

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2018 AT 9:00 A.M.
POLICE TRAINING CENTER – 45125 TEN MILE ROAD**

Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Breen, Casey, Markham, Mutch, Wrobel

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Auger, City Manager
Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 18-01-006 Moved by Casey, seconded by Wrobel; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 18-01-006 **Yeas: Staudt, Breen, Casey, Markham, Mutch,
Wrobel, Gatt**
Nays: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT: NONE

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Mr. Auger explained that the goal setting was broken into four categories, with short term and long term goals for each. Mayor Gatt said they will go around the table and each Council Member will have the opportunity to voice their thoughts about goals for the next year.

1. Initial City Council Member Roundtable Thoughts

Member Markham said she didn't have a lot of comments. She was proud of how well Novi has been run and the progress that has been made in many areas. She wanted that to continue. The areas close to her heart were being able to move people around the community. She would be happy to see goals focused in that direction. She said in terms of long term goals, she would like to look at long term needs and redevelopment. She also said indoor recreation and cultural and performing arts were a weakness.

Member Mutch encouraged his fellow Council Members to make the goals as specific and actionable as possible. Oftentimes they go through this process and get ideas out there, but over time he has noticed the goals that get completed in a timely manner were specific. He said it helps administration to move goals forward. He wanted to get a handle on long term challenges and opportunities they have as a City. There are some challenges they know about, like pension liabilities, but there are others like infrastructure that need attention. He said over the upcoming year they need to get a better handle on long term liabilities so that during next year's budget process they

know what they need to tackle long term. He wanted to encourage development where infrastructure was already in place as well as look at long term trends. He spoke about the changes happening in the retail sector and how they need to understand how that could affect the City. He spoke about autonomous vehicles and the impact they could have on infrastructure needs. He specifically wanted to see visible progress on CIP funded initiatives. The money is coming from the voters and he wanted to make sure the City completed projects that were visible to public otherwise people will question where those dollars have gone. He suggested they focus on key gaps in pathways, such as Beck Road between 11 Mile and Grand River. He pointed out that by completing that section, it would create a loop for the ITC trail. He said that was important because a significant amount of the ITC trail doesn't have direct access to neighborhoods.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said this was his tenth early budget input session and each time they have different agendas. He said this was the first time he didn't have a huge agenda of his own. He said they have a lot of projects ready to go like the DPS building, Lakeshore Park and the ITC Trail. He said they have unlimited opportunities for economic development. He echoed the previous speaker about moving forward everything they've started in order to get things done. He wanted to focus on completing projects. He said Novi is a great place and the envy of other communities.

Member Casey said the previous speakers covered the same topics she was going to discuss. She pointed out that last year they discussed a desire to see planning on long term goals. She wanted to have a conversation about how they should manage long term goals because they haven't been consistent about holding themselves accountable. She had a strong interest in long term planning and strategic thinking. She looked back at long term goals over the last few years and resurrected them as short term goals this year.

Member Wrobel agreed and said the budget process gets easier every year. He said in the short term he wanted to focus on what was planned last year. He said they discuss it, but now they need to act on it. He said the City was in great shape financially so it was time to act.

Member Breen said she was excited about the process. She thanked her fellow Council Members and the citizens for voicing what they want to see.

Mayor Gatt said this was his fifteenth goal setting session and it was much easier than it has been in the past. He said he was very proud of Novi and the City Councils over the last 15 years. He said even though they don't agree on everything, they all want the best for Novi. He said the City can only be as great as it is safe and he felt safety was the number one priority. They need to pay attention to the needs of the Police, Fire and DPS. He also spoke about the Novi Road Cemetery and how it was in a state of disrepair and needed to be addressed. He said Beck Road was also an issue and needed to be addressed. He said Novi is the envy of most communities in southeast Michigan and that's not by accident. It has happened due to the planning that

Council and City staff has done. He hoped they could come together over the next 12 months to get things done. He mentioned transportation and the different ideas that have been discussed in terms of moving people around the City. He said it was time to to follow through and not just talk about it.

Mr. Cardenas said they will be using Group Map to identify short and long term goals. Council had the ability to anonymously enter goals in ahead of time. He explained they will have one more opportunity to add goals, and then they will vote. They consider short term to be one to two years and long term to be three to seven years.

2. Early Budget Input Work Session

There was discussion of both long and short term goals for each of the four categories. Council then ranked the top goals (see attached).

Mayor Gatt said this was the quickest and more efficient goal setting he has been a part of. Mr. Auger thanked Council for all the effort they put forth by entering their goals ahead of time. He also thanked staff for being present.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 A. M.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Transcribed by Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Date approved: January 22, 2018