

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act this meeting was held remotely.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Gatt, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Casey, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Crawford, present from Orlando, Orange County, State of Florida
Member Fischer, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Maday, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Mutch, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt added Municipal Broadband to Mayor and Council Issues.

CM 21-02-019 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 21-02-019 **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt**
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Gatt explained that everybody will be given two-minutes to present to the City Council on why you want to be on the various Board or Commission that you are applying for. He asked that they keep in mind that they have their resume and their application. He stated that they will not be making any decisions that evening. They will announce their decisions at the next Council meeting. He said everybody will be given two minutes to present.

1. William Bluford – Building Authority

Mr. Bluford said he has been a proud Novi resident since 2008 and Novi had provided his family a great quality of life. He wanted to give back to his community. He became involved with the community back in 2015 and he graduated from the Novi Ambassador Academy. He said two years ago he was appointed to a partial term on the Building Authority in March of 2019. He stated that the the Building Authority meets as needed, and as such, he has not been involved in any meetings because there have not been any meetings of the Building Authority. He wished to be reappointed. He thought Novi was a top-notch community and he wanted it to remain that way. He said he wanted to volunteer and give back in some way. He tries to stay involved in the community. He stated he graduated from the Lakes Area Citizen Police Academy and the Michigan State Police Citizens Police Academy as well, and he is Vice President of the Broad of Directors for Meadowbrook Townhome's which is a Condo Association. He said in his professional life, he is Vice President of Huntington Technology which is a Managed Service Provider and IP Company. He said he was named as a next generation solution provider leader in 2020, which is a great professional honor. He hoped to be reappointed to the Building Authority or however the Council sees fit. He said if there is somewhere else, he could be a good fit; he was open to that was well. He was just looking forward to continuing to serve. Thank you.

2. Jeffrey Bowdell – Construction Board of Appeals

Mr. Bowdell said he has been a resident Novi for about 25 years. He said he has been on the Board of Appeals just about that long. He said he has been a building official for 33 years in different municipalities. He said they do not have to meet anywhere near as often as they used to many ears ago, but he served proudly. He said it was a technical committee, as he was sure Council knew. He said he was on his 17th Code Book, which is there every three years. He stated that he has quite a large background in building codes. He hoped to be reappointed, he enjoyed serving on the committee. He thought they have done a great job for the City because there are occasionally some big challenges that they deal with.

3. John Enkemann – Construction Board of Appeals

Mr. Enkemann said it took him more than two minutes to fill out the form to be reappointed. He has been on the Board for 28 years, 25 of them he has been the chairman and served with Mr. Bowdell and Mr. Qadeer. We do not meet very often, the questionnaire put us into a position or put him into a position of what he wanted to achieve over the future. With a board that does not meet very often it is had to have a future to be able to predict. He mentioned that he would love to have all the Board Members get a raise. It has been offered, and 100% of zero is zero, but it would be great to be able to authorize us all being able to have active Code Books that you know would allow them to be able to make this committee consistent. He felt that consistency was important for a committee like this because there is a certain value to understanding how our board has performed on certain cases. He thought being able to have a certain

amount of consistency in those actions. He said he would love to serve more. He said he has been an architect for over 40 years.

4. Jan Lach – Beautification Commission

Ms. Lach said she has lived in Dunbarton Pines Subdivision for over 20 years. She said she was applying for the Beautification Commission. She said she was also in the first Citizen Novi Ambassador Academy as well, and she has also been through the Citizens Police Academy, and several of the other City supported programs over the years. She recently retired after 17 years with Michigan Medicine. She thought it was time to become engaged with the community, so she thought she would start with the Beautification Commission. She stated she has been a gardener her whole life since she was three, pretty much what she grew and planted, she got hooked on growing things. So, she has lived in a garden in several states. She has traveled throughout the United States and several overseas countries. She always observed how the proximity of the outdoor environment to the living spaces in the cities as the overall vitality of the area and the engagement of the citizens, and the quality of life to that. She believed that having access to the natural environment is restorative and energizing for people especially in times of stress like this. A model of this is Michigan Medicine, where our priority in landscape at facilities was giving patients and families quick access to a pleasant outdoor environment where they can sit under and relax under a beautiful tree or look at bugs and butterflies along the walking path. There was also meant it was mostly beneficial for the staff just to have access when they are struggling with their stressful and busy situations at work. She said it was important for people, especially now. She said Novi has engaged citizens, we have the Beautification Commission and they have done a great job in creating this kind of atmosphere here in Novi. The subdivisions are inviting, and the parks look nice. The butterfly gardens are doing well, and they are independent. She said during the lockdown last spring she saw quite often how people enjoy their outdoor spaces. She said she would like to be part of that.

5. Cynthia Lang – Beautification Commission

Ms. Lang said she has been a resident of Novi for 15 years now. She has been on the Beautification Commission for about three and a half years. She stated that during that time she has been chair pretty much the entire time. She said she would like to continue to serve on the Beautification Commission because she thought they have some great projects ahead of us. She stated that during the last three and a half years they were able to get Novi certified by the National Wildlife Federation, and not many cities have that. She said that was exciting. They also have some other exciting projects in the future. They were a little bit stymied by the COVID, of course, but lost a little bit of momentum last years, but there are finally getting it back and trying to wrap up some of the existing projects that they have. She said they want to get some park signs at the entrances for the parks, we would like to get companies, individuals, whatever to design and implement some cool native plants around the areas. She said they would like to get into the schools more and do some educational presentations for the kids. She said she would like to see some of those projects through. She mentioned the butterfly gardens and said they would like to get some labels out there to identify the plants so that our

residents can really enjoy those plants and maybe see what they are so they can take those back to their homes and bring more pollinators into the City.

6. Kathleen Neighbors – Historical Commission (Withdrew application)

7. Shaun Page – Beautification Commission

Mr. Page said he was interested in the Beautification Committee. He said his background is a wine expert. He said he studies viticulture extensively, he has been to many vineyards around the world, around the country, he has brought in harvest many times over again. He said for the last 15 years she has worked for Celebrity Chefs which was very interesting, a lot of fun, but now he is a stay-at-home dad, and he does consulting work here and there. This is kind of my wheelhouse, he said he developed concepts for MGM Grand Resorts, restaurants, this is his passion, his livelihood, and just everything that he knows. He said he had a lot of ideas that he would like to present and hoped he would have the opportunity to do that. He stated this is everything that he does as part of the seed saving savers exchange, he does mushroom hunting, he is an avid fisherman, he does a lot of heirloom tomatoes which he is very passionate about. He said tomatoes are very similar to vines in the fact that they are open pollinated. He said there are a lot of cool things that you can do with plants and viticulture in general. He hoped he would have the opportunity to join the team. He said he has two children, and that is the reason why he took a step back from the corporate world. His family is his life and he truly loved Novi. He felt he would have a lot of things to bring to the table. He thanked everyone for giving him a chance and listening to him.

8. Dan Pierce – Historical Commission

Mr. Pierce said he has lived in Novi for almost 11 years. He would like to serve on the Novi Historical Commission because he believed preserving history is done through education. He said education is done and achieved through storytelling, and for the last 20 years he has been a storyteller. He served as the communications director for Ford Motor Company in their autonomous vehicle unit. His love for history started when he as a young child. He grew up just in the shadows of President James A. Garfield house in Cleveland, Ohio. He thought while President Garfield was not the most well-known president, living in his shadows of his long field of estate, he captivated him, and he wanted to learn more about history. He stated his family moved to Farmington Hills years later, and where his passion was further fueled by an incredible teacher at North Farmington High School. He stated that Mr. Maxwell, his favorite professor of all time, told him that it is not enough to know the basics when it comes to history. He would say anyone can know the date of the Gettysburg battle. It is up to us to remember the humidity and how it impacted that battle. That is the type of history you need to know. He said he attended the University of Missouri, received a journalism degree, but his passion for history forced him and compelled him to get a bachelor's degree in history as well. He has been using public relations to tell stories for big brands. He concluded that he would take this same knowledge that he has in storytelling and help preserve and protect the history of the City of Novi and tell our great stories. He thanked Council for their time.

9. Kamran Qadeer – Construction Board of Appeals

Mr. Kadir said he has been a resident of Novi since the year 2000. He said he was a licensed civil engineer, and he works for an engineering company in Novi. He has served on the Construction Board of Appeals for over two terms and was seeking reappointment to that same Board. He stated why he was interested in serving his community that he lived in. First, during his career, he has had a passion for serving on committees and engaged in professional organizations throughout his career. He said he would like to continue to do that and give back to the community that he lived in. Second, he felt his educational background and the experience over the years whether it is in site drainage, site development, transportation, roads, traffic, would be a good asset for this board. He said he could help the Construction Board of Appeals in understanding the contractor issues and the challenges that we face in the construction. He stated that past two terms are some of the lessons that we have learned, we have not had a whole lot of meetings. He explained that most of the cases that have been presented to the board have been mostly grading issues related to steeper driveway slopes, sidewalk slopes, drainage issues, and sometimes interpretation of the building codes and engineering standards. He said some of these are related to site constraints and we evaluate those individually and see what impacts it has on the neighboring owners and provide guidance to the applicants. He said he would like to continue to do that in the future. He thanked Council for their time.

Mayor Gatt said that was their last presenter and he thanked everyone on behalf of the entire City Council and all the staff, we appreciate your willingness to serve and we will make our decision as to who will be appointed to the Boards and Commissions at our next meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Gatt mentioned they had a presentation from the Roads Committee. The Roads Committee was formed before the world ever heard of COVID and it has been well over a year now. He explained that it consists of several different members of the community, and of the staff, and two of our City Council people which is committee chaired by Councilmember Casey. He said we will hear from them that evening although he believed they would not get any concrete recommendations that evening. There would not be any action item taken that evening. He was positive that during our upcoming budget hearing, this is going to be a very important part of their discussion. He turned over the presentation to Member Casey.

Member Casey said Brian Bartlett was going to do most of the presentation, but she wanted to say thank you to all the individuals who served on the Roads Committee. She said they have two Citizen Representatives, Brian Bartlett, and Alex Dinser. We had a lot of people from the City, some of the experts from the City were City Manager, Pete Auger, DPW Director, Jeff Herczeg, Assistant Chief of Police, Erick Zinser, City Planner, Barb McBeth, CFO/Finance Director, Carl Johnson, Community Relations Specialist, Nathan Mueller, Consulting Engineer, OHM Advisors, Tim Juidici, and Consulting Engineer,

AECOM, Mark Koskinen. She wanted to list the names and vocalize her thanks to them for their efforts working with us to come up with our findings. She asked Mr. Cardenas if he would go to the next slide.

Member Casey said the Mayor in his opening remarks noted that we formed our Roads Committee in December of 2019, we met about 12 times since that point, we had a work stoppage, if you will, in the middle of that, because of COVID. She stated that they have been working for about a year to come up with their findings. She said their initial objective was that we wanted to develop a plan that would help us as a Council to prioritize road projects with a couple of key focuses. The first, is to maintain safety. The second, was to improve road conditions and traffic flow. She said obviously, we wanted to come in with some recommendations for funding opportunities. She said the onset of the pandemic in the middle of their work has really changed their focus a bit. She explained that their findings are not going to be including those funding recommendations. She stated that do have recommendations for Council about how our Roads Committee might engage in the future. She went over some of the topics that they learned about and said they did learn a lot. She stated they reviewed road funding, road jurisdiction, the impact of other government and private entities, construction, asset management, and the capital improvement process. She concluded her portion of the presentation and said Mr. Bartlett will focus on, but not limited to projects out through the year 2026. With that, she gave Mr. Bartlett the floor and asked him to share what we as a committee have learned.

Mr. Bartlett highlighted Novi Roads Basics (Roads 101). He said basically we discussed our entire road network, which consists of 187 centerline miles of local and major roads, and those roads are split up into various jurisdictions. He explained that the even-numbered Mile Roads and the east-west borders are owned by the Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC), with Eight Mile being shared with Wayne County. He said we also have the freeways which are primarily Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), all these various road jurisdictions are necessary to coordinate funding. They also create unique circumstances that deal with maintenance and all kinds of project planning in the future. He stated the City is required to submit a Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP), that plan was due October 1, 2022. He said because of the committee's efforts, he acknowledged that it was completed about 18 months before it was due. He said they have additional prioritization for Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) for the next four to five years. He noted that the committee has endorsed the Road Report, and they are also dealing with the other organizations. He said our map, although busy, shows all the various jurisdictions of the roadways throughout the City of Novi. He expressed that improvements to these roads, depending on who the who is in the jurisdiction is a team effort between the City and the funding of those various jurisdictions.

Mr. Bartlett stated there is no singular design prescription for road construction and each project is unique in community context. He said the various roadways throughout the City, depending upon when they were built, and depending upon the City qualifications at the time, we have various roadways as far as concrete, drainage, asphalt, sidewalks, pathways drain, sewer and so forth. He stated any Capital Improvements that we are going to discuss from the individual roadway budget will consider that we are improving

upon that infrastructure. He said none of the funding that we are talking about in any of these cases deals with an infrastructure change. If you are going to be changing infrastructure, that is a different animal as far as what it is going to cost you to do per roadway mile. He said equally, there are some other considerations inside the City, boulevards enhance the driver experience, the aesthetics also keep some of the opposing traffic separated, which helps you increase safety. He stated they had a long session about driving and roundabouts. He said roundabouts are much safer than signalized intersections primarily because they move traffic based upon the capacity, the capacity needed at that time and the directions needed at that time. He said they have totally avoided front end collisions by a big factor in their safety. They also talked about technological advancements and pavement designs, and what should be considered for future road projects.

Mr. Bartlett explained that costs have increased approximately 30% per square yard and material, which means by maintaining our current level, our current road infrastructure is going to cost more than it did 12 years ago. Just like any other expenditures, it is also important to recognize that the roadway does have a lifespan. He noted that over a lifespan of a roadway, if you fixed it 10 years ago, in many cases, you are going to have to fix it again. The roadways are a living, breathing object structure, and that is part of the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) Program that we will discuss a little bit later.

Mr. Bartlett stated there are three major sources of funds versus through major roads, there is Act 51 which means that the State hands out money that they collect from gasoline taxes and various other sources that are then dedicated to what is defined as a major roadway. Similarly, with Act 51, we get a certain amount of funds per year based upon the local roads. He said there are various municipal roadway funds for the local municipal roads, city streets that the City is in control of. In general, the City receives \$11 million dollars of funds dedicated to roads per year. The general maintenance, general patching all those, filling potholes and so forth. It uses about \$2 million to \$3 million dollars a year, leaving \$7 to \$9 millions dollars targeted for capital expenditures for road improvements. This also includes non-motorized projects, such as the pathways and walkway projects.

Mr. Bartlett said one of the interesting parts of their discussion was in respect to traffic safety. He explained that part of that is the roadway itself, is the roadway well maintained with good shoulders, not a lot of potholes, and people are moving around and so forth. It also is how we remove snow, or do we keep the major infrastructure the major pathways open. He said it is how we handle key intersections such as the Data-Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) system where we monitor crime and traffic safety. Two good examples are the Novi Road Corridor between Novi and the freeway, and Grand River and back. How do we handle policing? It goes a lot further than just maintaining the road. He said we have a happy story is in total crashes when compared to our other sister suburbs, we are doing an excellent job in keeping the crash rate low. He stated when inspecting much of what we have, we found that many of the incidents were rear end crashes with driver distractions rather than what we could do with the roadways, which just makes our story all the better.

Mr. Bartlett said due to advancements in winter maintenance, or weather-related crashes which are only 8% of all our accidents from 2018 to 2020. He stated that removing snow and ice, which is a very popular topic with many of your constituents. He explained the priority are major roads, neighborhood entrances and exits, to be sure that you are sliding in and out of subdivision on residential streets and then for non-motorized routes abutting city-owned property. He said that 8% of all accidents were weather related, it appears that we are doing a fairly good job compared to our colleagues in other suburbs.

Mr. Bartlett said local roads are about 155 centerline miles of those 187 centerline miles that we discussed in our first slide. He explained that through the City Council, we prioritize the funding on local roads, as indicated, the local roads have a certain lifespan, they are going to need to be repaired on a regular basis, we have been using the standard asset management tool called Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER). PASER basically goes through all the roads that the City of Novi owns and creates a rating for those individual roads. He went over the graph, basically as a guide for Council as far as what allocating money to this system should yield. Over the next five years, an allocation of about \$7 million dollars a year keeps pace with where our PASER ratings are now, which simply means, we were allocating money to fix those roads, we should be able to maintain the overall systems PASER ratings as an aggregate. He said you should be able to essentially hold fast allocating less than that, they will see the \$4 million dollar line and the roadway start to deteriorate. The PASER rating will show a higher rating of war and tear on the roads. He said the green line at \$9 million dollars a year, we can expect the PASER rating to increase to above six. He said from the year 2018 to 2020 we have increased the PASER rating from 5.4 to 5.8, but the important thing about this is that it is not going to be a constant battle, it is an annual expenditure.

Mr. Bartlett explained what has been done from 2014 to 2018. He said it was easy to read with the wide roadway, you know color codes shows you what was done in 2019 to 202 and what is on target for this year. Another slide showed two separate examples of roadways within the City, one had a sewer infrastructure with asphalt and the other had a sewer infrastructure with concrete. He stated that there were some instances in the last years, we have been fortunate that concrete asphalt has increased a little bit faster than concrete. In some instances where concrete has been able to be a suitable replacement for asphalt. That is not the rule, that is all based upon the current cost of material.

Mr. Bartlett stated that they had several discussions of various capacity, and traffic issues, right away acquisitions and so forth. Primarily, what we have found is during most of the weekends, most of the off hours, traffic around Novi flows well. Our primary issues seemed to be focused on rush hours traffic, heavy impact, and heavy peak times. He said this is true on several surface roads. This is also true near the mixing bowl. He stated the mixing bowl is a MDOT controlled road that consists of I-96, I-696 to 275, and M-5. He said there is a flex lane effort scheduled for the freeways to analyze what happens there. The other part of the analysis that is separate from roads, is how we come out of this COVID-19 mess. How much is going to be the long-term impact from people who are working at

home, versus people who are having to travel to other areas through the Metro Area. We have a very strong alternative funding source, there are several people who affect the roads, most notably recently, the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) when they come in and they have to say replace a water main or replace some pipes. They tear up a road they are an important source of funding that should be mentioned that we can also leverage to getting some of our roadway projects done.

Mr. Bartlett highlighted the project that is underway right now which is the Ring Road, which is partially complete with the north primary link that is not open at this point would be in the northwest corner. He hoped that was going to be completed this year. He said the major projects completed were the Crescent Ring Road, Napier and 10 Mile which is a full traffic circle, the nearby road over I-96 Bridge has been completed with pedestrian sidewalks and the Grand River and Beck Road intersection. He said some of the planned projects in the future are 10 Mile Road from Haggerty to Meadowbrook with a continuous turn and selective widening. Currently most of that roadway is a two-lane road which it can be a cause of accidents and tie ups. He said hopefully that extra turn lane is going to give us some relief there. Second, turning Taft and Nine Mile Road into roundabout. Currently it is a four way stop. Third, Meadowbrook Road at 11 Mile Road they will be putting in a right turn lane onto southbound Meadowbrook. He stated that projects under construction and many of these have been significantly impacted by COVID. He noted projects under consideration is a regional expansion of Beck Road. Beck road is currently a two-lane road in each direction, especially by the Medical Center, which makes getting to it from the north and south a bit of a challenge at time. He said 12 Mile Road from back to Cabaret expanding to a four-lane boulevard. If anyone has driven 12 Mile Road recently, it is kind of beat up once you past west of Fountain Walk. He stated that there are considerable tax benefits to some of those industrial parcels that are for sale there which could significantly help our tax base because they have great access to the freeway. It is just that the roadway is a bit deficient at this point. He said 10 Mile and Wixom and 10 Mile and Taft Road basically an hour analyzing roundabouts, Crescent Road connection and in the Taft Road Bridge, possibly an extra means of alleviating traffic that needs to cross the freeway.

Mr. Bartlett covers various roadway projects that deal with surface improvement and capacity plans. One of the capacity plans are the flex route. That is to be something they are looking to add on I-96. This is like the flex route, if anybody has been on US-23 from Ann Arbor north, where you will have a lane that is capable of being opened at certain hours of the day, so rather than having a shoulder, they have an extra lane of traffic, that is one of the things that they wanted to look at. One of the things we noted in our discussions is that if the green lines that deal with capacity improvements, these are projects that are going to likely require bond issues and are gong to be beyond the scope of just an annual City Council budget.

Mr. Bartlett said as the City continues to grow, we will need to address future capacity needs. This relates to the funding that we did not have the chance to deal with until we really get a grip over what COVID is left with. We should develop a maintenance versus reconstruction mindset and how do we refresh the roads. How do we keep the ho do we maximize that annual investment in the PASER system on an annual basis? He said

they suggested to evaluate the City road funding annually to set policy prioritization for funding for local roads and mega projects on an annual basis.

Mr. Bartlett said the final recommendations utilize road report is a real program benchmark, including a maintaining a schedule for updates, focus on keeping the City's PASER rating at 5.8. This would mean the choosing that middle line from the City Council graph as far as an annual funding goes, verify the impact of the flex route before committing to other major projects that also has the caveat with it of seeing what the flex route looks like with the COVID work at home situations. He said continuous assume we are pursuing funding for major projects in fostering project fostering partnerships with other entities. He said we also suggested reconvening the Roads Committee about every five years with the caveat that depending on where we stand with the COVID virus and possible funding, it may make sense to convene earlier than that, should we come out with the economy dictate.

Member Casey thanked Mr. Bartlett again for taking us through the presentation for her colleagues and all the people who are watching. She said this was the shorter version of the information that we digested and the recommendations that we have. She believed there was a report that was provided to Council in the Admin Packet. She thought the final report is somewhere in the vicinity of 500 pages. There is a wealth of information that we have available to Council and to the residents that really shows the study that we did and all of the recommendations that we have. She yielded the floor back in case Member Mutch wishes to be recognized.

Member Mutch thanked all the committee members who are involved and of course, Member Casey for leading us throughout this, this discovery and really putting a lot of time and effort into putting together this Roads Report. He thought that the presentation they heard that evening really covered all the areas that the committee covered. Member Mutch mentioned that Mr. Bartlett noted that one area we did not get to explore the way we wanted was the question of funding recommendations. He thought there are some funding items in there, that we can discuss at budget time, as you noted, Mr. Mayor, that will be our opportunity to have some more conversations about where we are going in terms of how much funding for the Neighborhood Roads Program, if there are some opportunities for some additional funding into Major Road Projects that we know, we need to get done. He said at the same time, as was noted several times in the presentation, he thought we do need to be mindful, taking our time to see what is going to happen on the financial side in terms of the impact of what we are going through with this pandemic. He thought that was the caution that we brought, we did not want to get too far ahead not knowing where that is. He thought going forward if we get a better handle on the finances, we feel more confident about the City's financial position going forward, that maybe in a year or two, hopefully sooner rather than later, it would be wise to have the Roads Committee reassemble and have that kind of conversation of that part of it. He thought while we may see changing traffic patterns, the City of Novi is continuing to grow. He said the impact of traffic on the City is very important to many of our residents, as we have heard time and again. He thought if the economy rebounds, and we see traffic pick up again, we do not want to wait too long before we have these conversations about how we fund some of these major projects that we still need to

complete. He wanted to get Beck Road done, he wanted to get 12 Mile Road done sooner rather than later. He wanted to thank everybody for a lot of hard work, there is a lot of great information in there.

Mayor Gatt thanked Member Mutch. He expected all the Councilmembers to be at that expert level as we head into the budget session and discuss this very important topic. He stated he will talk with City Manager Auger and City Attorney Schultz and he believed they were going to keep the Roads Committee, will put a little pause on it. He said it is certainly not being disbanded by any means. The funding will be the next fun thing to talk about, we are now heading into budgets, and that is going to be a big topic. He thanked everyone again for a very thorough and robust report, and all your time and effort. It was very much appreciated.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 21-02-020 Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
 - 1. February 8, 2021 - Regular Meeting
- B. Enter executive session immediately following the regular meeting of February 22, 2021 for the purpose of discussion correspondence from legal counsel.
- C. Approval of a three-year contract with two one-year renewal options with KMG Prestige Inc. for the management of Meadowbrook Commons, commencing on July 1, 2021 with the final form of the agreement to be approved by the City Manager and City Attorney's office.
- D. Consideration of approval of the final payments to Cadillac Asphalt, LLC for the 2018 and 2019 Neighborhood Road Program – Asphalt Streets in the amount of \$77,166.18 and \$48,686.36, respectively, plus interest earned on retainage.
- E. Consideration of approval of the final payments to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, Inc. for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Concrete Panel Repair Programs in the amount of \$28,181.64, \$21,783.79 and \$44,471.76, respectively, plus interest earned on retainage.
- F. Approval of a license agreement with International Transmission Company (ITC) for construction of a non-motorized pathway connecting the existing ITC Trail to Wildlife Woods Park.

- G. Acceptance of a donated pathway easement from Island Lake of Novi Community Association for construction of a pathway connection as part of the Safe Routes to School project.
- H. Acceptance of a donated pathway easement from Novi Community School District to construct sidewalk and ADA upgrades as part of the Safe Routes to School project.
- I. Approval of an Intergovernmental Water Service Agreement with Commerce Township to allow Behavioral Care Solutions located at 39465 Fourteen Mile Road, to connect to the Commerce Township public water system.
- J. Approval of a service contract to Hesco to provide solar power to five sanitary sewer meters in the amount of \$23,916.
- K. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant No. 1078.

Roll call vote on CM 21-02-020 Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt
Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION: None

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Gatt recommended John O'Brien for appointment to the Corridor Improvement Authority.

CM 21-02-021 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval to appoint John O'Brien to the Corridor Improvement Authority.

Roll call vote on CM 21-02-021 Yeas: Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Casey
Nays: None

Mayor Gatt recommended Sreenivas Cherukuri, Kathy Crawford, and Katherine Dooley for appointment to the Library Board.

CM 21-02-022 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval to appoint Sreenivas Cherukuri, Kathy Crawford, and Katherine Dooley to the Library Board.

Roll call vote on CM 21-02-022

**Yeas: Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt,
Casey, Crawford**

Nays: None

Mayor Gatt recommended Ramesh Verma for appointment to the Planning Commission.

CM 21-02-023 Moved by Casey, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval to appoint Ramesh Verma to the Planning Commission.

Roll call vote on CM 21-02-023

**Yeas: Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Casey,
Crawford, Fischer**

Nays: None

Mayor Gatt thanked those who were appointed. Thank you for your commitment to Novi and your commitment to serving Novi. He stated to those they were not appointed that evening to please remember we only have so many openings. There were so many good candidates, please do not stop trying. Please continue to serve this great City that we call home.

2. Approval of a resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2021-5.

CM 21-02-024 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of a resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2021-5.

Roll call vote on CM 21-02-024

**Yeas: Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Casey, Crawford,
Fischer, Maday**

Nays: None

3. Approval of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.294 to reduce the required minimum site size from 5 acres to 4.5 acres for Facilities for Human Care in the OS1 (Office Service), OSC (Office Service Commercial), OST (Office Service Technology), and EXO Overlay districts, subject to conditions. SECOND READING

City Manager Auger mentioned there were questions on getting a little more information on what other communities around us did for the same type of ordinance and giving the Council an option to do away with the ordinance. He explained that is why you have both of those recommendations in front of you depending on which way the Council would like to go.

Member Mutch recalled at the previous meeting he did raise the question about whether we still needed to retain this language in our ordinance. He said obviously, it is being amended to help a particular property which is kind of stuck in limbo right now, and we do not want to see that continue. He stated that at the same time it struck him that, he did not want to get into a pattern of what if somebody else came forward and their site

was 4.35 acres, and we wanted that development, but it was not allowed by our ordinance. He recognized that our ordinance already has quite a few provisions in it that help us address the development of sites, things like building setbacks, parking setbacks, landscaping, and the drainage requirements. He thought this one has some height requirements, and setbacks. He said all those regulations that already exist within our zoning ordinance already helped guide any developments such that it will properly fit the site. He stated they they have talked a lot, this Council and past Councils about streamlining the development process. He recognized this one particular provision it will not make or break our ordinance. He anytime we have an opportunity to reduce those hoops that developers of these types of projects must jump through, he was not sure if that provision is adding to what we already do, we already addressed all the things that we need to address through the existing language. He thought it seems logical that instead of constantly tinkering with this particular provision, they just do away with this requirement, knowing that we have all our other requirements still in place so that we are still going to get high quality development and require developers to meet all those standards. He did not think we were going to have developers coming in and trying to do substandard development, not in the City of Novi, not for what they must pay for property in Novi. He stated that his preference in this case, is to approve the ordinance change, striking out this requirement for a minimum site size, and retaining the other language as it is currently presented in the ordinance. He said he would make a motion to that effect to approve the second reading that would remove the minimum site size requirement in the ordinance is currently written while retaining the remaining standards that are currently in place.

CM 21-02-025 Moved by Mutch, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.294 to eliminate the required minimum site size for Facilities for Human Care in the OS-1 (Office Service), OSC (Office Service Commercial), OST (Office Service Technology), and EXO Overlay districts, subject to conditions. SECOND READING

City Attorney Schultz asked Member Mutch for clarification, he wondered if we are retaining the 20 acres for the General Hospital, and just striking the language as shown in the motion sheet. Member Mutch replied yes, that would be as it was presented in the motion sheet that they all have seen.

Roll call vote on CM 21-02-025 Yeas: Gatt, Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch
Nays: None

4. Consideration of approval of Change Order No. 9 to DVM Utilities, Inc. for the Nine Mile Road Sanitary Sewer project (Evergreen Court to Kensington) in the amount of \$984,279.84 and amend the budget.

CM 21-02-026 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Maday; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Change Order No. 9 to DVM Utilities, Inc. for the Nine Mile Road Sanitary Sewer project (Evergreen Court to Kensington) in the amount of \$984,279.84 and amend the budget.

Member Mutch asked DPW Director Herczeg what the timeline would be, he knew this project had a lot of challenges. He said we have been telling residents what we thought the timeline would be, and we are quite a way past that. He said hopefully there are no mystery boulders appearing in the pathway. He said we only have so many feet left, and assuming we are able to continue at the pace we have been going as of late. He wondered realistically when the major construction of work being done, and Nine Mile Road be completed, and things get back to a little bit of sense of normalcy over there. DPW Director Herczeg replied in the next two to four months, we are learning towards the four months, but restoration may carry a little longer than that. He said the actual sewer installation connections and operation they are estimating the end of May, beginning of June, if we do not have another setback. Member Mutch said related to that, the dewatering/water diversion over to Garfield Lake, is part of what we are approving that evening in this funding to continue that through March, is that our expectation, when construction is done, he did not think there would be a need for the dewatering parts. He said assuming that will, there will not be another source of water to go back into Garfield Lake. He said it is that expectation is that when construction ramps up, that is when that will continue up until the point that the construction is finished. DPW Director Herczeg said that was correct, we will hold out the option of leaving one of the deep wells into to replenish Garfield Lake until we see the surrounding area, settle back to the previous levels. He stated that there will not be any more to dewater and pumping for the project, we may keep one of the wells live just for the option of diversion pump back into Garfield Lake. Member Mutch asked if the cost of that going to be the City's responsibility. Will that be going to be tied into the project budget or is that going to be pulled from a different fund but identified as a separate project. Member Mutch said they have not had a recent update on that. It might be helpful to get in at, again with winter, it changes and affects how that water flows, because it often froze. He thought it would be helpful just to have a status update come to Council in our off-week packet. He felt that would be helpful so if we must decide on that in the next couple of months, they will have a better idea of where things stood. DPW Director Herczeg replied yes, they can do that.

Roll call vote on CM 21-02-026

**Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer,
Maday, Mutch, Gatt
Nays: None**

AUDIENCE COMMENT:

Marian Mahoney said she has been a resident of Novi for the last 25 years. She is also a member of the Novi Democratic Club. She said she was speaking on behalf of their club. She said since their inception about two years ago, they have grown to about 120 members. Their membership is very diverse, and they really strive to build a membership that reflects Novi's beautiful diversity. She stated on February 16th their club adopted a resolution recognizing our Novi City Clerk and her staff for their work during the November

2020 elections. She asked that the Novi City Council also adopt this resolution. She said for the record she would read it out loud and provide an electronic copy afterwards. She said the title of the resolution is Recognition and Appreciation to the Novi City Clerk and the Election Staff for Administration of a Successful 202 General Election, whereas the November General Election was held in the City of Novi, in the State of Michigan on Tuesday, November 3, 202, whereas local municipal clerks and their staff are responsible for administering elections in a safe and secure manner according to the law, including Proposal 3 of 2018 whereas due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in person voting was made especially difficult for voters and placed a heavy burden on election officials. Whereas efforts by the nearby City Clerk's office to count every vote resulted in an increase in the absentee voting of more than 2.5 times, and then the number of absentee ballots counted and resulted in a total ballot increase of more than 18% from the 2016 November General Election. Whereas the final statewide audit conducted by the Michigan Secretary of State confirmed that there was no widespread evidence of fraud or improprieties that took place during the 2020 General Election, and that any indication to the contrary, is not accurate or truthful. Whereas the lack of widespread fraud was directly due to the village vigilance and professionalism of Michigan's Municipal Clerk's including the Novi City Clerk's office. Whereas our nearby City Clerk, Cortney Hanson and her staff have served the citizens of the City of Novi with honor and distinction and are deserving of our recognition and our appreciation. Be it therefore resolved. The nearby City Council and the Novi Democratic Club extends the recognition and appreciation to the nearby City Clerk Cortney Hanson, and the entire Novi election staff for administering elections on November 3, 2020. Cortney Hanson and the Novi election staff, under extraordinary circumstances, administer the elections with integrity and according to the law, thus ensuring the voice of all nearby city voters are heard. That ends the text of our resolution and we ask that the Novi City Council adopt this resolution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:

1. Municipal Broadband

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said during the past several months there has been a lot of interest expressed on social media and other ways for the City to consider alternatives to current broadband distributions, i.e., cable, and wireless. He said on July 8, 2019, we created a task force to investigate this, that task force was basically precluded by COVID. He stated that they never got deep into any of the issues. He was asking City Council through the Mayor to initiate the task force with the idea that first, it is going to be education. Second, if any recommendations would come out of the efforts of the task force that City Council would then at a time, look at it and do anything that we would plan to do as a vote of City Council. He stated however, the very right now what he was looking for is reinitiating of the task force and perhaps have another member appointed to it. He said then they could get together and doing a very first information zoom meeting, which he thought would be extremely well attended event and go from there. Mayor Gatt asked City Manager Auger to take this under consideration and bring it back to City Council in the off-week packet. He said if the City is amenable to what we can

address it at our next meeting and make appointments. City Manager Auger agreed, and said they were on it.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: March 8, 2021

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act this meeting was held remotely.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Gatt, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Casey, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Crawford, present from the Orlando, Orange County, State of Florida
Member Fischer, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Maday, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Mutch, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 21-02-027 Moved by Casey, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as presented.

**Roll call vote on CM 21-02-027 Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer,
Maday, Mutch, Gatt
Nays: None**

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

- 1. Enter executive session immediately following the special meeting of February 24, 2021 for the purpose of the discussion of confidential written communication from legal counsel and to consult with legal counsel in connection with pending litigation, Nofar v City of Novi.**

CM 21-02-028 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To enter executive session immediately following the special meeting of February 24, 2021 for the purpose of the discussion of confidential written communication from legal counsel and to

**consult with legal counsel in connection with pending litigation,
Nofar v City of Novi.**

Roll call vote on CM 21-02-028

**Yeas: Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt,
Staudt, Casey**

Nays: None

Council left regular session to enter executive session at 5:36 P.M.

Council returned to regular session at 7:26 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

CM 21-02-029 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To adjourn the regular session City Council meeting at 7:27 P.M.

Voice vote on CM 21-02-029

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: March 8, 2021