

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Fischer, Mayor Pro Tem Casey, Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt

**ALSO PRESENT:** Victor Cardenas, City Manager  
Danielle Mahoney, Assistant City Manager  
Tom Schultz, City Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she'd like to postpone Item #9 "Approval of a Resolution of Intent to Create and Provide for the Operation of a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority" to the next Council meeting.

**CM 26-03-024            Moved by Martinez, seconded by Gurumurthy; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**To approve the agenda as presented.**

**Roll call vote on CM 26-03-024            Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer**  
**Nays: None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**1. CMAQ Award Check Presentation**

Mayor Fischer said there were some special guests from SEMCOG and the Oakland County area to talk about a funding grant that Novi received for 11 Mile and Taft Road. He said he was excited to be there and see it happen. He has children who go to schools in the area and he has seen the traffic debacle at this four-way intersection. He thinks this intersection will be well served by a roundabout. He knows some people are not big fans of roundabouts, but from a safety and environmental perspective, roundabouts are a very good way to go.

Mr. Herczeg said they applied for this project in 2024 and received the grant in 2025. He presented a slide showing the intersection at 10 Mile and Taft Road. He explained that this intersection is currently a 4-way stop with flashing stop signs. It has a traffic count of over 5,000 cars per day. It has had a few minor crashes over the past five years. It is adjacent to the Novi Community School District's multi-school campus and bus yard. With various starting times for the schools, there can be some congestion and traffic mitigation. They believe the roundabout will help resolve both of these issues. He said

they are also looking at reducing the carbon output. The CMAQ is a congestion and air quality grant. The estimate is about 52 kg/day in CO2 reduction. It is the simple version, single lane roundabout. It does include sidewalk improvements at the crossing, and it does fit within the existing footprint which is important for roundabouts. A lot of times, they have to get right-of-way. They do need to get a little bit of right-of-way to complete the sidewalk connections. Mr. Herczeg said regarding the timeline, they were awarded the grant in 2025 and Council saw the design award in 2026. He said they will go through the GI Submittal (which is basically a pre-con or preliminary design) to MDOT in 2026 to keep their obligation schedule. The final design will be decided in December 2026, the bidding will take place in March 2027 and then construction will begin in June 2027 in order to keep with the timeline for the federal funding. He thanked Kevin from SEMCOG for the funding and said he is very excited about this project.

Gwen Markham, the Oakland County Commissioner for Novi introduced herself. She said she was there as the chair of SEMCOG which stands for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. She said it is their job at SEMCOG to distribute all the CMAQ funds. There are many other programs through which federal funding comes into our area and it's through SEMCOG and a subgroup of theirs called the Regional Review Committee that the funding is reviewed. They also look at how much money they have available, and they prioritize and award the programs. She said this particular award is quite large. She said they've been distributing awards for a few months all over the region. There are seven counties in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. They've been awarding funding through all those counties pretty consistently. They were in Wixom a couple of weeks ago. The CMAQ set of proposals is designed for carbon mitigation and air quality improvement. That's what CMAQ stands for. This roundabout will really help with both of those. She said she lives very close to the Nine Mile and Taft Road roundabout, which had its own set of naysayers at the time, but it functions pretty well. She is looking forward to seeing this one just a couple miles up the road.

Kevin Vettrano, Planning Director at SEMCOG, said usually when they're in front of Council, they don't have their chair with them. He said she did such a great job, he had very little to say except to thank Council for having them. He also thanked Council and the Mayor for being longtime members of SEMCOG. As Commissioner Markham said, the Council of the Governments of the Seven Counties of Southeast Michigan is doing this: getting out to the communities to make sure that their residents and their communities know how important these federal funds are. This funding, CMAQ, as well as other funding pots that they're able to pass through to communities comes through federal legislation currently under the bipartisan infrastructure law. They want to make sure that it's known that they are good stewards of these funds and that the funds are going to good projects. He said this is a great project and they were really happy to be there.

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

City Manager Cardenas said he wanted to show some appreciation publicly for some of the City's staff members. He said there was an event over the weekend that really asked the staff to step up and help out the residents and stakeholders. He acknowledged and

appreciated the members of the staff, especially the directors that chipped in: Ms. Sheryl Walsh-Malloy and Ms. Jeanette Handy from Community Relations; Chief Zinser and Chief Martin from Public Safety; Mr. Jeff Herczeg, Mr. Ben Croy and especially Mr. Scott Roselle from the Department of Public Works and all of the DPW crew that came in to hand out water to our residents as they came to the garage. He said he just couldn't thank them enough for all their efforts this past weekend.

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Dan Tollis, 24142 Elizabeth Lane, commented about the water issue this past weekend. He said his understanding is that this was the second one in six months and he is very concerned not only about himself and his family, but also about the businesses in Novi. He asked what the restaurants do. From what he learned, the water main was put in in the 1970s. It has seen better days. It has failed more than twice in the last six months. From the information he has received, it has been about five times since 2002. He said he could be wrong about that, but that is what he has learned. He also learned that it is a concrete system that was put in on farmland in the '70s. He said, hopefully, as the city grew and there were more and more houses that were put in, that system was upgraded to accommodate the growth. He is wondering what the integrity of the system is and how long it will last. He said, from what they've heard from the CEO of Great Lakes Waterworks, it will be in the tens of millions. It'll be millions of dollars. He asked what Novi can do. He's concerned because it's an old system, just like an old car. Sooner or later, you need to fix it or you have to replace the car and hopefully, the money is in the bank.

Ashish Verma, 27660 Hartwick Circle, came before Council to comment about the water situation. First, he thanked the Novi staff for handing out water. They worked tirelessly and it was very efficient. He said, unfortunately, this has become a yearly occurrence. It has been happening way too often. Six months ago was the last occurrence, like the other gentleman said. He said, coincidentally, when they look at the last five years, the housing market has been growing a lot in Novi. Is all the development putting additional demand on the supply and that is what is causing the system to break down? He wonders what kind of study was done to assess the situation before approving the new development. If it is increased demand, they need to either replace the infrastructure or slow down the new construction until there is a solution to the problem. Mr. Verma asked what the City is doing to hold the Great Lakes Water Authority responsible. He said every year, Novi residents see the price of water and services going up, but the quality of the service is going down.

Vinit Gupta, 47510 Valencia Circle, asked, with the water supply being a critical infrastructure, how can it be contingency dependent? A single thing fails and it all comes down. He said last time, they heard GLWA was doing a flexible 36" pipe. Did it help? Was there a mechanism to switch to it faster than it took over 24+ hours to do that? He is wondering what kind of contingency plan they can do. The second thing is, as other people mentioned, he looked at the records since he has lived in Novi. In 2017, 2021,

2025 (2 times) and then in 2026, the City had either low water or water outages. That is something, in a city of this size, where people pay much higher property taxes, that is probably not acceptable. Last year, GLWA rate hikes were about 5% for water, 4.8% for sea water. This year, effective July, the numbers are similar. So, close to 10% rate hikes in the last two years, much higher than the national average. He demands some accountability. He asked why the residents would give them a rate hike with such poor performance? Is there an alternative to GLWA that the City can look at? He said, from an engineering perspective, when they design critical infrastructure, they always look for ways to restore it faster. His last point was, even if it's not sound engineering, they can answer these questions. These mains don't just break right away. There have got to be signs that the system is degrading. He asked what kind of monitoring GLWA has. Can they use electronic monitoring by using Telecom and fiber network like they use for the electric grid and other systems that tells them it's about to fall apart and they need to do something about it. He asked if they do routine maintenance and inspections. He would like GLWA to give some of those answers in a report that the residents can comprehend instead of just saying they're sorry.

A resident from Liberty Park said he has lived here for 21 years. He said this public comment summarizes several regional water transmission failures that have impacted the residents of Novi. As a resident, his intent was to ask for clarification and transparency regarding the reliability of the regional water infrastructure supplying Novi. He quoted the data on the occurrences of water outages over the last few years. In 2021, there was an occurrence on 14 Mile. In 2025, there was another occurrence on 14 Mile. Each of these outages lasted for at least 24 hours, but one lasted for two days. He had some questions: out of all these years, are there any outages he missed? What is the expected remaining lifespan of this regional water main on the 14 Mile corridor? What proactive inspection replacement plans are currently scheduled for GLWA? What contingency measures exist to prevent large-scale pressure loss? He said understanding these issues will help the long-term reliability of the regional GLWA.

Three students from Novi High School stood to say they are part of a youth initiative called Hygiene for Hope. Hygiene for Hope is a promotional campaign that raises awareness of a widely problematic issue that is rarely talked about: hygiene. They said that might surprise you. When they researched, they found that 95% of people worldwide do not wash their hands properly. The recommended amount of time to wash your hands is 20 seconds, but research studies show that most people wash their hands for only six seconds—not even half the time they should be using. On top of that, they conducted a survey about oral hygiene at Novi High School. The results showed that 65% of students do not floss daily. If basic habits like washing your hands and brushing your teeth are overlooked, hygiene awareness cannot be assumed; it must be reinforced. That is why they made this their mission to influence their local community by using hygiene awareness. They used Instagram to spread awareness through short posts, visuals and everyday hygiene habits, generating over 58,000 views. To extend their impact beyond the social media level, they also placed infographic flyers around Novi High School, Northville Farmer's Market, and other community spaces to reinforce these habits in daily environments. While raising awareness is essential, they realized that informing people

alone was not enough without access. They partnered with a local, student non-profit organization called Thoughtful Totes to donate hygiene bags to shelters such as Hope Shelters, Grace Centers of Hope and the Salvation Army in Pontiac, Michigan. They were able to donate more than 600,000 tote bags filled with essential hygiene items such as shampoo, conditioner, and dental products. Working with shelters revealed a harsh reality: many individuals want to practice good hygiene, but they simply lack the resources to do so. They expanded their outreach by giving presentations to clubs like Girls in White Coats and the American Red Cross at Novi High School, reaching over 250 students. These presentations enabled them to show how hygiene is often underestimated even in healthcare-focused settings. This motivated them to extend their impact by organizing a school-wide pink out spirit day, engaging over 150 students to learn about hygiene and reflect on their habits. This event also served as a visual reminder throughout the school day, helping spark conversations revolving around hygiene. Many of these hygiene habits are things that most of them have learned through growing up in elementary school, yet 50% of the world doesn't follow these basic hygiene habits. This highlights a major gap between what they are taught and what they do in their lives. This is exactly why they took their initiative to the next step by bridging the gap between what they learn and what they do. Through outreach like presentations, widely distributed infographics and even partnerships with hospitals, they were able to make this possible.

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

**CM 26-03-025            Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

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

- A.     Approve Minutes of:  
       February 23, 2026- Regular Meeting
- B.     Approval of request to transfer ownership of an escrowed 2025 Class C license from J & CD, Inc. to Kim's Bap LLC, located at 43155 Main Street, Suite 300, Novi, MI 48375.
- C.     Approval of the SECOND READING of Text Amendment 18.306 to reclassify auto washes from Principal Permitted Uses to Special Land Uses in the B-3 District, and to add use standards to be met by new Auto Wash establishments.
- D.     Approval to award engineering services to Spalding DeDecker for a Debris Management Feasibility Study in the amount of \$21,227.
- E.     Approval of a Pawnbroker License requested by Thomas Blaine, Novi Jewelry & Coin, Inc., located at 41990 Grand River Avenue.
- F.     Enter Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting of February 9, 2026, in the Council Annex for the purpose of discussing confidential correspondence from the City Attorney.

G. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1198.

**Roll call vote on CM 26-03-025**

**Yeas: Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith,  
Staudt, Fischer, Casey**

**Nays: None**

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

**1. Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) incident response update on the March 7, 2026  
Novi water service disruption and ongoing restoration efforts - Suzanne Coffey, CEO**

Mayor Fischer said he wanted to remind everyone why they're there and how they got there. He said, if you'll recall, on Saturday morning, there was a water main break in Farmington Hills. The City of Novi was one of the last areas to get its water pressure back after about 26 hours. As mentioned, there have been several times since 2017 when this has been the case. He had the privilege of speaking with Ms. Coffey many, many times over the weekend and he asked her to join them in giving an update on the situation. As far as their discussion tonight, he considers this the starting point. He asked her to address why this continues to happen to Novi, why the water continues to take so long to get replaced as far as water pressure goes, and then start to talk about next steps and what they can do to collaborate and address, what he considers to be, an infrastructure emergency in the City of Novi. He considers this to be a very preliminary step in their discussions. He said there were a lot of residents in the audience who joined the meeting because they have texted and/or emailed many of the Council members and Novi's communication staff. He asked GLWA, just like last time, to host a town hall so they can address the residents directly on some of those questions above and beyond what the Council was able to address at the current meeting. This would break it into two important parts: what are we doing for today and what are we doing for tomorrow? Mayor Fischer set the ground rules for what they wanted to accomplish at the meeting.

City Manager Cardenas said there was a brief history in the Council's packet about how GLWA was formed, what role it plays in being the main distributor for water to the City of Novi, where the City of Novi then disperses it to its customers and business holders. They get Novi the water and produce the water from the various sources that serve roughly 40% of the population in the State of Michigan.

Suzanne Coffey introduced herself as the Great Lakes Water Authority Chief Executive Officer. She is a lifelong Michigan resident. She is an Oakland County resident, and she is a registered professional engineer in the State of Michigan. She came up to this executive office position through engineering and operations. She thanked Mayor Fischer and Mayor Pro Tem Casey for inviting her and her team to come. She said she was happy to be there, not happy for the circumstances that brought them there, but she understood that the Council and residents need to hear from them. She invited several key employees and consultants to come with her: Bill Wolfson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; Jody Caldwell, Chief Planning Officer; Peter Fromm, Director of Water Transmission and Michael Higgins, Condition Assessment and Rehabilitation Director for

HDR, GLWA's national expert and their lead consultant on their linear system integrity program and their pipes. She said they were all there to answer the questions in detail.

Ms. Coffey started by apologizing to Council, the residents and the businesses in Novi. She said this is not the level of service they deserve. This is not the level of service they expect, rightfully so, and it's not the level of service GLWA expects to provide to their customers. She takes responsibility for that. She said Council has put tremendous pressure on GLWA. She said to the audience that they should know their Council and their mayor put tremendous pressure on GLWA, as they should. She said she was there, respectfully, to apologize for the situation and to answer some hard questions from Council and from the audience's comments. She said she'll try to hit some of those. One of the things she wanted to get out there is GLWA has to do better. She said she'd talk about where they are. She knows there are questions to be answered, but she wanted to give everyone a little information first. She wanted to explain where they are, where they've been and what they've done in that time because the residents can't always see what GLWA does. She also wanted to explain where they think they are going to go because they *have* to be different. They see that. They know that this is not acceptable.

Ms. Coffey said where they are today is that Novi's pressures are fully restored. In this part of the system, there are six communities impacted by this. Six communities and GLWA together manage the use of the system on this side. The communities have their pressures restored. She understands the flushing was completed. She understands Novi's team did a great job flushing overnight, which is unfortunately, what you have to do to get out of a boil water advisory. The flushing was done. The samples were taken that day. As you likely know, there are two rounds of samples. The sample taken today will be read tomorrow. The sample taken tomorrow will be read on Wednesday and hopefully, they can lift the boil water advisory on Wednesday. The samples have to come back clean. That's a public health situation. GLWA wants to make sure they're bacteriological samples that they analyze.

Ms. Coffey said the broken pipe has been replaced. Pipes are typically in 20' sections. When the pipe is taken out, it gives them an opportunity. It's a 48" pipe, four feet in diameter. People can walk up the pipe and inspect it. There is nothing better than having experts walk and look at the pipe. They also have things like electromagnetic inspection. This pipe is a concrete pipe. It's called a pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe. It has a steel cylinder and a concrete mortar coating. It also has a wire winding that puts that pipe in compression so that they can pressurize it. Their very large pipes have high pressure. Some of their pressure is as high as 170 pounds per square inch. It's a high-pressure pipe. It's pre-stressed. That pipe came out. When it was out, they inspected about 80 feet on either side. In their desire to be very expedient with the repair, they had to put pipe back in. They put a steel pipe back in which is the pipe that they want for this area. They found another distressed pipe. That distressed pipe means that that pipe needs to be replaced. It will not extend the boil water advisory for Novi because it's in what they call the shut-off area. A pipe's system is like a big grid. It's pressurized. It's looped. If a pipe breaks, they have valves in the system. They close a valve on each side of the break, the water pressure in the system will equalize and people outside of the

shutdown area will have water. That's where they are now. The distressed pipe that they found is in the break area, in the isolated area, so it will not affect that. It is their intent to have that pipe replaced by the end of the week. That's their plan.

Ms. Coffey said they know the Novi community has experienced several breaks and water disruptions. She is going to go through the years that she had her team look into so she could get everyone on the same page. 2017 was significant, 2021, 2025 and 2026. She said this is not getting better. This is not going in the right direction. This is not the level of service that they expect. She said GLWA understands it causes significant disruption to businesses, significant disruption to residents beyond a convenience for some, suffering for some. She said she is a public servant. She said she loves working in a governmental agency to work for her neighbors, to take her engineering skills and apply them to make it better for the community. This is not how she wants to serve the community; she wants to do better. She said they will do better. She summarized by saying that is where they are. They are in a good place and they are going to continue to work.

She said a little bit about where they've been and what they've done. As a result of the break in September 2025, they are completely replacing a mile of pipe there. She drives by it every day. She drives down M-5 every day. She said 14 Mile to M-5, you can see the pipe laid out. They decided they are going to replace a big swatch of pipe. They aren't going to go do the inspections on that pipe. They are just going to replace it. It's a necessary improvement and it's terribly disruptive for the Novi residents. They understand that. They are doing the best they can with that and if they need to do better, she asked the residents to let them know. She said she believes her team had been there before when the residents let them know they weren't doing a good enough job, specifically as it related to that big loop they did. She said she mentioned the system being like a grid. The west side of the system got looped. They call it their Haggerty Loop. All that pipe that was laid out on 275 that got put in was large diameter, high-pressure pipe. That was a \$100-million-dollar project that they invested to loop this end of the system. When they started having these breaks and they started meeting with the six communities, they asked if they wanted GLWA to go in and do the rehab of the pipes or if they wanted GLWA to loop them first. GLWA said they thought they should get the loop in first so if the pipes break, they'd have another water source for the communities. This area of the system was the largest, what they call "single-ended" part of the system, comprising of 325,000 people. When GLWA took this over, 325,000 people on a single end, that's not a network. That's a single end. So, they looped it. They built the loop, the loop is there and the loop did help in this case.

Ms. Coffey said they also had a pipe out of service on 14 Mile Road west of M-5 that created a longer period of time for Novi to get their water back than it would have been if that pipe had been in service. Unfortunately, those two things happened concurrently. She said the last time this happened in September 2025, she went to the team and said, "We cannot put these people through this again. We have got to fix this. Let's just replace all this pipe." When she got the call on Saturday morning, her heart sank with the thought of here we are again. All total, with the investment they are doing now, the \$100 million loop, they're invested about \$150 million in this part of the system. GLWA is a big



corporation, she meant a public body, but \$150 million is a tremendous amount of money, even for them. They are focused on this. Why is the focus not getting them out of this situation?

She said it might sound hollow because of the circumstances they were currently in, but GLWA engaged national consultants and they're doing best practices on inspection of these pipes. As an engineer, she's going to the engineers asking them what is going on? Why is this happening? They employ best practices. They invested \$150 million. Why is this still happening? That's the question. She thinks the reality is they need to do better than best practices. What does that look like? That's the conversation right now. Investment in the system. She said someone asked the question about the life of the pipe. She said the pipes were built in the '70s. Pre-stressed, concrete cylinder pipe should last 100 years. This pipe is 50 years into its useful life. It should not be failing. If someone like an underground contractor hits the pipe, that can cause a problem. That happened a couple of weeks ago. An underground contractor hit the pipe. Those things happen. This pipe should not be failing or aging out. So, why is it? They were in this particular pipe in 2021. They inspected it twice. In 2019, 2021 and 2021, there were no defects. They were scratching their heads about this. Their consultants are, too. What they've come to is these pipes are degrading faster than anyone thought, even the experts. So, they've got to think out of the box, and they've got to do things differently because this is not going to cut it. It doesn't meet her expectations. It certainly doesn't meet the residents' expectations. She said she was only happy to be there to show that she cares and that they are taking this seriously and that they take responsibility for it. They also need to take responsibility for doing better, better for the residents. They have to. There is no choice.

Ms. Coffey said they need an effective, comprehensive, long-term solution. What they have been doing in this best practice approach is getting in the pipe and inspecting it. She said someone asked about technology. She said they can run acoustic fiber optic cable in the pipes so they can hear wire breaks on this type of pipe. It's wire wound, so they can tell when the pipe is degrading. She said those types of things are important and they're doing some of that. This is the first time they've used this type of technology. It's advanced technology in this area because they know this area needs attention. They are putting some, what they call AFO, that acoustic fiber optic cable in the pipe. They are doing what they can to seek funding. She said she is starting to wonder if they need to just do more wholesale replacing of the pipe now. These are the conversations they're having today. Their field crews are out doing good work. The people she introduced are doing really, really good work. Novi's team is doing excellent work. City Manager Cardenas and his team are doing excellent work. However, they've got to be able to find a better solution, and they need to find it now. They can't go do another study. They can't go do another whole bunch of inspections and wait and wait and wait. She said the Novi residents don't deserve that. They've got to figure out what they need to do now. Ms. Coffey said there isn't a lot of specificity on the piece going forward yet, but clearly, they need to come up with a different solution. She was happy to answer any questions Council wanted to ask her or any of the experts she invited to attend with her.

Mayor Fischer said it had been a tough weekend for the Novi residents and businesses. He knows it was a tough weekend for her staff as well. He said he and Mayor Pro Tem Casey joined a couple of the calls up until 11:00 on Saturday. They spoke on the phone again at 5:30 Sunday morning so she could give him updates. He said he wanted to echo City Manager Cardenas's comments about the Novi staff. He said it's important to recognize that while the City of Novi distributes the water within this area, the City is reliant on a source and that source is GLWA. Despite the fact that the water main break did not happen in Novi's system, they had countless people like Sheryl, Jeannette and Scott who worked to respond to residents and to take care of the situation at the DPW. They literally worked around the clock over the weekend, and their work was very much appreciated.

Mayor Fischer said the reality is Novi is where it is with these breaks and not just breaks several times within a few years, but now they're happening six months apart. There is concern that they will get to be even more frequent like three months apart. He said he mentioned this on the call on Saturday night that Novi has had to close its schools due to water main breaks. That's a big impact on the learning and mental health of the children of Novi. Parents and the businesses those parents work for are impacted. There is a major hospital in Novi. There are very important businesses like ITC who literally runs and delivers electricity to Novi. Their business is impacted when this happens because they have to kick into their emergency operations. Novi has a mall. Vibe Credit Union Showplace had a large show this weekend with over 10,000 people joining there. Not to mention Novi's small businesses and restaurants. He said Novi's restaurants are very low margin. Every single hour of serving food to people, serving drinks to people impacts their profitability. So, it's very, very important. He said to him, most importantly, are the residents. He mentioned the school impact again and said try bathing a child with a bottle of Absopure bottle of water. Try convincing your children that are in the bathtub not to drink the water when we finally do get it again. There are toilet issues. It's very unsanitary not to be able to flush your toilets. Thankfully, the City of Novi did an excellent job of providing water when possible. He thanked Superintendent Ben Mainka for texting him by 9:00 on Saturday morning, offering all the support. There was a lot of wonderful support in the community, but the frequency of what is going on is now on the verge of an emergency at this point. He said that is why he invited GLWA to come.

Mayor Fischer said they had some very difficult conversations on Saturday night. There were some pretty unpleasant and uncomfortable ones. He believes things needed to be shared for everyone to understand the frustration that was joining those calls. He really appreciates that GLWA would come. He said he had had the opportunity to ask her his questions very directly over the weekend. He said it was more important that his colleagues had the same opportunity. He wanted to lay out why it's so important. One overarching thing to keep in mind as their questions are being asked is the frequency. The other really big issue that he has is why is Novi always the last to get the water back. It seems like every time there is a situation like this, Novi may get some work around, but then there's some sort of valve issue that ends up delaying it. He said he wasn't going to ask a ton of questions, but he asked that they address that aspect of it. He said they are all frustrated with the frequency and they understand the age of the infrastructure. He

asked for them to explain, in a simplistic way, why those valves fail and further delay the water service back to Novi and Novi only.

Ms. Coffey started by talking about the valve. She said their valves are just like big gates. It's not like a typical valve that you have on a faucet or even a faucet outside. They're these very large plates that come down in the flow. That's a 48" pipe. It's big. The valves do have a thousand turns. She said she knows that sounds silly, but it's real and it's there because they don't want to create a water hammer situation. When they have some sort of quick closure of a valve, you can create a water spike that runs through the system and when it runs through the system, it can break pipes just like water hammering your house. The two valves they isolated are new valves, very new valves. She said she would guess within the last five years they've been doing this work, they had two new valves to isolate. They went out, they got it isolated so that they could start to build pressure in the system. They had a target to get the water back to Novi by midnight, but when she called Mayor Fischer by 5 or 5:30 on Sunday morning, and it wasn't there, she wanted to let him know it wasn't there. She had just talked to the team, and she was wondering why the water wasn't there. It was because of the valve. She said it's not because the valve was an old, troublesome valve. They closed those valves. They isolated them. When they started to repressurize the system, which is what they had to do, one of those valves kicked back open a bit. They had to go back out and close it. They went one valve back and closed the next valve. Fortunately, they could do that without putting anybody out of water. She said that was the valve situation. It took them a few hours to do that.

Ms. Coffey said when Mayor Fischer asked why Novi is last, it's because of the location Novi is in. That's why they built the loop. They wanted to be able to get Novi water pressure faster. She said everyone knew the construction timeline of the loop; it took them quite a while to do that. They could not backfeed Novi how they normally would because they had those pipes out to do that work on 14 Mile Road west of M-5. That was the situation this time. They had to get those pipes back in service. They needed to fill a reservoir in order for them to get that at Haggerty Road and M-5. She said the audience members may have seen that facility there. In this particular case, that repair that they're effectuating now and those replacements complicated the situation. Other circumstances, she would tell you, Novi has some high elevation. It's not just a grid, it's also elevations. You can't just tap in on that grid to any other pipe. Some of the pipes have lower pressures than what you need in the higher elevations. It's more specifically related to your location. They understand it. They need to develop more robust contingency plans for Novi. Period. They have to do this other thing with the pipe. They absolutely have to do it, but if it breaks again, because sometimes pipes break, they need a better contingency plan for Novi. They need to sit with Novi staff and ask if they need to make another connection in their system somewhere for Novi. Do they need to make another connection for Farmington Hills? She said there are six communities that are impacted. Ms. Coffey said maybe there are internal emergency valves that they open only during emergencies between communities. Maybe there are more of those that they could get for Novi. For sure, they need better contingency planning for Novi.

Mayor Fischer said he appreciated Ms. Coffey's comments. He also said Ms. Coffey made a very good point and he's glad they're making the investment on 14 Mile west of M-5. He said she is starting to hit the nail on the head by thinking outside the box. A patch-and-repair program on this pipe is not the solution. It's not going to be the long-term solution. He said he understands that that causes funding issues. He understands that \$150 million in the grand scheme of their budget is a very large amount. Novi certainly doesn't have that type of money to kick in. He has shared with Ms. Coffey that whatever they need to do to go hat in hand to the county, to the state, to their friends in Washington, to explain to them the severity and the gravity of this situation that is converging in an emergency is what they need to do. He asked Ms. Coffey to let him know what she needs from him, from the Novi team and from the Novi Council. He said when it comes to lobbying those people and getting the funding Novi needs, he will speak for everyone in saying they have their full support.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she sat in on a couple of the EOC calls, so she didn't need to ask a lot of questions. The one question she asked is how the pipe broke in the first place. She said if she understands the situation correctly, there was a factor that caused it to break. It didn't just break on its own. She asked Ms. Coffey to explain what happened. Ms. Coffey said remember the very big storm that caused the damage across the state. There were emergencies across the state. GLWA had a power disruption at one of their pumping facilities in that grid she talked about. They have different places where they boost pressures because people use the water, the water pressure goes down, they need to boost it and push it out farther. Their system is in eight counties. It's really massive. One of their pumping stations lost power, a transformer from their utility provider. When that happened, they could see a pressure wave (they have pressure monitors) across their network and this pipe broke. Of course, they're going to do additional forensic analysis around all of this, but they can see the evidence that the pressure wave went through the system and this pipe broke. Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she thinks that helps people understand what they're talking about with this particular situation.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said there have been questions about development around Novi and if that development has been impacting this pipe. She said she is going to project that that's not a factor because the pipe they're talking about is a transmission main. (She asked Ms. Coffey if that is correct and Ms. Coffey said that it is.) Mayor Pro Tem Casey said that means it's bringing the water to Novi and then, depending on where the water needs to go within the city, the water moves that way. It's not a development issue; it really is the age of the pipes and the fact that they're failing this quickly. Ms. Coffey said she confirms that. It is not related to the development. They have capacity in the system. They can push more water to different communities if they want more water. It's not related to that. It's not related to where in the pipe; this is related to the integrity of the pipe, the pipes themselves, the pipe wall.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she'd like to take a quick moment and share an observation she had over the course of the weekend. She said Ms. Coffey had heard directly from Novi residents. She said she knows that Novi staff and their team shared with Ms. Coffey some of the feedback from social media, so she is aware of what is being said. She said

she didn't need to repeat that, but she would like to talk about the communications aspect of it. She said, unfortunately, the Novi team has had to build a strategy and a process for how to respond to water breaks. They are recognized, in a good way, for the way they handle it. In 2017, communities around Novi were looking to them to talk about what was happening and give them information about what was happening. She believes the challenge was not getting enough communication from GLWA. There were definitely gaps in that communication in terms of getting updates that they could share publicly with their residents. When you are in a situation like this, it's a crisis communications perspective, what matters is clarity and frequency. If I don't have water, all I'm focused on is the fact that I don't have water and I want to know what is happening. When I don't know what is happening, I don't think things are being done and now I'm more frustrated because I don't know what to expect. She really encouraged GLWA to take a look at this. When they do their after action on this, she encouraged them to look at the communications and see what opportunities they have for improvement there so they can share with the Novi team and the team can do their job to let the residents know and let the businesses know. Unfortunately, the Novi team was left hanging a bit and there are some comments on social media that are reflecting on the Novi team that they weren't sharing information, and they weren't telling the truth. The real issue is the Novi team wasn't getting the communication. Mayor Pro Tem Casey asked Ms. Coffey very clearly to please look at that and see what opportunities they have to increase their communication to the communities and to the residents directly. She said she knows GLWA relies on press releases, but she thinks using social media, just posting on social media, in addition to press releases would be very helpful for people so they know what to expect.

Ms. Coffey said she would definitely take that back. She said Mayor Fischer made that very clear to her on Saturday night. He was disappointed with the level of communication coming out of their office. They bumped that up. As soon as Mayor Fischer said that to her, they started moving the communication in a faster direction. She said they will absolutely sit down and consider what they need to do to get that faster, on social media especially. Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she appreciated that and she thinks people who are living through it would appreciate that knowledge as well.

Member Staudt said let's start from the beginning. The Great Lakes Water Authority came out of the bankruptcy of Detroit. He said to Ms. Coffey that her and her team inherited this mess. She said yes, they did inherit the system. Member Staudt said this was created through state legislation, in essence. Ms. Coffey said she's not sure if it was through state legislation. She's not a lawyer, so it's challenging for her to do that. She said the three counties in the City of Detroit came together. Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties came together and formed the Authority. Member Staudt asked her if she had been asked to testify during the last few days, last month, the last six months in Lansing by any of the committees that have oversight over water distribution in this state. Ms. Coffey said she was going to look back to their and Member Staudt cut her off and asked her if she, personally, had been. She said she did not believe she had been asked in the last six months, but she added that she'd like to talk a little bit. She said they talk to the legislators regularly. They had 60 meetings last year with the state legislators. They go to D.C. twice

a year. They have testified and been asked to testify. She couldn't recall in that moment if the six-month period was the right number. She turned to one of her colleagues who said the answer is no.

Member Staudt said she had been quoted in *The Detroit News* as saying that their repair budget is \$75 million a year and that they need \$1 billion. She said yes, and asked Member Staudt to let her explain. She said they have 800 miles of transmission main. 16% of those 800 miles are past their useful life, their book life. She said think of your roof as a 20-year roof and it's past that number. Sometimes, things last longer. \$1 billion is what it would take to replace those pipes, to do the renewals on those pipes. \$75 million is what they need just to not make it worse every day. They need to get to \$75 million a year just to not have that number, 16%, get bigger. Those are the numbers. Member Staudt asked her where the \$75 million comes from. She said right now, they don't have \$75 million. They put \$7.5 million in their budget this year saying they need to increase their budget. They have a large budget. Their water system budget, operations and maintenance budget is about \$450 million per year. They bond for a lot of their capital projects. About 50% of that budget is debt service and pay-as-you-go capital and 50% is operations. Member Staudt asked if they have the ability to borrow money. She said they do. Member Staudt said the idea that \$1 billion is unattainable for them is not really true. They could borrow the billion dollars to fulfill their requirements to provide water to their customers, one of which is Novi.

Ms. Coffey said she could explain why they don't do that. She said as an engineer, she would love to just go borrow. Here's the quandary. They have to have charges pay the debt service for borrowing. If they borrow more, they have to raise charges to pay the debt service. There's a ratio that they cannot go below. It's their debt service coverage ratio. They can't go below that. If they borrow for it, they've got to pass that debt service along to Novi because they're at the lowest legal level of their debt service coverage now at 1.2. The quandary they're in is every time they go to get charge increases, people ask why they should give them more money. The reason is they cannot do the work...Member Staudt cut her off and asked her what government entity is restricting GLWA from doing that. She said it's a legal requirement. Member Staudt asked legal from what. He asked who wrote the laws. He asked if it is from the State of Michigan. He said he saw a state representative sitting there and Member Staudt expects GLWA to be accountable at the state level because they were part of the reason GLWA was created. He said they don't have many responsibilities as City Council members, public safety, water and sewer, even roads, when water and sewer is failing on a regular basis, there is no excuse. Money is not the excuse. He said if GLWA went to the State of Michigan and said, "We can't continue this. We need funding." He said GLWA could let them make some decisions about it. He asked what we have here, 400,000 people that GLWA services and they're shut down with, we don't know if the GLWA pipes are going to burst again. He said they can't tell them. He said as a City Council member, he expects them to replace the pipe from whatever point to another point, like they're doing on the west side. He expects this to be done. He doesn't care how much money it costs. He said it's not GLWA's problem; it's the state government's problem. It's the federal government's problem. The citizens have to have water. He said, frankly, it sounded disingenuous when

Ms. Coffey said they need \$75 million, they need \$1 billion. He said GLWA needs whatever it takes to get this done. He's hoping the state legislature convenes one of their infamous committees and talks about this and comes up with solutions with GLWA. If they can't borrow the money, then maybe the state legislature can help them do it. Maybe they can allocate funds to GLWA. He said people keep building more roads. No offense to roads, but water is far more important than one mile of road. They need to find a solution.

Member Staudt said Novi, as a city, it didn't even happen in Novi. He said they can't go out and say, "Hey, you guys, you are not accountable to us." Member Staudt asked Ms. Coffey the popular question of who GLWA is accountable to. She said they are accountable to the State of Michigan. She said he is exactly right and they have asked the State. Member Staudt cut her off and said of course they are, so why isn't the State stepping in. Ms. Coffey said they had gotten a call from the State that morning. Member Staudt said maybe Novi is just not an important enough community. He said maybe the State thinks of them as, "They're just Novi, just Wixom. They're the suburbs. No big deal. They can go buy water. It's not a big issue." Member Staudt said the State needs to step up in this case. They stepped up in Flint's case. They step up in many other places. They need to step up here. He said he holds GLWA accountable. He also holds the State accountable because, at the end of the day, GLWA is accountable to them. Ms. Coffey said she agrees with him. Member Staudt said he hopes whoever is listening to this in Lansing, convenes hearings soon and looks for long-term solutions. If they have to fund some of this to get it done, let's get it done. The Novi residents expect more from GLWA and the State of Michigan.

Member Smith thanked Ms. Coffey for coming and bringing her team. He said her comments were a good explanation for why this happened. He was really glad to hear the words "replace" and "contingency." He thinks that's what needs to happen here. This break has affected tens of thousands of residents, hundreds or maybe thousands of businesses. The mayor mentioned Henry Ford Providence Hospital. It's a regional hospital. He would hate to see something happen like the tornado on the west side of the state come through and take another water pipe out. There would be people going to the hospital and they'd have no water. Vibe Showplace hosts regional, countrywide and international trade shows all the time. It's not a great look for Michigan or Oakland County to have a trade show with people from Germany, Japan, countries all throughout Asia and Europe coming in and saying they don't want to come here because there is no water. He said we're reaching the point where it's not approaching an infrastructure emergency. He thinks we're at that level now and well passed it.

Member Smith said Ms. Coffey mentioned it was caused by a water hammer. The thought of a 48" pipe at 100+ pounds of pressure, a water hammer would be frightening. There's a lot of power there. He asked Ms. Coffey if there are any backup electricity plans so they don't have pumps fail like that. Ms. Coffey said that's a great question. She said they were running their generators in storm mode so that if they had a power disruption, they would be able to do the best they could. She said that is not enough. They've got to build a capital project at that facility. The mayor asked her the same question. He told her this doesn't make a lot of sense. He asked her why a power disruption would create

this kind of damage. She said her response was she wasn't there when they designed this. The engineers who were there clearly didn't think about that at the time. There is backup power. In an effort to explain it, she said using the size of the pumps that they have, when you start a generator, it's not going to pick up that load right away. With electricity, you have to synchronize the power to make it work, to keep it from tripping out. They're working that. She thinks they're going to have to build a capital project somewhere between \$10 million and \$30 million at that station to keep that from happening. It's the way it's piped. It was the way it was designed and it's not tenable anymore.

Member Smith thanked her and said he agreed with Member Staudt that this is a point where they need to bring Oakland County, the state and the federal governments together to find a good solution for this. Oakland County is the economic engine of Michigan. He said we can't have this stuff happening in Oakland County.

Member Heintz said he appreciated Ms. Coffey being there. He appreciated the work her team had done and the work that the city staff had done as well. He appreciated the detailed answers she had given to the residents' concerns. He said he has been wondering what caused the issue. He said Ms. Coffey said it's not development; it's related to a power disruption. In terms of other potential causes like the water, the pipe or the ground around the water, he asked if there could be attributing factors. Ms. Coffey said they've done a tremendous amount of work in this area. She said it's a good question to be thinking about—what else could it be? She said they've inspected well over a thousand pipes, thousands of pipes in this section. They call it from Inkster all the way out to the lake at Walled Lake, that whole 14 Mile section. They've done renewals when they find pipes that are in a failure mode or getting to a strength limit that they need to be renewed. They've renewed 66 pipes along this line. They've inspected pipes multiple times. When they had the failure in September, when they went back out to the pipes they had inspected recently, they had degraded significantly faster than what was anticipated. She said she thinks this is about the pipe integrity of this pipe on 14 Mile Road. She said they have other pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe. She said don't get her wrong, there are other pipes that have problems. This one has a significant number of repeat problems more than others, so she thinks it's the pipe.

Member Heintz said he is not trying to speculate, but he didn't know if they had already thought through all the other potential factors like the water, microplastics, any contaminants, etc. that could lead toward degradation. He said there is probably no way of knowing. He said his next question is if there are things the residents or the City can do to help protect the integrity of the pipes as they currently stand or as they will in the future. He asked her what advice she would give to the City or the residents that they can do to help with the durability of the system.

Ms. Coffey said Novi is very connected with GLWA. She said one of the things, they had it right: they stood up out of the bankruptcy. They have a member outreach. She said they serve 3.9 million people in eight counties in the state with water. They have about 80-90 meetings a year with their member partners. Novi is very well represented in those



meetings. Novi chimes in. They have a capital plan. They have meetings to talk about what they're going to build next. They have good communications and they work well with the Novi team. She said Novi has good staff. They're engaged and ask the right questions. The Novi team pushes GLWA when they need to be pushed. They support GLWA when they need to be supported. She feels like that is very solid and they can continue to do that.

Ms. Coffey asked what needs to happen next. She said they're going to get out of the emergency. What happens next is they're going to have to have regular engagement again with staff to figure out how to go forward. She has every expectation that the Novi team will do that. She thinks that's the best thing because the decisions they make clearly affect Novi residents. That means the residents' voices need to be heard. She said you hear the care and concern from her, but they need the care and concern directly from Novi and Novi's perspective and they are getting it. She thinks that is really good. She said she doesn't have any reason to believe that there's anything in the water itself that is creating any of this. She also doesn't think there is anything the residents can do. That's why when she thought about coming to the City Council meeting and listening to the frustration and the anger, it's absolutely reasonable. She said the residents are in a situation they don't have any control over and it's affecting their lives terribly. She thinks the residents are doing what they need to do. They support the Council and the Council is engaged in the meetings. She said she and the mayor have been talking about having a meeting with these legislators and Oakland County. She called today and they talked about bringing Oakland County into this conversation. She thinks that is their best bet.

Ms. Coffey said they had 60 meetings with the state legislators last year, asking for money for their needs. She said they go to D.C. twice a year. She's going next week to ask. She'll be going again in April and September. She said the water system problems that Novi is experiencing are not unique to this area. They've talked about how the GLWA system as a whole has aged 16% over their useful life with a billion dollars to get caught up. It's not a good situation, but they are not alone in that. In the older communities, pipes are starting to age out. She said if you look around the country, this is a problem. They talk about fixing the roads. They need to fix the water pipes. This is all across the country. She said the best thing they can do is go see what support they can get from the state and the federal government. Those are the bodies that have the kind of money they're going to need to work through this.

Member Heintz said one of the things the residents can do is reach out to elected officials and representatives to encourage them. Ms. Coffey said yes, that's true. That is something the residents can do. Member Heintz said in terms of another "outside the box" idea, would it be helpful for residents to document things like when their faucet gurgles or anything like that that could be useful. Ms. Coffey said not that she can think of right now. She thinks advocacy is important.

Member Gorumurthy thanked all of the parties involved and then said she heard in September the idea of a whole inspection. She said they have heard about the integrity of the pipes, aging of the pipes, but, she asked, is there a way they can see, holistically

looking at all the pipes, where the water serves the City of Novi, what the aging looks like right now. For roads, they have pacer scores, but what is it, like which pipes, what's the age, is there something like that so they can understand the real situation? Ms. Coffey said if you look at an engineer's desktop analysis, and you look at the type of pipe and the age of the pipe, those give you good indicators because there are book values that you can look at and say I need to replace 2% of my system every year, the oldest 2% for 50 years. That way, you always have renewal. If you've got a hundred year useful life on your pipes, which a lot of pipes are, inside the pipe is much harder. When water pipes are built, they're not built for people to get into them. In fact, they're built intentionally to keep people out of them so that the integrity of the water, the water quality is good. When these pipes were built, many times, there were not access ways. This is why they loop the pipe--so you could take a part of the pipe out and do an inspection. The best thing you can do is get in and do the inspection and have experts in the pipe from the inside. They don't have a lot of water pipes you can just take out of service and do that. The local pipes are too small to do that, obviously. So, the technology they use has three phases. They have what is called a small ball where they float this ball down the pipe, in the water. It's sanitized. They put it in, it floats, it listens and it can find if there are leaks. If there are leaks (and all pipes do at some point), you will know about it. It's not the same as the local pipe. Their pipes are under a huge amount of water pressure, so they put that smart ball in to listen for leaks at joints and these types of things.

Ms. Coffey said they also have this pipe diver technology that they're using. It is much more sophisticated. In pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe, it can measure the continuity as it runs through that wire, that single wire that wraps around the pipe and it can tell them how good of shape that pipe is in. They've been doing that inspection. That's the kind of inspections they have been doing. They call them electromagnetic inspections. It's smart because people generally understand what an electromagnetic field is. That's the kind of inspection they did on this pipe that just broke five years ago with zero defects. The question becomes why is it degrading so fast? She said from an inspection place, there is a third thing they can do in the pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipes: put acoustic fiber optic cable in it and put a monitoring device on and listen. When the wires break, there is a ping and it can record it, the data collector can send that information to them and they can look at the data. She said she had been talking with one of the staff members about the fact that the Novi staff may have used some of this technology. These are the kinds of things they do in these 80-90 meetings a year is share technology. Not all that technology can work on smaller diameter pipes. She said to Member Gurumurthy is they're looking for technology that works on the pipes that serve Novi, the best bet would be more technologies about water pressure at different places, water modeling, that sort of thing. She thinks Novi is a fairly sophisticated community. Her guess is that the Novi staff is up on technology, but GLWA can certainly share that information.

Member Gurumurthy said this particular pipe was inspected five years ago with zero defects. Ms. Coffey said this was correct. Member Gurumurthy said it would be helpful if they could see a visual or a map of the pipes in Novi that includes when it was last inspected and if there were any defects detected. She would like to see what the current

situation looks like. Ms. Coffey clarified that Member Gurumurthy was talking about GLWA's pipes that run through Novi. She said they could work on that with the Novi staff.

Member Gurumurthy said in terms of the aging, she is hopeful that GLWA has already put a plan together. She said, of course, they need the money, but is there a plan in place based on the aging that GLWA will be replacing or doing something? Ms. Coffey said they have spent a lot of time on the 14 Mile Road pipe. They absolutely have a plan for inspections and re-inspections. This was strategic renewal. You inspect it. If it's got a defect or enough defects that you've got to replace it, you go in and there are in-pipe ways they can renew these pipes. You can dig them up and you can replace them or you can get in the pipe and do this carbon reinforced polymer wrap. They've done that. That was their plan and that's the plan they were working. Yes, they have a plan and they've been working that plan for the 14 Mile Road pipe. Unfortunately, the plan is just not sufficient. It's not working. To have been in a pipe that's supposed to have another 50 years of useful life, they were in it five years ago and it had no defects, and then to have it fail means their plan is not working. They need to do something else. Ms. Coffey said she hears Member Gurumurthy. They will continue to do that. In fact, it's very effective in other parts of the system. There's no doubt about that. She said she's not suggesting it's not good; she's saying it's not good enough for this pipe. Member Gurumurthy clarified that they will be revising the plan to look at better options and then share that information with City Council. Ms. Coffey said yes. It will likely be a combination of replacements, maybe more frequent inspections, maybe putting that acoustic fiber option cable in more lengths of the pipe. Ms. Coffey said there are different options that they've got to work through because the circumstances that happened on Saturday have got their minds reeling about what they can do. They're going to sit with their engineers which is why they have their experts working on this and they're going to develop a plan. They'll develop it in coordination with the six communities that have a vested interest in GLWAs pipes through this common area.

Member Gurumurthy said, in a corporate world, when they have this, an RCA, they also expect that within a couple of weeks, they'll have figured out what that plan is and how they are going to do it. The money part is a piece of it as well. It'll be good to see the plan in a week so they'll know what is going to change in terms of taking care of that pipe. Ms. Coffey said she thinks they have to have a new plan for this 14 Mile Road pipe. She's not sure they'll have a plan in two weeks, but they'll absolutely share it with the Council when they have it. Ms. Coffey said when GLWA stood up out of Detroit's bankruptcy, one of the things they committed to is collaboration. When they talk about collaboration, they talk about shared decision-making and they really do it. It's not just an outward communication, but they bring that information back and together, they decide. That's how the plan will be developed for this pipe as they go forward. She said they talked about it during their emergency operations center meeting. This is the very structured way they handle an emergency. It's an incident command system. It's what came up after 9/11. Government agencies have been trained in this. The morning of the Council meeting, in their emergency operations center meeting with all the communities there, they talked about the fact that they needed to have continued meetings to develop this plan collectively.

Member Gurumurthy asked if there are any other pipes that serve water in the same risk zone. Ms. Coffey said yes, there are. GLWA has 120" pipe up in Port Huron that broke three years ago. It was pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe. A couple of weeks ago, they had a similar 36" pipe on Gratiot Avenue between 24 Mile Road or 25 Mile Road that a utility contractor hit. They used that opportunity when they replaced that pipe to get in and inspect it. They found two pipes in what they call incipient failure, already failing. They replaced those pipes. Detroit had a huge water main break last year. It was GLWA's pipe. It was a 54" welded steel pipe, not the pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe that should have had another 20 years on its useful life. It broke and created a public safety emergency. 200 families were re-located until that area could be made more inhabitable. Their homes could be. There was so much water. The news gets it right when it looks like a river. It's a lot of water. There are problems everywhere. She said right now, this pipe is their singular focus. She said this many breaks on this pipe is not something they are seeing in the other pipes. There are other high-risk pipes for sure. Member Gurumurthy said she is hoping they'll be highlighted in that visual. Ms. Coffey said in the community of Novi, she doesn't know if there are other high-risk pipes like that, but they'll look that and get that to the Novi team. Member Gurumurthy said she believes it is important for them to know that.

Member Gurumurthy said her next question is about monitoring. She said GLWA's monitoring has been more reactive than proactive. She said Ms. Coffey had mentioned a lot of different monitoring options. The question is when something like this happens next time, are there proactive measures they can be put in place now so they know even a few days ahead that there is going to be a risk because they can see pressure or some kind of threshold or marker that they always want to stay below. Ms. Coffey said the best monitoring for that would be to put that acoustic fiber optic cable in there and listen to it. That's how they can tell how these specific pipes are degrading. She said they are putting some of that in for the very first time in part of that pipe that is west of M-5 on 14 Mile Road. Member Gurumurthy said in GLWA's plan for this pipe, that should hopefully be there. Ms. Coffey said if you're not replacing it, yes. You cannot monitor steel pipe that way. It's not the same. They look for pressures. They try to stay under standard pressure thresholds. They look at ages, they look at condition leakage, the number of leaks. She said these particular pipes fail catastrophically. When she says that, she means they blow apart. That's what Novi sees. A lot of the other pipes will leak. When they leak, you can get into them. She said they repair a lot of pipes that leak and the public doesn't know about it because they haven't burst apart. The type of pipe determines the type of monitoring. She said she understood where Member Gurumurthy was going with that question: what can they do to be proactive? That's why she said they'd done thousands of pipe inspections on 14 Mile Road. They've done 66 proactive pipe renewals already. Those are pipes that they thought were in danger. They see those as avoided issues. They are being proactive, but it's just not enough. They need to do more. They need to do something different.

Member Gurumurthy said overall, she is looking forward to the plan, the change in plan or the new plan. For sure, she said they are looking at the overall infrastructure because

she thinks this was something that they mentioned during the September incident. She is part of the Public Utilities Committee. She wants to see where the infrastructure is today, when it was last inspected, how the pipes "score" (or whatever measure they use to determine how the pipes are aging). This will help them understand the risks. Member Gurumurthy said while she had Ms. Coffey and her team there, she knows as part of the committee, that they've been trying to understand the progress on the 42" transmission. There is a plan, there is progress made, but they'd like to know if they are on schedule. Ms. Coffey said yes, they are on schedule. She asked one of her team members, Pete, if they are ahead of schedule. He answered and said they are on schedule. Member Gurumurthy clarified that it will be the end of April and Ms. Coffey said yes. Ms. Coffey said she was checking with Pete because they talk about the progress all the time and Pete had mentioned that they would most likely get a question about that at the meeting. Ms. Coffey said they are on schedule. She also said one of the reasons April is important is the water use starts to come up. Water demand comes up when people start using water for irrigation. They consider that peak season and they want to be out of that construction before the peak season. Member Gurumurthy said she is happy to hear they are on schedule.

Member Gurumurthy said she had a request. As part of the Public Utilities Committee, they have this project and then they are looking at the plan. She said they would like to collaborate and request that a representative from GLWA attends, especially because this project is going to go through June. Then, something will come out of it like the discussion they are having right now with a plan. She said she thinks they need to stay connected. She thinks GLWA should send a representative to their meetings once a month. She said she is sure Council will want Ms. Coffey to come back often. So, for the committee's sake, they need a representative there until they all get a little bit more stable. That way, they can ask questions and they'll understand where things are going. Ms. Coffey said they can do that.

Member Martinez said he appreciated the points that had already been made. He also appreciated that Ms. Coffey and her team were there. He said he would like to hear from her more and not just when it is bad, catastrophic situations. He said Member Gurumurthy has been a valiant chair of Novi's Public Utilities Committee. One of the things she and the Novi staff have been trying endlessly to do is get somebody from GLWA to come say hi, tell the committee what GLWA is doing and how Novi and its residents can help in the process. Council has a role in this to communicate with the residents and to make sure they are aware of what is going on. He said at their last meeting in February, the last spreadsheet they saw from GLWA regarding the other transmission line had not been updated since November. That's a communication deficiency. That is something that means they are not getting the information they need to be able to inform the residents. He would like to see that be a priority for GLWA moving forward. He doesn't mean it has to be every detail, but things like are the benchmarks being met, is the plan moving forward as they intended to and where is it going.

Member Martinez said he echoes the appreciation for the Novi staff who worked a lot of long hours over the weekend to make sure the Novi residents stayed in the know,

coordinating things, balancing things, trying their best to make sure that people in the community had the information they desperately needed. He thinks the Novi residents are, by and large, some of the most understanding, accommodating, community-based people that they'll find. They are rightfully fed up and they've been hearing this over and over again like clockwork. It's frustrating for them and it's frustrating for him that it doesn't seem like they've made progress. GLWA patches the pipe, they fix what needs to be done and then everyone forgets about it until the next time and that's not going to cut it anymore. He said Mayor Fischer is right in calling it an infrastructure emergency in Novi. He said he cannot impress that upon Ms. Coffey and her team enough. He believes people would have more sympathy for GLWA and the financial situation they are finding themselves in if they recognize that, too, and start using those terms. He said Novi is one of the primary economic engines for Oakland County, the State of Michigan and they are talking about millions of dollars in economic loss over the last several years because of these water issues. When he hears Ms. Coffey say that the problems are not unique, he asked her if she could share any other community in GLWA's service area that has gone through five or six water issues like this. Ms. Coffey said no, she thinks this is the worst. Member Martinez said Novi is unique and Ms. Coffey agreed. She said they have a lot of infrastructure in Detroit. Detroit has a lot of issues but not repeated and not on the same line of pipe.

Member Martinez said when GLWA came to Novi a few months ago, they told the residents that they were finding that some of the concrete pipes were degrading and not keeping up with their projected lifespan. He thinks he recalled that they said the pipes were failing some 10 years earlier than expected in certain areas. He said this pipe managed to degrade in five years in some way. He said he understands there was the issue with the surge, but the pipe wasn't able to withstand that. He said over the last five times that they've had to do this, it's not become a surprise to people in Novi. He doesn't like that for GLWA and he doesn't like it for Novi. He said he has to take some exception with a comment Ms. Coffey had made with Channel 7 before the meeting when she mentioned that this one was a surprise to her. He said her surprise came as a shock to him because Novi residents weren't surprised. The people he has been talking to have been vocally concerned about this for some time. They have not been saying *if* it happens again, they're saying *when* it happens again because this is what they've become accustomed to. He said this Council's Public Utilities Committee has repeatedly asked for information. They could go through the Council's minutes because they have brought up the fact that they were concerned about *when* it would happen again. Not even six months later after the last one, it came. He said Novi does not take pride in being correct about that, but he thinks it's a sign that they seem to be aware of the issue and they'd like for GLWA to have some appreciation of that perspective because that is what the Novi residents live with. There are a lot of vulnerable populations in Novi. There are a lot of folks aging in place in Novi. Not having water for a day means someone may not be able to use their CPAP machine. It means that someone may not be able to use a lot of medical devices that they depend on. It's not just a minor inconvenience in Novi. When you're on the fifth, hopefully not the sixth, time, he really hopes they can get a plan put in place.

Member Martinez said she also mentioned in the Channel 7 story that insurance is not covering the damage from these issues. He said he gets it. Most of the residents that dealt with the flooding live in Farmington Hills. He said that she said residents should first go to their insurance companies and then he asked her what she said they should do after that. Ms. Coffey said she told them they should go to the city. Member Martinez asked why it is the City's responsibility. Why should they hold the bag for GLWA's system failures? Ms. Coffey said the way they do this is GLWA works directly with Novi, their contractual relationship, not directly with the residents. Then, Novi can negotiate or talk to GLWA or both parties can talk about what they're going to do in these situations. That's how they handle it. Rather than GLWA handling every one of their 3.9 million customers in 80 communities, they have residents go to their communities and then talk to them. They sit down and have conversations about what they're going to do.

Member Martinez asked how many payouts or how much has been paid out by GLWA pertaining to these issues in Novi's area due to the flooding from the catastrophic failures. She said she did not have that number. She could not tell him. He said when it comes to the power interruption, he read the press release that went out. He said they are not seriously blaming DTE for this. Ms. Coffey said DTE has a level of service that they did not make. GLWA has a level of service to Novi that they did not make. Member Martinez said it sounds like the power systems worked exactly as planned on their end. GLWA had backup surge protection. It worked as designed, as he understood her comments. Ms. Coffey said the transformer being out the way that it was, that's not as designed. There are two transformers, there's a generator that worked. She said the idea that it would create a pressure surge is something they're going to have to protect themselves against power failures. They're going to have to design it in. They're going to have to build it in. They're going to have to protect themselves from that circumstance. Member Martinez asked if that is already built into any other part of their service area. Ms. Coffey said it's not common. Member Martinez asked in what situations does it typically present itself as common. Ms. Coffey said it manifests in this particular facility more than others, but it's always the case. All water systems will have a valve that closes, a pump that turns off. That's very common. She asked if they need to be tougher against that. She replied yes, you bet, they absolutely do. That's why she was saying that they're working to build a capital project to protect themselves against that.

Member Martinez said they've established that Novi is in a unique position and this is an issue that keeps coming up repeatedly time and time again. He asked Ms. Coffey where does the replacement of the 14 Mile transmission main fall on GLWA's capital priorities. Ms. Coffey said she would say it's at the highest of the priorities now. Member Martinez asked if that means that they should expect a plan over the new few months about possibly replacing that, putting a price tag on it. Ms. Coffey said she would expect that they will have it. She's not sure where it's going to fall. She said they will have to take a look, see where it will fall, when it'll start, what it'll look like. They're not even sure what it's going to look like quite yet. She has told them a few things they are rolling around like maybe doing wholesale replacement of some portions of it, perhaps inspections and AFO in other portions of it. She said she would expect that they'll know how it'll look in a couple of months. They'll have a plan that they'll move forward with. She said it won't be

an engineer's plan, but it'll be a conceptual plan. Member Martinez asked if that plan will be something GLWA will be willing to share with Novi's staff in a couple of months or so. Ms. Coffey said they will develop it with the communities, so when the Novi representative comes, they will sit and develop the plan with them. The representative will have the plan and they will have access to it.

Member Martinez echoed Member Gurumurthy's point that it is really important that the GLWA team get together with the Novi staff to help them identify the aging infrastructure that exists in the city. Then, they can be more knowledgeable on the Council. They'll be able to help make the residents more knowledgeable about the situation. The left hand will know what the right hand is doing. He said he'd be honest with Ms. Coffey: there were numerous times this weekend when he did not feel that was the case. Ms. Coffey said she was sorry that happened and that they should do better.

Member Martinez thanked her for being at the meeting. He said he knows her team puts in a lot of work on these issues. If and when (and he hopes when) they plan a lobby day at the State Capitol or in Washington, he said she can put his name on the top of the list because he'll be there. This is an issue that they cannot afford to overlook any longer. They need to get it fixed. He said they cannot keep having this conversation every few months because something else happens and goes wrong in the system. It just can't. He promised her, from his perspective, he'll be a partner with GLWA in any way he can to get it done. He hopes they meet under better circumstances moving forward. Ms. Coffey said she wholeheartedly agreed.

Mayor Fischer said one question just came up as he heard a lot of the discussion as it relates to the electrical issue. If the pipe had been replaced with a steel pipe, would that electrical transmission have caused the same issue? Ms. Coffey said it might have shown up in another pipe, one of the other pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipes, but they wouldn't expect it to happen in a steel pipe, no. Mayor Fischer said the construction of the current pipe and the degradation probably has more to do with it than any sort of electrical. She said she wouldn't say that for this reason. The transient waves that come can be very, very high pressure and even the best systems might not be able to withstand them. That's why they're getting to a point where they feel like they just have to re-design the pump stations to deal with the power outages because they're coming more and more frequently. She said these come in a fraction of a second. They have to put very, very sensitive instruments in the pipes just to detect them. They can see data every minute, you can see the pressure spike, but if you look at the half-a-second data, the pressure is through the roof. Those types of things they have to design out and build out protections against those transients. That's another big thing they've got to do. They've just got to do it and they've got to start making sure they're protecting these pipes. Mayor Fischer said It's not just the pipe infrastructure; it's the other infrastructure that supports the pipe that needs to be thought outside the box. Ms. Coffey agreed and said they might need to redevelop how the pipe is configured such that that pressure wave can get dissipated and doesn't travel its way down the pipe. Those are the types of things they're looking at.



Mayor Fischer said he appreciates her joining them for the meeting. He said her team like the Novi team has got very little sleep over the weekend. Since the weekend, he has definitely been starting to feel a sense of urgency. He said as they've talked about communication, she has been taking the feedback and he feels like Council gave her a lot of additional feedback to consider. He hopes she'll endeavor to heed this advice because all they'd like is to see her there, in a pleasant meeting environment as opposed to the one they were having. He knows there are a lot of follow-up action items. He hopes those happen expeditiously.

Council took a break from 8:36 p.m. – 8:42 p.m.

**2. Consideration of approval of Change Order No. 7 to Mattioli Cement Company, Inc. for the 2025 Neighborhood Road Program – Concrete Streets to add the Villa Barr Art Park Concrete Paths, in the amount of \$153,018.**

**CM 26-03-026            Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**Approval of Change Order No. 7 to Mattioli Cement Company, Inc. for the 2025 Neighborhood Road Program – Concrete Streets to add the Villa Barr Art Park Concrete Paths, in the amount of \$153,018.50.**

**Roll call vote on CM 26-03-026**

**Yeas: Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer,  
Casey, Gurumurthy**

**Nays: None**

**3. Consideration of a resolution requested by Island Lake of Novi Community Association's to participate in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Goose Nest Destruction Program.**

Member Heintz asked if there was a representative for Island Lake in the audience. He said one of his former gigs was working in animal welfare at the Detroit Zoo. He has a heart for proper care and wellbeing for animals whenever they can. He wanted to ask what had been done previously to discourage Canadian geese from utilizing the area including having longer vegetation or a decreased amount of fertilizer use. He asked if any of that had been done, not in the entire area of Island Lake, but at least in targeted areas.

Mark Campbell said he is the President of the Island Lake Association. For the last five years since he has been living there, prior to them living there, they do annual goose, nest and egg destruction and that's through the State. Starting in 2000 with COVID, the State no longer allowed them to do what is called a goose round-up where they take the geese, euthanize them and leave them. Since 2020, they have not been able to do that. They've tried everything. The excuse the State gave them was they couldn't do it because of bird flu. Since then, they've tried multiple things like trying to clean up the area, putting up decoys, using irrigation, using different flags, etc. He said this is basically concentrating on their beaches. That's where they're having the most problems. No one wants to go to the beach and walk through goose droppings all the time. When they're seeing 50-60 geese

out there, it's really tough for them to do this. They're seeing more and more geese. They can only mediate the nests and eggs around the lake itself, but the geese have gotten smart and have started to go out further into the marsh area where they are not doing the egg and nest destruction. That's why their population is continuing to grow. They cannot keep up with it. They already do the nest destruction, but the second part is the goose round-up. Normally, the state won't even look at that unless the county has actually shut down the beach. Last year, they were shut down for six weeks because of E. Coli at our beaches. He said they said that they needed to get approval from the City before they can actually get approval from the State to do a goose round-up.

Member Heintz said he didn't answer his question. He asked Mr. Campbell if they had tried doing landscaping habitat modification. Mr. Campbell said because this problem is on their beaches, they can't put vegetation around beaches. Member Heintz said no, you can't put vegetation there, but have they tried putting it in the other surrounding areas. The birds will need an area to feed. They'll graze on short grass at nearby areas. Mr. Campbell said they have lots of grass in the area that they feed on, but they congregate at the beaches mostly.

Member Heintz said he'd make a simple request: examine the materials that are available for them to try rather than euthanizing the birds. What other activities could they do to discourage the birds from coming around? Maybe it's not having lush, well-fertilized grass that's short and enticing for them to eat or other things like that. Mr. Campbell said he thinks he'd have an uproar if he didn't have lush, lush grass that the residents want. He said he guesses it's one or the other. They don't want to go through their beautiful community and see there is very little green grass because of the geese. It's one of those things that's kind of a Catch-22. They're now in the process of looking at getting rid of coyotes because people are worried that the coyotes are going to eat their animals. It's the next thing. They've got a deer population problem. He said they live in the woods. They understand that, but this is a problem that they can't use their beaches because the geese have progressively gotten more and more and more.

Member Heintz said what he was hearing is that the residents in Island Lake are doing a poor job of coexisting with the animals and they're just trying to get rid of everything. He said that is not an answer he was particularly fond of hearing. He said he will not support that tonight.

Member Martinez asked City Manager Cardenas if this property is over on the north end. He said the packet said this was Walled Lake and Shawood. City Manager Cardenas apologized and said no, this property is over on the west side on Island Lake. Member Martinez said he asked because he was concerned that maybe this was something having to do with Lakeshore beach closures that have happened with increased E. coli. That would be something he'd be interested in discussing. He thinks this makes sense for the community and he is happy to support it.

**CM 26-03-027**

**Moved by Martinez, seconded by Gorumurthy: MOTION CARRIED 5-2**

**Approval of a resolution supporting the Island Lake of Novi Community Association's request to participate in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Goose Nest Destruction Program for Island Lake.**

Member Smith asked for clarification. He said Mr. Campbell had mentioned a goose round-up. He said that is not what this motion was for. He said this is just nest and egg destruction. Mr. Campbell said there should be a second part to this. He confirmed that they did make the request for not just the nests, but also for the goose round-up and he wasn't sure why it had been omitted. Member Smith said that was not included in the packet. City Manager Cardenas said the information he received included just the nest and egg destruction. Mr. Campbell said he would need to look into it. He said they usually do get approved for the egg and nest destruction; it's permission for the goose round-up they were looking for.

Mayor Fischer asked City Manager Cardenas if Council will be seeing this again and City Manager Cardenas said yes. Island Lake had sent a letter that included a program request that talks about the round-up. It doesn't talk about the destruction of the eggs; it just talks about the round-up. He said Council could vote on the destruction and staff could bring back the round-up resolution after that because the resolution does not refer to the round-up.

**Roll call vote on CM 26-03-027**

**Yeas: Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer,  
Gurumurthy  
Nays: Casey, Heintz**

- 5. Consider a contract with Howell Design Group to serve as the City's Technology/Security design firm for the 2025 Public Safety Bond Facilities project, in the amount of \$300,000.**

**CM 26-03-028**

**Moved by Smith, seconded by Heintz: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**Consider a contract with Howell Design Group to serve as the City's Technology/Security design firm for the 2025 Public Safety Bond Facilities project, in the amount of \$300,000. Final form of the agreement is subject to review and final approval by the City Attorney and City Manager.**

**Roll call vote on CM 26-03-028**

**Yeas: Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey,  
Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez  
Nays: None**

- 4. Consideration of approval to award the Novi Road Median Drainage Improvements, 12 Mile Road to 13 Mile Road, project contract to Santos Cement, Inc., the qualified low bidder, in the amount of \$577,719.**

**CM 26-03-029      Moved by Casey, seconded by Gurumurthy: MOTION CARRIED 6-1**

Member Smith said he agrees that those medians could use some work. He's not sure he'd like to spend over half a million dollars to do that work. He'd like to see a lower-cost option.

**Approval to award the Novi Road Median Drainage Improvements, 12 Mile Road to 13 Mile Road, project contract to Santos Cement, Inc., the qualified low bidder in the amount of \$577,719.**

**Roll call vote on CM 26-03-029**

**Yeas: Staudt, Fischer, Casey,  
Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez  
Nays: Smith**

**6. Consideration of a request from OCK Company Inc (DBA: K-Bunsik) for a special land use request for service of alcoholic beverages and for a new Class C quota license to be located at 24267 Novi Rd, Novi, MI 48375 and Agreement on the Prohibition on Profiteering by Class C Liquor License Holders.**

City Manager Cardenas said this was postponed until this meeting for consideration. He believed the petitioners were in attendance to answer any questions Council may have. Again, they have only one quota license and two requests. This is the first of the two. Mayor Fischer asked the petitioner if they'd like to make any comments on their application.

The petitioner stood and introduced herself as Ockkyoung Kim. She said she is the owner of K-Bunsik in Novi. They first opened in December 2023 as a Korean casual dining restaurant, serving Korean street food in a warm and welcoming setting for the community. Not long after opening, she suffered a serious hot oil burn injury while cooking. Because of that accident, she had to go through a long recovery and their restaurant was forced to close temporarily for about 14 months. After completing her treatment and working hard to prepare the restaurant again, they were finally able to re-open it in October 2025. The opening was very meaningful to them because it gave them the chance to rebuild not only their business, but also the connection they have with their customers and the Novi community. Since the re-opening, they have remained focused on providing quality food and a positive dining experience. They respectfully requested a liquor license so they can offer beer and wine that pair well with their menu and better meet their customers' expectations.

Member Martinez said he really appreciates it when they have small businesses that have really pulled themselves up to get to where they are. He said he appreciates that they have chosen Novi to be the place where they want to have their business succeed. Council has a list of criteria they are supposed to apply when they have these decisions in front of them. He believes this business checks every box because of the location that they're in and the uniqueness of the service they provide where they are. In other areas of the city, these licenses are a little bit more common. It's easier for people to get from one and walk right over to another. The area where this restaurant is located has slightly fewer. He thinks having a liquor license in this area enhances the area to have this license

at their restaurant. He appreciates how meaningful it is for them to be in Novi. He said he also views it as very meaningful to have them in Novi, too. He hopes to be able to come get some japchae very soon.

**CM 26-03-030            Moved by Martinez, seconded by Gurumurthy: MOTION CARRIED 6-1**

**Approval of a request from OCK Company Inc (DBA: K-Bunsik) for a special land use request for service of alcoholic beverages and approval of a new Class C quota license to be located at 24267 Novi Rd, Novi, MI 48375 and Agreement on the Prohibition on Profiteering by Class C Liquor License Holders. The addition of a liquor license will complement the area and provide residents with a dining option which will foster or generate economic development or growth within the City, in a manner consistent with the City's policies. The applicant appears to qualify for a license under the City's ordinance. It also meets the requirements of Section 4.89 of the Zoning Ordinance because:**

- I.        The establishment will promote the City's economic development goals and objectives and will be consistent with the City's master plan and zoning ordinance.**
- II.       Given the character, location , development trends and other aspects of the area in which the proposed use or change in use is requested, it is demonstrated that the use will provide a service, product, or function that is not presently available within the City and that is unique to the City and is in character with the location and will be an asset to the area.**
- III.      The use or change in use as constructed and operated by the applicant is compatible with the area in which it will be located, since it is an existing restaurant, and will not have any appreciable negative secondary effects on the area, such as:
  - a. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic, particularly during late night or early morning hours, that might disturb the area residents.**
  - b. Noise, odors, or lights that emanate beyond the site's boundaries onto property in the area on which there are residential dwellings.**
  - c. Excessive number of persons gathering outside the establishment.**
  - d. Peak hours of use that add to congestion or other negative effects in the neighborhood.**
  - e. Fighting, brawling, outside urination or other behavior that can accompany intoxication.****

Member Gurumurthy said best wishes to Ms. Kim. She said she appreciated Ms. Kim explaining how they re-vamped the restaurant. She likes to support local businesses when she can see the amount of effort they have put in to bringing their business up.

**Roll call vote on CM 26-03-030**

**Yeas: Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz,  
Martinez, Smith**

**Nays: Staudt**

**7. Consideration of a request from Shake Shack for a new Class C quota license to be located at 43335 Crescent Blvd, Novi, MI 48375 and Agreement on the Prohibition on Profiteering by Class C Liquor License Holders.**

City Manager Cardenas said to Mayor Fischer that he had just granted Council's last quota license, so there are no more left to grant. He asked City Attorney Schultz to correct him if he was wrong, but he believed the only option would be Option 2, which has to be voted on because it is legally necessary. City Attorney Schultz said he agrees with that and he suggested that the motion maker now also add to the motion that it's denied because Council doesn't have a quota license to give.

**CM 26-03-031**

**Moved by Martinez, seconded by Casey: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**Denial of a new Class C quota license to be located at 24267 Novi Rd, Novi, MI 48375 and Agreement on the Prohibition on Profiteering by Class C Liquor License Holders because there are no remaining quota licenses to grant.**

**Roll call vote on CM 26-03-031**

**Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez,  
Smith, Staudt, Fischer**

**Nays: None**

**8. Consideration to adopt a resolution placing a question on the August 2026 ballot, whether to authorize the City to levy a new millage for specified Capital Improvements and Projects of up to 1.0 mill, for a period of 10 years, beginning with the 2027 tax year.**

City Manager Cardenas said this is in accordance with the directions City Council gave at the last meeting. It's the 1.0 mill, 10-year period, similar to what was done 10 years ago. This is the official action that will place it on the ballot with the language that will appear on the August ballot.

**CM 26-03-032**

**Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

**Consideration to adopt a resolution placing a question on the August 2026 ballot, whether to authorize the City to levy a new millage for specified Capital Improvements and Projects of up to 1.0 mill, for a period of 10 years, beginning with the 2027 tax year, including**

**authorization to City Manager and City Attorney's office to finalize language for same.**

Member Martinez said he is happy to support this as presented. He wanted to echo the comments that had been made previously. He really thinks they should take advantage of November ballots where the turnout is higher and where more residents can be involved. He's concerned that when they get into the lower turnout elections, even though they are putting together a very good idea and something they think will succeed, he worries tight margins don't allow for a lot of wiggle room. He would hate for it to come up on the side that they don't want because they want this to pass. He'll make sure he does everything in his power to make sure it passes and he'll support it. He just wanted to put that on the record.

**Roll call vote on CM 26-03-032**

**Yeas: Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith,  
Staudt, Fisher, Casey**

**Nays: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:**

Megan Zatkoff, 50735 Chesapeake Dr, lives in Island Lake. She wanted to add to a couple of the comments given earlier about the water situation. She wanted to hear everybody out, but one item did not come up that she wanted to bring up. It happened in the most recent break, but it also happened at the last break. She discovered the break at a fairly early hour in the morning. The Novi website was not updated with any kind of notice. In the fall, she called the non-emergency line for the police department to get confirmation of what was going on. This time, she got an update on Facebook, but she wanted Council to be aware that sending out the text earlier would have been a critical update. She believes it came about 6:45 a.m., but the break had occurred at 4:30 a.m. Getting the text earlier would have been appreciated. Also, updating the website would help because not everyone would think of checking Facebook as their first line of communication. She also wanted to reiterate that as Novi goes through this period now where they have this other replacement and GLWA is still working on the portion west of M-5, they were left in this dwindling period with where they were with volume and whether or not they could use irrigation systems. She said she knows October was coming around, so everyone was closing systems, but now as they're approaching re-opening them, she would make sure that that's communicated to residents, so they are not putting undue stress on a temporary system.

Eric Brown, 24742 Portsmouth Avenue, said he had sent a text message to his small group at his church saying good morning, one less hour of sleep, no water, but we are blessed beyond all means and he truly means that, but Novi does have a crisis. He had the Council meeting minutes from October 6, 2025. He said in that meeting, Jody Caldwell stated, "We understand the public impact, the disruption in service, the lack of water and that they are going to be better than that." Personally, except for maybe a new

water line, he hasn't seen it. He said to the mayor that he had opened the meeting that night, before the CEO came up, saying that tonight is the starting point. If that's true, and if he had that in context, what was the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting? Novi's preseason? He said in that same meeting, he had gotten up to say that safety must include safe, clean drinking water as a priority. He also stated that he has zero confidence in GLWA. That's still true. He asked Council to develop a plan and take action. He is troubled that tonight is the starting point. The comments made by GLWA are just empty words to him, based on their presentation last October. He asked the Council to please take action above and beyond what they would normally do.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None**

**COMMUNICATIONS: None**

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

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Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

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Justin Fischer, Mayor

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Transcribed by Diana Charles  
Customer Service Representative

Date approved: March 23, 2026