

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – NOVI CIVIC CENTER – 45175 TEN MILE ROAD**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Breen, Casey, Markham, (absent, excused) Mutch, Verma, (absent, excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Pete Auger, City Manager
Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager
Thomas Schultz, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

City Manager Auger removed Consent Agenda Item B: Executive Session. He noted when the Agenda was put together on Thursday they thought they had a tentative agreement with the firefighters. He said they found out this weekend that they didn't have a tentative agreement. He stated that they will get back to Council when we move forward.

CM 18-12-193 Moved by Casey, seconded by Breen; MOTION CARRIED 5-0

To approve the Agenda as amended to remove Item B. Executive Session.

Roll call vote on CM 18-12-193 **Yeas: Staudt, Breen, Casey, Mutch, Gatt**
Nays: None
Absent: Markham, Verma

PUBLIC HEARING: None

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Recognition of Employee of the Year – Sri Komaragiri

City Manager Auger said this was a great opportunity where he could introduce the Employee of the Year, Sri Komaragiri. He stated that she was nominated by several City staff members who all mentioned her knowledge of planning and ordinances. She also has helped internally to get some of our parks programs across the finish line. She doesn't know how to say no. She also helps the developers to where they need to be and feel a part of the process. Sri thanked everyone for the opportunity. She also thanked everyone who nominated her. She said it has be an absolute pleasure working for the City of Novi Community Development Department. She felt lucky to be part of a well-informed passionate team where they learn from each other. She commented that Barb McBeth and Charles Boulard have been great mentors since day one. She said she has a good support system at work which helped her do what

she does. She commented that the award will be a reminder of that and to continue to do better in the future. Thank you. Mayor Gatt thanked her on behalf of City Council said they were very proud of her and that it was a great honor, it was well deserved. He said they looked forward to working with her in the future, keep up the good work.

2. Feed the Need Program – Tia Marie Sanders, Coordinator

Tia Marie Sanders, Feed the Need Program. She said she appreciated the opportunity to talk about Feed the Need Program which was going into their 5th year. She was really looking forward to 2019. Feed the Need is a signature program of the Novi Rotary Club. She stated that the Novi Rotary wanted to have something they did right in their own backyard. Many of our families suffer from food insecurities, no transportation, and no clothing or toys especially this time of year. This program gives them a unique opportunity to connect with those families over the summer to provide lunches for kids and some other fun things. She said they provide tutoring two days a week. They provide lunches five days a week at five different locations. They have been supported by the City, Police Department, Library and corporate sponsorships that help them sustain the program. The Rotarian support is amazing. She pointed out Pete Auger came out in his suit and he was on the playground with the kids having a good time. The kids may not have that interaction. She also noted because they connect with families, they hear their personal story and what they are dealing with. She explained that this helps shape the program to accommodate those needs. She said they have a partnership with Tuffy in Walled Lake. If they have someone who needs help with a repair to their vehicle Tuffy can help them out so they don't miss work or they can get their kids to school. They aren't just giving healthy lunches; they run the program like camp. They have the opportunity to see kids that are at school. This also brings them the opportunity to bring resources that aren't in our city into the city through the summer, like Oakland County Family Services. They help identify kids that may not be getting medical care or checking in with doctors for well-care visits. She mentioned they have great fun with performers that do educational training, the go on field trips to Paradise Park who sponsors their trip every year. They have the STEM Program which was offered by a Novi High School robotics student who planned five weeks of STEM programming and came out with a group of students to provide that. The connections, collaboration's, the access to resources are really one "steroids" over the summer. She mentioned Julie and Christina from the Library. Julie opens up the doors to the Library every year and lets us have a full day programming. They bring animals in. They make sure the kids get the opportunity to get library card. They give a tour of the Library and they have a scavenger hunt. She said she is really proud to do this program and grateful for support of the Novi Rotary making sure that this actually comes to fruition. She was also grateful for the support of the City for the volunteers. This past year they had 165 volunteers. The very first year they had 53 volunteers with their interfaith network as well as some of the local schools. Catholic Central, Mercy, and Northville sends over students to volunteer. It really is a community effort. We have 165 volunteers, half are students, and half are adults and dedicate their time throughout the summer making sure lunches get out to their satellite locations as well as

operations at their main location which is usually one of the elementary schools. It is truly amazing. Mayor Gatt pointed out two things. He agreed that Julie is the best Library Director in the Country and of the best Library in the Country. On behalf of the City Council he expressed it was due to people like Ms. Sanders, and Clubs like the Novi Rotary that make Novi, Novi. He stated that Money Magazine said the best city in the State of Michigan to live in is the City of Novi. Thank you.

3. Novi Public Library Annual Report and Strategic Plan Update - Julie Farkas, Library Director and Christina Salvatore, Communications Coordinator

Julie Farkas and Christina Salvatore thanked everyone for the opportunity to talk about the Library Annual Report and Strategic Plan Update. Ms. Salvatore said it's almost 2019 so they can look back at 2018 and see their accomplishments. They had over 443,000 visitors this past year. That was a 15% increase this year. They saw 1400 visitors a day instead of 1200. When they are coming to the Library, there was a significant growth in their Summer Reading Program and monthly events. Expansion in their early literacy initiatives providing more outreach to the schools. Continued support to hundreds of patrons utilizing our one on one technology. She said they also had our highest number of Teen Space participants which is for children in grades 7-12 and our After School Program from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. She mentioned that they partnered with Novi High School Robotics team to assemble over 200 prosthetic arms for those in needs. The program is called Enabling the Future. They revealed new features to our youth area including story time backpacks to highlight the five early literacy practices which were talk, sing, read, write and play. They also achieved the essential level of The Library of Michigan's Quality Service Audit Checklist which was a big accomplishment. Novi Library just received their Enhanced level. She said they have one more level to achieve so they are really excited about that. Only 13 Libraries in Michigan received the Enhanced level. She said they had their highest Teen Space participants, 6,301. She mentioned the Raising a Reader, 1000 Books before Kindergarten Program which had over 250 sign ups, and we had the highest summer reading participants which was 3,085. She said they had a lot to be proud of.

Ms. Farkas noted that in addition to the Annual Report, they also have a copy of the Library Strategic Plan. She said they are at the end of that plan which was finished in June 2018. She said they are currently working on three-year plan that they just finished collecting a lot of data. She thanked the City for letting them put a few questions into the Citizens Survey this year. That allowed them to get some different answers and a different feel from what the community members are looking for from the Novi Library. She was very happy to see that the usage and the Library is very much loved by our community. They are going to plan for a three-year plan instead of a five-year. We find that things are changing so rapidly with us we want to stay relevant and on top of things. Our Motto is Inform, Inspire and Include and we look at those three words every day to find out what we can bring to the community and what we can bring into our building. We are looking forward to the Lending Library Project and being part of Lakeshore Park coming in 2018-2019 that will allow us to branch out into north end and into hopefully the homes and connections with our patrons up in that area. That is

definitely a goal that is going on this year. She expressed that they are so excited for what they have been doing the last year. The numbers definitely do show that there have been some great accomplishments and they want to thank everyone for their support. Mayor Gatt said Inspire, Inform and Include. He said Ms. Farkas and her staff do that and do that in a top notch way. He said he has heard nothing but accolades coming from everyone who talks to him about the City business when it comes to the Library. He has never heard a bad word. He would like to see them keep up whatever they are doing. Thank you. Member Mutch thanked Julie and Christina for their presentations. He said they touched on the Lending Library Kiosk at Lakeshore Park and in addition to that we talked about the opportunity about more City programming at that facility. He wondered if the Library has started that conversation yet. Ms. Farkas said they were open to bringing whatever they can up to the north area. They are working with Parks and Recreation to coordinate some programs that would be different than what they might provide. She is happy to bring book discussion, performers, and things like that. She was aware that space will be limited, but work with what we have. She felt that we could bring some great connections to the north end. She said they are very excited to bring some programming up to that area. Member Mutch said that was one of the opportunities that he saw with that facility. Many years ago when he was on the Library Board he said meeting the needs of the residents on the north end of town was an issue. Because of the geography of our City it can be challenging. He believed that having a Library presence on the north end will be much appreciated by the north end residents and he said he looks forward to that. Thank you. Member Breen thanked her so much for the Library presence. Member Breen wanted to put in a plug for the steam kits on the north end if at all possible. She looks forward to having some type of programming on that side of town. Mayor Gatt thanked them for their hard work and making Novi shine.

AUDIENCE COMMENT:

Lynn Kocan, 23088 Ennishore, Meadowbrook Lake Subdivision. She spoke about Consent Agenda Item E which is the approval of a stream restoration study within her neighborhood. This is something they brought to the attention of the City earlier this year. We had some engineers out and they said they would look into it. She said she was thrilled to see it on the Agenda. She wanted to thank of everyone on behalf of the HOA and those neighbors who are immediately impacted. She said this is wonderful and believe maintenance is better than waiting for things to fall apart. She said if there is anything that they need from them just let them know. They are willing to work with the City on this. She said she hoped that it would be approved that evening. Thank you for your time.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

Mayor Gatt stated that Item B had already been removed.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt removed Consent Agenda Item H:

- A. Approve Minutes of:
 - 1. December 3, 2018 – Regular meeting
- B. Enter Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting of December 17, 2018 in the Council Annex for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations and privileged correspondence from legal counsel. **REMOVED**
- C. Approval of the proposed City of Novi Emergency Operations Support Plan, supporting the Oakland County Emergency Operations Plan.
- D. Acceptance of Wetland and Woodland Conservation Easements from 46860 West Road, LLC for conservation areas offered as a part of the 46860 West Road development, located on the north side of West Road, west of Hudson Drive in Section 4 of the City.
- E. Approval to award civil engineering services to OHM Advisors for a stream restoration study associated with the Middle Rouge at 9 Mile Road project in the amount of \$54,900.
- F. Approval to award civil engineering services to AECOM for design engineering services associated with Cabot Drive from 12 Mile to 13 Mile and Lewis Drive from Cabot Drive to Haggerty Road Rehabilitation project in the amount of \$50,000.
- G. Approval to award engineering design services to OHM Advisors for Phase II of the Footing Drain Disconnection Feasibility Study in the amount of \$24,000.
- H. Approval to award Agreements for Geotechnical Engineering Services for Public Projects to Intertek/Professional Service Industries, Inc., and Testing Engineers and Consultants, Inc., for a period of five years, with an effective date of December 17, 2018. **REMOVED and LATER APPROVED**
- I. Acceptance of residential streets in accordance with the requirements for public streets set forth in the Vistas of Novi PUD Agreement and adoption of Act 51 New Street Resolution accepting Holmes Road, Hemingway Drive, Brownstone Drive, Cummings Lane, and Twain Place as public, adding 1.05 miles of roadway to the City's street system.
- J. Approval of a license agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) for the installation and maintenance of Solar Powered Stop Sign Flasher Signals at the intersections of Taft Road and 9 Mile Road, and Taft Road and 11 Mile Road.
- K. Approval of recommendations from the Commission Interview Committee for appointments to Youth Council and Youth Boards & Commissions Representatives.
- L. Approval of Claims and Accounts – Warrant No. 1026

CM 18-12-194 **Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

To approve the Consent Agenda as amended to remove Item B and Item H.

Roll call vote on CM 18-12-194 **Yeas: Breen, Casey, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt,**
Nays: None
Absent: Markham, Verma

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Consideration to approve Second Amendment to the previously-approved Conditional Agreement of Purchase and Sale on North Grand River City Property, located north of Grand River Avenue, east of Town Center Drive.

CM 18-12-195 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Gatt; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**
Consideration to approve Second Amendment to the previously-
approved Conditional Agreement of Purchase and Sale on North
Grand River City Property, located north of Grand River Avenue,
east of Town Center Drive.

Roll call votes on CM 18-12-195 **Yeas: Casey, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Breen**
Nays: None
Absent: Markham, Verma

2. Approval and Adoption of the Corridor Improvement Authority Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan by Resolution to support improvements along Grand River Avenue between Haggerty and Wixom Roads.

Member Mutch had a few questions regarding the information that was provided in the packet regarding the tax increment financing numbers. He mentioned that the spreadsheet breaks out over a 20 year period of collecting these dollars through the TIF Program. The amounts will be collected each year. A major piece of that will be the City's portion, but additionally there are some various Oakland County entities, the County itself, Oakland Community College, Oakland County Parks and Huron Clinton Metro Park Authority. Those numbers assume that all those entities will opt-in. He understood they have all opted-out at this time. City Manager Auger confirmed that was correct. Member Mutch wondered what the process was to have them opt back in. He also wondered what the timeline would be to have some final numbers so we know what we will be dealing with and who is going to participate and who is not. City Manager Auger said after this step of the Council meeting tonight we will reach out to all of them and start working on what is considered a negotiated deal. Normally the opting-out entities usually follow Oakland County's lead. In the past they have a target that we know they are looking for. It is based on dollar amount, not amount of years like the old TIF agreements were. We will start negotiating right after this acceptance.

Member Mutch wondered if the numbers in the projection are based on what we have seen in other communities. City Manager Auger confirmed that was correct. Member Mutch asked if Finance Director Johnson had put together the numbers for this. City Manager Auger said the numbers were put together by Assistant City Manager Cardenas and Assessor Micheal Lohmeier. Member Mutch said he knew that these were just projections, but if the economy ever goes south, because we grow our tax base every year. He said he knew it is almost impossible to project. He said as long as we are being conservative in the estimates we recognize that maybe there will be years that we may not collect as much as projected. He said hopefully there will be more years that we will collect more than what is being projected. He said the project listing were estimates so there is variability here on what they're going to fund. If we collect the total amount that is projected that we can collect using these numbers, it wouldn't actually fund the entire wish list. City Manager Auger confirmed that was correct. Member Mutch said the priority expectation on what would get funded is the high priorities would happen first, and then as funds are available we would do the remainder. City Manager Auger said that was correct. We wanted to ensure when a list was put together that we included everything that we could think of that would add to the corridor because we don't know what is going to happen 12 years out. We included all those even though they might not be funded. Member Mutch noted a couple of key projects that Council has talked about and he knows would be a priority for him have fairly significant dollar amounts tied to them because the TIF is based on future growth, we don't start out with a large pot of money. He wondered then how those projects would get funded. City Manager Auger said it would be up to the City in the budget year we could prefund them with Fund Balance money. Right now with what we have targeted in the next several years, we have a lot of growth targeted that we have already been working on to come to this area. He said if setting the baseline when we did we'll see a faster growth than the TIF District than most communities would because it usually takes a long time to build up a nest egg to invest. He thought we would hit that pretty soon.

CM 18-12-196 Moved by Mutch, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

**To approve and adopt the Corridor Improvement Authority
Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan by Resolution
to support improvements along Grand River Avenue between
Haggerty and Wixom Roads.**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said they did have a meeting with the key players at Oakland County and they were very clear on the process that they normally follow. This was something that they told us from the very beginning that they would be opting out and it would be a little different process that we had understood. They gave us very thorough and detailed explanations of the way they looked at it. He said he was very comfortable having been at that meeting that we will be able to work out these different levels of support from the County and other partners in this plan.

Mayor Gatt said he talked to the County people in this department all the time and they are very much behind this endeavor and waiting for us to move forward.

Roll call votes on CM 18-12-196 **Yeas: Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Breen, Casey**
 Nays: None
 Absent: Markham, Verma

3. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

City Clerk Hanson provided the results of the balloting: Peter Winter was reappointed to Board of Review and Lynne Fuller was appointed as alternate on Board of Review. She stated that nobody was appointed to Building Authority. Kathy Crawford, Rachel Manela and Dhara Sanghavi were all reappointed to the Historical Commission. Katherine Dooley was reappointed to the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee. Brent Ferrell was reappointed and Kevin Sanker appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mayor Gatt nominated Mayor Pro Tem Staudt and Member Mutch to the Corridor Improvement Authority.

CM 18-12-197 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; MOTIONCARRIED: 5-0**

 To appoint Mayor Pro Tem Staudt and Member Mutch to the
 Corridor Improvement Authority.

Voice Vote on CM 18-12-197 **MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

Mayor Gatt nominated Torry Yu to the Library Board.

CM 18-12-198 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; MOTIONCARRIED: 5-0**

 To appoint Torry Yu to the Library Board.

Voice Vote on CM 18-12-198 **MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

Mayor Gatt congratulated everyone that was appointed to the Boards and Commissions. He wanted to remind everyone it is a very difficult process and there are many great candidates with very few openings. Please never give up, keep applying, we need you. Thank you for stepping forward and we look forward to seeing you interview again.

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

- H. Approval to award Agreements for Geotechnical Engineering Services for Public Projects to Intertek/Professional Service Industries, Inc., and Testing Engineers and Consultants, Inc., for a period of five years, with an effective date of December 17, 2018.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt removed Consent Agenda Item H. He said that he pulled this item because of the process, not because he was in disagreement with the item. He wanted to address his colleagues on Council that they submit a request to both City staff and the Rules Committee to come up with a decision making process about what levels we submit these kinds of agreements to the Consultant Review Committee. He stated that this particular contract isn't large in dollars. He stated that it falls under the \$100,000 dollar threshold; however, it is a 5 year contract. He said the public expects City Councils to be more inquisitive about things happening within their government, especially long term contracts. He felt it was important that we lower the threshold that we don't seem to have quantified that let his particular contract go through without review of the Consultant Review Committee. He said the perfect example of this was that this contract was in the \$80,000 dollar a year range. It is a five year contract. Potentially the numbers could go up in this contract depending on the type of work expected. It could become a lot bigger or it could become smaller. He thought it was important for councilmembers to feel as though this has been vetting out, not just by our staff, but also by those of us that have been elected to oversee the tax dollars. He would like to submit this to both staff for purchasing, policy review, and for the Rules Committee to come up with a policy to determine at what point do we submit things to the Consultant Review Committee.

Mayor Gatt asked City Attorney Schultz to look into what other communities do and prepare something for an off-week packet. He also asked the Clerk to schedule a Rules Committee meeting sometime in January.

CM 18-12-199 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; MOTIONCARRIED: 5-0

Approval to award Agreements for Geotechnical Engineering Services for Public Projects to Intertek/Professional Service Industries, Inc., and Testing Engineers and Consultants, Inc., for a period of five years, with an effective date of December 17, 2018.

Voice Vote on CM 18-12-199

MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: January 7, 2019