

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015 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 Casey, Markham, Mutch, Poupard, Wrobel

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 15-05-61 Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the Agenda as amended with an addition under Mayor and Council Issues items 1. Garbage Pickup and 2. Sidewalks in the Haverhill Farms Subdivision and under Presentations the addition of a presentation from Kathy Crawford, State Representative.

Roll call vote on CM 15-05-61 Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Markham, Mutch,
Poupard, Wrobel, Gatt
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Recommended Annual Budget and Financial Plan 2015-2016

Public hearing opened at 7:01 p.m.

Dr. Daniel Klein, 40832 Kingsley Lane, thanked Mayor and Council for committing to complete the 600 feet of sidewalk from Haverhill Farms Subdivision going east towards M-5 in the next fiscal year. They appreciate the responsiveness of Mayor and Council to them on the issue. While they are grateful for the safe access, they are asking the City to address the serious safety issue that remains. As the current budget stands, the 600 foot gap between Welch and Novi Road, along 14 Mile Road will continue to go unaddressed and is not scheduled to be completed for several more years. The gap goes west of their subdivision is the route towards the new Bottlz Restaurant, a commercial plaza, and Hickory Woods Elementary School. The gap is the last 2.8% of a formula loop that would provide safe passage to Walled Lake, Lakeshore Park and the Pavilion Shore Park. He continued to speak about the hazards that people face using the sidewalk. He noted it may be cost beneficial to do the east and west gaps at the same time. They have been told for 18 years the problem could be addressed if the land was sold and developed. He presented to Mayor and Council a petition with

signatures of those who support the motion. They asked for a motion to consider an addendum to the budget.

Public hearing closed at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation in recognition of National Police Week, May 10 – 16, 2015 and Peace Officers' Memorial Day, May 15, 2015 – David Molloy, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police.

Mayor Gatt presented the proclamation to David Molloy, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police. Chief Molloy thanked everyone on behalf of all the police men and women. He said it is significant to understand why they celebrate this week for the memory of those who have gone before us, but also those who put their lives on the line every day.

2. Kathy Crawford, State Representative 38th District, spoke about her work in Lansing. She also presented Catalpa tree seedlings from the nation's oldest and largest Catalpa tree growing on the grounds of the Michigan of State Capital Building. The tree had significance to the early settlers. She also reminded residents when calling her office at the capitol, please leave a message so concerns can be addressed.

REPORTS:

1. MANAGER/STAFF – Carl Johnson, Finance Director read a news release from the Government Finance Officers' Association, April 13, 2015 stating, "The Achievement of Excellence of Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Novi by the Governing Finance Officers' Association of United States and Canada for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by government and its management. The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the highest standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR." Finance Director Johnson said the award was presented to the City in April for 2012, 2013 & 2014. The national award is obtained by less than 10% of the municipalities in the State of Michigan. The City has received the award 17 years in a row. He explained that it is a reflection on the City's commitment to full disclosure. He commented that the financial statements go above and beyond the award criteria.
2. ATTORNEY – None

AUDIENCE COMMENT – Amanda Gretzinger and Lexi Kantor were there to talk about the need for sidewalks connecting from Haverhill Farms Subdivision towards Welch Road. They spoke about the bad experiences traveling on the road edge. She thought it would be safer to have a sidewalk to go to the stores nearby.

Sean Gretzinger said he thought it was a good idea for the sidewalks because he has to stay on the grass with his bike while his dad rides on the road. He worries for his dad because it is dangerous and could be hit by a car.

Andrew Sarpolis, resident at Beachwalk Apartments, wanted to express support for a more walkable Novi. He likes bike riding. There are a lot of sidewalk gaps in the area. He also spoke about the garbage collection. He felt this was a good direction for the City. He also thought some improvements could be expanded to require contractors to have curbside recycling and the City should set recycling goals for the next 5 years through programs. He talked about the value of recycling.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 15-05-62 Moved by Casey, seconded by Poupard; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
 - 1. April 15, 2015 – Special meeting
 - 2. April 20, 2015 – Regular meeting

- B. Enter Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting of May 11, 2015 in the Council Annex for the purpose of discussing property acquisition and privileged correspondence from legal counsel.

- C. Approval to award a construction contract for the Civic Center Parking Lot and Power Park Pathways Rehabilitation project to Nagle Paving Company, the low bidder, in the amount of \$96,006, subject to final review and approval of form of agreement by City Manager's office and the City Attorney, and approval of an additional appropriation in the amount of \$41,945 for these budget line items.

- D. Approval to award an amendment to the engineering services agreement with URS Corporation for construction engineering services for Civic Center Parking Lot and Power Park Pathways Rehabilitation project in the amount of \$15,018.

- E. Approval of Resolution, Project Agreement and Grant Acceptance to accept the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant TF14-0235 for the acquisition of an approximately 10-acre parcel located on 12 Mile Road east of Napier, to be known as the Novi Northwest Neighborhood Park property.

- F. Acceptance of a Conservation Easement from Sri Venkateswara Temple and Cultural Center for woodland and wetland conservation areas on the Sri Venkateswara Temple and Cultural Center site, located on the west side of Taft Road between Grand River Avenue and Eleven Mile Road in Section 16 of the City.
- G. Approval of contract award to University Lithoprinters for printing and design of the Annual Calendar in the amount of \$16,491 and approval of a contract award to Accuform for design and printing of Engage! in the amount of \$85,320 for one year with the option for two renewals.
- H. Approval of Claims and Accounts – Warrant No. 939

Roll call vote on CM 15-05-62

**Yeas: Casey, Markham, Mutch, Poupard,
Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt
Nays: None**

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

- 1. Approval to purchase a 1-Ton Dump Truck with Plow and Swap Loader system from Jorgensen Ford Sales Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$108,049.

CM 15-05-63

Moved by Wrobel, seconded by Poupard; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the purchase a 1-Ton Dump Truck with Plow and Swap Loader system from Jorgensen Ford Sales Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$108,049.

Member Markham asked about how the trucks used in the City are evaluated and asked if there was a policy in place to look at potential use of alternative fuels. She thought they need, in the long term, to move in the direction of alternative fuels.

Rob Hayes, Director of Public Services, answered they have looked at different alternatives in the past. A possible option would be compressed gas. There are hurdles to overcome with that technology. There has to be a station that supplies the gas. It is very expensive to build a compressed gas station and to retrofit the rest of the fleet. They haven't found a preference going forward.

Roll call vote on CM 15-05-63

**Yeas: Markham, Mutch, Poupard, Wrobel,
Gatt, Staudt, Casey
Nays: None**

AUDIENCE COMMENT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:

1. Garbage pickup – Mayor Gatt spoke about the problems that have developed with a garbage company being sold to a new company. He felt it was time for the City to step in. Residents were sent a survey on garbage pickup, but he didn't know the outcome yet. He has never encountered so many unhappy people over the time he has served the City. He would propose that the City explore an ordinance that will result in a single trash hauler for over 10,000 homes and explore the possibility of adding condominium associations. He hopes the City could find a hauler that could provide weekly trash pick-up, weekly yard waste pick-up, enhanced weekly curbside recycling and leaf pick-up. He would imagine the City would contract with the hauler and the fees would be paid to the City and billed to the homeowner by the City. The billing would include an administrative fee that would be directed to enhance our Department Public Services yard with additions built to add to our own recycling center to make Novi a greener city. He said the average homeowner pays on the average of \$16 a month for the garbage pickup. He thought they could contract with a hauler that would provide the service for a much cheaper cost.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt agreed with the Mayor. One of the things the City hadn't done was to have a single hauler.

CM 15-05-64 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To direct Administration to work with the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that would move the City to a single hauler system and send it to Ordinance Review Committee for review.

Member Wrobel said the issue is that people are not happy with the way things are. He thought it was a blessing in disguise and now it is possible to move forward to investigate garbage pickup to provide a better service for the residents at all costs.

Member Casey supports this motion and lives in a condominium. It is a significant issue and was surprised it was not a City service when she moved here.

Member Markham was glad they are looking at the garbage issue. She lives in a subdivision that was surprised when the garbage hauler sold their business and the service was terrible. It seemed like it was a City wide problem but learned it was more complicated than that. Some neighborhoods are pretty happy with the service that they have. Some neighborhoods contract their trash hauling through their homeowners' association and others have the individual homeowner's contract. Some have curb side recycling and some don't. She said the prices vary widely. She felt if

they are going to tackle the problem, there needs to be transparency in a way that improves the service and keeps the cost as low as possible. She proposes an evaluation process by the City staff that includes an inventory of what is currently being done in the City. She would ask to compare the services, the satisfaction levels, and costs. She would like public comment to reach out to the residents. She would like to benchmark three to five nearby communities in similar size to compare what their services are like, their satisfaction levels, and what they pay. She suggested a standard set of trash hauling services to include all the residents and regularly evaluate the services. Also, she would like to have large item removal. She said some communities will allow compost pickup. She would like all of those services considered. She wants to make sure that the City qualifies trash haulers. She felt the City has been behind the times in review of the services. She thinks there should be a certain expectation and the City should make the licensing requirements reflect that. She thought there should be an evaluation as to whether they need a single trash hauler. She heard that residents like competition because it keeps the prices down and the quality up. She could see considering geographic areas and thought it important to restrict truck traffic. She said she wanted to be careful about saying they want a single trash hauler for the Community. She knew they have five trash haulers now. She suggested once the steps were taken, the City could have a waste hauling policy that meets the needs of a growing Community with modern standards of service and environmental stewardship.

Council consensus was that it would include the Ordinance Review Committee.

Member Mutch said it has been many years since the City had a discussion about garbage pickup. It would be important to hear from the public because it is very controversial. He knows firsthand what residents have experienced. Some residents are concerned about a change in service. He thinks Council needs to evaluate all the issues brought forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked for background of what has been done.

City Manager Auger replied that after the Mayor's press release, there was a task force started to do research. They can start compiling information now that it is official.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said Novi was one of the few communities, in this part of the State, that does not have a single hauler system. About 20 years ago, there was a ballot measure that was strongly objected to by the biggest hauler at that time. He said we are a much smaller City and currently, we have a registration fee for haulers by individual trucks and there is nothing in our ordinance that allows us to determine anything related to price of service, quality of service and how many trucks. It will be a big step towards providing the service level that the City of Novi deserves. Through the ordinance development process, there will be a tremendous amount of research and all the questions will be answered.

Roll call vote on CM 15-05-64

**Yeas: Mutch, Poupard, Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt,
Casey, Markham**

Nays: None

2. Sidewalks in Haverhill Farms – Mayor Gatt spoke about the decisions he has made on Council. Residents from Haverhill Farms have made him aware of sidewalks that are not complete in that area. He personally experienced the dangerous walk ways that the residents were concerned about. The possibility of development to add sidewalks has passed and hopes to have the cost of the sidewalks added to the 2015-16 Budget.

CM 15-05-65 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Wrobel; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve adding segment 129, the Haverhill segment of the Sidewalk Prioritization Plan to the 2015-16 budget with a budget amendment when an estimate of costs have been determined.

Member Wrobel said this project was not initially included in the budget, but he also feels safety comes over financial concerns. The sidewalk will be expensive due to the topographical nature of the area. It will be worth it to spend the money to prevent any possible incidents due to the lack of a sidewalk.

Member Mutch said all the work they put into adding sidewalks to the City are about how they help residents personally. He thought it was brave for residents to speak about how this sidewalk would help them and improve that part of the City. He supports this and would like to see it move forward.

Member Markham supports amending the budget. She is a member of the Novi Walkable Committee and members of the Haverhill Subdivision came to them a few months ago with the segment in mind. She is glad to see there is more support for it. It connects to the regional trails, but also the residents of Haverhill were persistent and consistent to express their needs. She commends the group and challenges the community with any issues that they think is important.

Member Poupard applauded the community for coming together on issues of safety. She would like to commend the Mayor for his leadership on moving this forward while working with the City staff to make happen.

Member Casey thanked the younger residents for sharing their fears and concerns about the area. She asked about the conversation of water main work that was projected in that area. She hoped the work would help the topographical features that may be smoothed out or eliminated.

Mr. Hayes said, unfortunately, the alignment of the pathway is going to be a distance to the south of where the water main work will be. They would like to fit it in the right of way, but they do not have the right of way. He said that will be part of the cost. The cost estimate will include the purchase of the right of ways of the two parcels.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said the proposal regarding the water main had some engineering for the sidewalk and asked why they would have done engineering if it was so far away.

Mr. Hayes said he didn't recall the sidewalk as being part of the scope of the water main.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said that it was and asked if he saw a value in being able to do both sidewalk segments simultaneously and if it would provide any cost reduction to the project.

Mr. Hayes said yes, if they could sequence the projects, it would be ideal but the challenge they are faced with was the ROW acquisition. It is a lengthy process, so the right of way process would have to be expedited or delay the water main project.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he is looking for it to be expedited.

Roll call vote on CM 15-05-65

**Yeas: Poupard, Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt, Casey,
Markham, Mutch**

Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION – None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

Transcribed by Jane Keller

Date approved: May 18, 2015