



CITY OF NOVI
Public Utilities & Technology Committee Meeting
January 22nd, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER: 5:33 PM

ROLL CALL: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Martinez

PRESENT: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Martinez

STAFF LIAISON: Rob Petty, Chief Information Officer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motioned by: Member Martinez; Seconded by Member Heintz.
(Motion approved 3:0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of 12/19/2025

Motion to approve minutes of 12/19/2025 by Member Heintz; Second by Member Martinez. (Motion approved 3:0)

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Gurumurthy established the four pillars of the committee's focus and discussed the idea of a focused website page for the committee's four pillars.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. GLWA

- The committee discussed the GLWA project, scheduled for completion in spring, with a key goal of holding GLWA accountable for its timeline. The chairperson suggested requesting weekly status updates for the committee and monthly updates for the council.
- Proactive communication with residents was stressed as critical, especially regarding driveway blockages and other disruptions.
- The official GLWA project website was noted as not being timely.
- The committee requested a project status update from GLWA detailing progress and plans, and discussed inviting a GLWA representative to future meetings.
- Several communication ideas were proposed: a cost-sharing collaboration with GLWA on direct mailings, a telephone town hall, and a larger town hall for all affected communities.

2. DTE

- The city is experiencing significant delays and a lack of communication from DTE. A city contact has not received a response from a DTE employee regarding a specific question.
- The root cause of a recent (December 2025) power outage is still unknown to the committee.
- The city has requested the same data reports that Farmington Hills receives, but has not yet gotten them.
- A motion was passed to adopt a short-term goal to acquire the report for the December incident and obtain the data set. It was agreed to give city staff one more attempt to get the information before escalating the request, possibly through the city's legal team.

3. Priority Waste

- An initial analysis of waste pickup data showed approximately 10,000 "delayed pickups" (less than a 0.5% rate) out of 2 million total pickups. Yard waste was the most frequent category for delays.
- A distinction was made between a "missed" pickup and a "delayed" one, as items are eventually collected.
- Members shared personal and resident experiences of inconsistent pickup times. The committee agreed on the need to review the current Priority Waste contract to clarify service-level agreements (SLAs), definitions, and enforcement mechanisms.
- To improve data, the committee stressed the importance of residents reporting every service issue through the "Q-Send" system. Suggestions included modifying the reporting form to capture more detail and resurrecting a data dashboard to track performance.

4. Broadband

- The conversation focused on identifying gaps in high-speed internet and creating a detailed map to show underserved "dry spots." The city's current strategy is to facilitate private sector expansion by streamlining permitting.
- An updated map was presented showing a larger-than-expected fiber footprint from providers like AT&T, 123.Net, MetroNet, and Ezee, with new construction being a major driver of expansion.
- Challenges remain in areas with large, spread-out parcels due to high buildout costs.
- The committee proposed contacting Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) to gather data for the service availability map and inviting newer providers to present their plans.
- Other solutions like Starlink were discussed as a viable alternative solution, with positive experiences shared from its use at a city building.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Vacant Seats:
 - There are two vacant public seats on the commission. The group agreed to create a charter outlining desired skills and expectations for applicants, with a draft to be reviewed at the next meeting.
- FlashVote:
 - A discussion on FlashVote demographics revealed underrepresentation in some age groups. A request was made for more detailed location data to ensure the user base represents all of Novi.
- Future Meetings:
 - The next meetings are scheduled for February 19th and March 19th at 5:30 PM.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- A public comment was made about leaning utility poles in the 900 to 1000 block of South Lake Drive, questioning DTE's inspection and replacement criteria.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Member Martinez; Seconded by Member Heintz. Approved 3:0 (7:07 PM)