we saw truckloads and truckloads of dirt coming in. He estimated there was somewhere around 96,000 cubic feet of dirt was filled into this wetland area. He said you have seen the big 50-ton truck that can dump dirt, that is what they watched happen in our neighborhood. He stated the edge of Robertson Brothers development this last year, right after the Mayor came up and spoke with them, there is a seven foot drop on the Robertson properties, that drop was the way that they designed it, it is a giant slip and slide, the water just goes down the hill, they provided another to block the water to actually flood their neighborhood. He said one of the things Mr. Herczeg mentioned earlier was a blockage and he completely agreed with what he was saying. He thought the only way that is going to stop this slip and slide water from stopping is something like a seawall that you see when you go to the beach. He thought they needed a corrugated three-foot-tall seawall there to block the water to prevent it from coming down the hill, because Robertson is not doing it. He said his neighbor was going to speak next. He said they asked Robertson to do that last year, they did not do it along the way, and this is basically what happened. He said two weeks ago, we have a flood four times in the last years and a half, this is the worst that they have seen. He mentioned he looked up the historical rainfall, this was only a three to four inch of rain, it was not a short period of time. He said in 2014 there was five inches, so they have seen this happen four times in our neighborhood. He has lived here 22 years and they have had some of our residents live there almost 48 years, they have never seen anything like this until after the Robertson development. He felt this is a product of engineering and design with a lack of design in

this area. He agreed with what Mr. Herczeg mentioned earlier, it is kind of a joke in their neighborhood, that a little children's basketball plugged the drain that tells you have small the drain is. He said it needed to be upgraded. He said water is going up to the edge of people's houses. He stated the design, looks identical to the prints that they provided. He felt there are some ideas on how to fix the problem, one is to put the seawall, make that drain three times the size and he said the area that was filled it needs to be doubled in size. Where they filled it in, it needs to be open. We have seen that flood, this is supposed to be a 100-year flood here, and it is every six months, that thing is filling up and spilling over. He believed all three things needed to be done to fix the problem.

A resident that lived at 124 Wainwright said the area that the flood starts is his backyard. He said he has been here for only six months, and this has happened twice where the flooding happens. He said then it just flows through and then directly goes through the subdivision. He agreed that it is a 10-year rainfall when it happens twice in six months, one in June and the other one in July. Thank you.

Lynn Licavoli, 137 Wainwright said she has been a resident of Novi for 19 years and they have had significant flooding in their backyard. She said their frustration lies in the fact that somebody on the City Council with all due respect, had signed off for their backyard to become part of a flooding zone, if we were to have that 100-year flood. She said it was okay for their yards and anybody on this Wainwright Street to get water in their backyards, which is exactly what has happened. She had pictures to show Council her backyard after the June 25 rain they got, she said you can see here that this is what was agreed to at some point by somebody that it was okay if we got water for this to flow into our yard and this is exactly how this looks, this is not acceptable. She said they appreciated that Council was putting some pedal to the metal to try to get these things resolved. She said she also appreciated that they are trying to resolve the problem and fix it right. She felt there is a lot of things going on with all the land that is being pushed. She said her concern is that it needs a permanent fix. She said not just another wait and see what happens, this is a lot of water. She said they got a sump pump that has been working for them all these years, and she did not want to see it quit on them. She said she would like to hear this plan is going to be and be able to have some say in this to know that it is going to be taken care of in a proper way would be appreciated. She appreciated what Council was trying to do for them. Thank you.

Rachel Sines said she lived at 2219 Austin Drive, and she asked everyone to bear with her because she had been technically challenged all day. She said she did not want to diminish what her neighbors on the east side at Robertson Brothers Lakeview development have been going through, what the east side has been dealing with is devastating. She said the west side of the development is not without its issues as well. She stated her house sits at the apex of the hill and she kicked herself every day for not catching this during the approval process. She stated that Robertson Brothers raised the elevation five feet behind her home. She said given that these that these houses only sit feet from the property line. She said where do you think that water is supposed to go. She said I can tell you through out neighborhoods, houses and into Shawood Lake. She

had a picture that showed the water flowing towards the south end of Sherwood that includes all the debris from the lake for your development. She also showed the floor, the flow towards the north side of Shawood Lake. She pointed out the flooding that rushed through her shed while minor in comparison to the east side. She said this is still the only time it has happened. She said after the elevation was changed and a house was built, her neighbor next door watched the water rush straight through his garage. She said she did not notice the water and damage until two days after the last significant rainfall. She said you can see this is clearly construction debris being washed through a week later, she still had standing water in her shed. She said she reached out to Robertson Brothers and asked them to look at the issue with reassurance that someone would check, but not one to her knowledge has, please make sure that these issues are addressed but more importantly resolved. She thanked everyone again for at least hearing them and being preemptive in what you have done so far.

Chris Leineke said he was a Novi resident for 12 years. He has lived all over the United States. He lived in Boise, Idaho, San Diego, California, South Portland, Maine and in Novi. He said they saved up enough money that they bought an old house we tore down on a Shawood Lake. He said after they started building, the neighbor to the north of them purchased two houses with her father, and now has an unmanned airbnb, which is like living next to a Motel-Six. He said he has talked to Community Development Director Boulard and he asked him to call the police. He said he called the police for a couple years, and nothing happens. He said sometimes it is okay, and sometimes it is not okay. He said a couple weeks ago, it was exposed on CNN that Airbnb has a black box group of people that run around, and they pay people off, that have had bad experiences in these airbnbs. He said this went from the best place in the world to live to the absolute worst place in the world to live. He said he is emailing Forbes for the Fortune 500 companies and the top 10 cities in the United States to live, they need to add a criteria who is going to allow these airbnbs that are unmanned to just pop up anywhere and he cannot get anyone in the city to do anything about this. He said the police show up, he said the officer so angry one day about what was going on with these airbnbs he blew his top. He said he is upset all the time, he has left messages for all kinds of people in the city, including the Mayor. He said he just did not know what to do anymore. He said he did not go and buy a piece of property that was Zoned R-1 so he could live next to a Motel-Six, and he felt that was safer, they have someone at the front desk. He said people check in with the appearance of everything is going to be mom and pop, it will be a nice quiet weekend or a nice quiet couple of weeks, then all hell breaks loose. He said they call every friend; they have cars parked up and down the road all over the street. He said you go in and knock on the door and asked them to keep it down, then they threaten your life, I am going to shoot you off. He said you could go on and on, he said he wont talk to them, he just calls the police. He said we need to protect the citizens in the City, we need to pass some ordinances. These airbnbs need to be manned, so pass an ordinance that says if it is unmanned, it is not allowed. He said Ann Arbor did it. Thank you.

Jennifer said she lived on W. Lebest, so she was in the power outage area a block south of 10 Mile and east of Meadowbrook. She wanted to say to put things in perspective

that even counting that according to the Eaton data, where they publish an annual report for blackout outages every year, admission has been in the top five, at least since 2015. She said keeping that in mind, her area is one of the worst hit and everyone is aware of that. She said just in 2020 there were four major outages in 2020 for Novi, Michigan, three of them were storm related. She said one of those was where a vehicle hit a power pole, that cannot be held against anyone. She stated of the three that hit Novi, it hit her area. She said power was out for more than a day for all three of those. She said in 202 to her knowledge while she was home, there were 15 brownouts and six power outages mostly with the are of five to 15 minutes. She said he works 12-hour shifts, so she is not home all the time. She just happened to have been home and noticing, that really says something. She said that this has been mentioned in the Council meeting before, back in April 2019. She stated there have been problems since her grandparents lived in that house and it doe not seem like any progress is being made and every year continually getting worse. She said there are a lot of elderly in her neighborhood, some of them not aware that elderly services, they do not have the money to keep replacing their groceries and things. She said some o f them do not have the money to even hire to have cleanup done. She said a lot of people are not aware of where to go to have cleanup assistance. She stated that fortunately in her neighborhood they are great, we have a good Facebook page, so that everyone knows to reach out if they can, but people who need the most help are not able to do so. She said with that in mind, she wanted to let people know that something really needs to be done, even if it will take a while for better infrastructure, something needs to b done to protect the people who cannot help themselves in situations. Thank you.

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

**CM 21-07-093      Moved by Casey, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

- A. Approve Minutes of:
  - 1. June 21, 2021 - Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of Ordinance Amendment 21-156.04 to City of Novi Ordinance Chapter 2, Division 3, Board of Review pertaining to poverty exemptions. **SECOND READING**
- C. Approval to purchase three-year (3) warranty from MILO Range for the MILO Range Pro Training System in use at the Novi Police Department Firearms Training Center in the amount of \$24,844 through the use of Gun Range Funds and to amend the budget.
- D. Approval to purchase Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS) and Fire Records Management System (FRMS) fees and services from Oakland County for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of \$61,035.



- E. Approval to award a contract for the administration of the 2020 Program Year for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Minor Home Repair Program to McKenna & Associates in the amount of \$20,113.
- F. Acceptance of a Conservation Easement from Erickson Senior Living for wetland conservation areas being offered as a part of JSP18-19 Fox Run RB4.2 Continuing Care Center development, for property located north of Thirteen Mile Road and west of M-5, in Section 1 of the City.
- G. Acceptance of a Conservation Easement from Vibe Credit Union for woodland conservation areas being offered as a part of JSP20-14, Vibe Credit Union Novi West Branch development, for property located south of Twelve Mile Road and west of Cabaret Drive, in Section 15 of the City.
- H. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement from Boll Filter Corporation for Boll Filter located north of Nine Mile Road and west of Venture Drive (parcel 50-22-26-401-044).
- I. Approval of the request from VASA V Homes LLC. at 25762 Beck Road (parcel # 22-21-101-026) for the variance from the Design and Construction Standards in Section 11-256 (b) to dismiss the sidewalk requirement along Beck Road and pay into City Sidewalk Fund.
- J. Approval of the final payment to Anglin Civil, LLC. for the Thornton Creek, Lakeshore Park and Pavilion Shore Park Shoreline Stabilization project, in the amount of \$8,764.28, plus interest earned on retainage.
- K. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement from Texas Roadhouse, Inc. for Texas Roadhouse located south of I-96 and west of Novi Road (parcel 50-22-15-478-012).
- L. Approval of an Agreement to Relinquish a Utility Easement for The Bond development located at 43443 Bond Street (parcel 50-22-22-226-008).
- M. Acceptance of a Conservation Easement from Karim Blvd RE Holdings, LLC for a woodland conservation area being offered as a part of JSP20-36, Advanced Surgery Institute of Novi, for property located at 24301 Karim Boulevard.
- N. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant No. 1087.

**Roll call vote on CM 21-07-093    Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt**  
**Nays: None**

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENT: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:**

Mayor Gatt said he added "Cranbrooke Road Sidewalk to" Mayor and Council Issues. He said thinking back to our budget meeting when we approved the budget, but the day that we said that we were all good with the budget for approval at a later meeting. He stated one of the councilmembers when we were talking about Cranbrooke Drive, putting in a new street there was mentioned it would be great if we put in a sidewalk there and were all very happy with that suggestion as a matter of fact. He said we all at least, if not most of us, made comments. He said his friend lives there and he lives close, it is a great idea and there are people walking and there are people walking all the time. He said they raised their hands and we approved that. He said that amendment to the budget and we added a sidewalk to Cranbrooke Drive without knowing too much about it without doing any study or real planning, and certainly without asking the residents what they thought. He said a few weeks ago they got letters, emails, and a couple of phone calls from the residents. He said the Councilmember who approved this was out walking with the residents and commiserating that we picked the wrong side of the road because we were going to build it on the east side of the street. He said when he asked the City Manager, why did we pick the side versus the west side, he gave me three or four valid reasons right away, cost, and this kind of stuff. He said it at this juncture, he was going to make a motion that we suspend all work on this sidewalk on Cranbrooke Drive and that we asked the City to come back to us at a future Council meeting with a study and certainly have the residents get involved. He wanted to find out what the residents wanted. He suggested to City Manager Auger not long ago that perhaps there is a Boulevard there, we put the sidewalk in the Boulevard, there are still a tremendous amount of people that walk up and down that roadway. He thought there is a need for a sidewalk, but he understood that sometimes we are just a few feet away from somebody's bedroom window, he said he did not know what the answer is. He said he did know that his motion is that we suspend the work until we get a study and more public input on this.

**CM 21-07-094            Moved by Gatt, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To suspend the Cranbrooke Drive Sidewalk Project until we get a study and more public input.**

Member Mutch appreciated the Mayor bringing this forward for consideration. He said he talked to quite a few residents and as you mentioned, I went out there and saw that. He said before he even brought this forward, one of the things he did is to solicit feedback from residents who lived in the area, there was quite a bit of support for us. He said without projects, the devils in the detail. He knew when this came before us at City Council, City staff did provide us with some information related to that. He thought when

we were looking at it, we were really focused on the issue of can this fit withing the City right-of-way, and City staff assured us that it could, and everything looked good. He mentioned the Mayor noted, one, if you get out there and actually see this in person, using the information, the city staff provided the new sidewalk, in some cases within 20 feet of these residential units in some cases. He said because the way these residential units are configured, it would put their bedrooms within 20 feet of a sidewalk were none had previously been. He said he was personally hard pressed, he had a pretty good idea, of our sidewalk network anywhere else in the city, where we have that kind of arrangement, this has raised concerns for him related to that issue. He said if that was the kind of thing when it was brought before us. That was not in the plans, so it did not jump out at us. He thought if we had known at the time that there would be that proximity, he believed City Council would have said we need to reevaluate that. He agreed with the Mayor to place this on hold and reevaluate that decision. He thought there was an advantage to having it done with the road project, the cost savings because they are doing concrete roads, concrete sidewalks, that made sense, but saving a few dollars and expediting that process to lead to an outcome that is not desirable is not necessary. He thought in this case, while as much as he thought all of us support improving walkability as much as the residents in the area have that desire to have a safe route along Cranbrooke Drive we need to do it the right way. He said stepping back and waiting is the right way to handle this. He said we will find a solution that works for everybody and move forward at that time so he can support the motion.

**Roll call vote on CM 21-07-094**    **Yeas: Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Casey**  
**Nays: None**

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: July 26, 2021