

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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, Crawford, Fischer (absent, excused) Smith, Thomas

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 22-04-040 Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

To approve the Agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 22-04-040 **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Smith, Thomas, Gatt**
Nays: None
Absent: Fischer

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS:

1. ITC Corporation Donation to the Novi Parks Foundation

PRCS Director Muck said it was his pleasure to welcome some great friends of Novi to the City Council meeting that evening. He stated that ITC Holdings had a long history of supporting Parks and Recreation in the City of Novi. He mentioned everything from the ITC Community Sports Park to the ITC Trail, to events and programs throughout the years that have had thousands of visitors or thousands of residents that have enjoyed here on this campus and throughout the city. He said they have been great partners and that evening they stepped forward with a donation to the Novi Parks Foundation for \$75,000 this year for youth scholarships, the Splash Pad construction, and funding energy related items at the ITC Community Sports Park. He introduced on behalf of ITC, and commented that we were very privileged to have Simon Whitelocke, the Vice President of ITC Holdings and President of ITC Michigan.

Simon Whitelocke said good evening and he thanked City Council. He said it was great to be there that evening. He introduced his esteemed colleagues, Cynthia Stump and Jim Tedder, who were proud to be there on behalf of our hundreds of employees who call home just down the street in Novi, our headquarters is at M-5 and 12 Mile Road. He thought it was almost 20 years that they have been part the Novi community. He said it is a great place to be. He stated they have operations in eight states. He thought they were in thousands of communities because of the nature of what they do. He said Novi

is at the top of the list. He said they are blessed to have their headquarters here and to get to work with all of you. He said it was their pleasure to be a real member of the community and be a real neighbor and friend and do things like what they have done with the Parks Foundation, and he was proud to be there to present that evening. He thanked Novi for being a great partner to ITC and they looked forward to a long-lasting relationship.

David Landry, former Mayor of Novi, came up on behalf of the Novi Parks Foundation to say a few words as well. He said everyone knew it was impossible to talk about Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services in Novi without also talking about ITC. He said they have been there for Novi since day one and have been wonderful community partners. He said everybody in this community knows that. He said their never-ending support is unbelievable, it is awesome. He said Novi Parks Foundation is delighted to play our role and be happy to do what they do, accepting these kinds of donations and finding useful causes for the. He thanked ITC very much on behalf of the Novi Parks Foundation.

Mayor Gatt said before they applaud, he wanted to say thank you on behalf of the City Council, the Administration and all the City Staff and the 65,000 residents of Novi, and probably the millions that come into Novi and enjoy our amenities, what Mayor Landry said is true. He said ITC has a tattoo on Novi, we cannot go anywhere without seeing ITC in a good way. We will never really be able to repay your generosity. He stated when the kids are playing soccer or softball, or baseball, when they are walking the trail, everything that you have done for us is something that is memories for somebody in the city or as they grow, they are going to remember playing ball at ITC Community Sports Park. He said ITC is a name that will never go away, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. He said he remembered one real cold wintery day, Mayor Landry accepted a check from your then President, he said he will never forget these things. He thanked them very much for everything that ITC has done for the City of Novi. He said we are always here for you also. Thank you very much.

2. mParks Park Design Award for Lakeshore Park

PRCS Director Muck asked his colleague, CIO Rob Petty to please come down and join him for the presentation that evening. He said for the second presentation he was going to put on a different hat. He mentioned last year he was honored to serve as the President of mParks, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association. He said he was going to have that hat on for this presentation. He noted at their annual conference last month, the City of Novi received their Park Design Award for the Lakeshore Park renovations. He said many of you know before the renovations Lakeshore Park had remained largely unchanged for decades. He said the camp and the restroom facility were a concrete block building from the 1980's, the parking lot and roadway were gravel, and the main playground and park shelter needed to be replaced. He said the park redesign included a new camp and program building, replacing, and enhancing the play structure, realigning, and paving the parking lot and the road, replacing a picnic shelter, adding a dedicated bike lane and pedestrian sidewalk, incorporating Michigan's only Library Vending Kiosk. He said not only is the park redesign aesthetically pleasing, but emphasis

was also placed on inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability. He said the Parks Awards Committee and issuing the award may comment on the innovation of the design, accessibility amenities, the building and pedestrian safety. He asked CEO Rob Petty to come down and join him that evening for this award presentation. He said Mr. Petty was not at our mParks Conference, but Rob's team served as the project manager on the renovations. He said the Parks and Municipal Properties team that he oversees keeps Lakeshore Park and all our parks in top shape year-round. He said this award is not just for the PRSC and the Integrated Solutions team members. He said it is for Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, City Council, every City Staff member who participated on this project, and all our residents who supported this project ago they have all seen the benefits of a brand-new Lakeshore Park. He said on behalf of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, he congratulated the City of Novi for receiving the 2021 mParks Design Award.

CIO Petty echoed some of PRCS Director Muck's comments. He said it was truly a project that was touched by every department here at the City. He thanked all his colleagues for all the help, as well as the input that we received from yourself and the citizens. Thank you very much.

Mayor Gatt wanted to thank him on behalf of the City Council and the City Administration. He said it was a labor of love, it was a difficult project. He wasn't sure if everyone remembered all the people out in the atrium over here, and everybody wanted this, but not that, but they wanted theses but not those. He said these guys came up with a solution, and it is a beautiful building. He said it really added to that park. He said Lakeshore Park is the jewel of Novi that so many people did not even know exists. He said that building is there, and he thought it was going to be used even more than before. He said we appreciated your hard work and your attention to detail. Obviously, the love that you showed throughout the who project. He thanked them very much.

3. Memorial Day Update

PRCS Director Muck said he would come back to his regular hat, his workday hat, as Director of Parks and Recreation. He gave an update on our plans for Memorial Day. He said we will start with a brand-new tradition that we are launching this year to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Military because that is truly what Memorial Day is about. He said we are asking the public to come out on Wednesday, May 25, at 5:30 p.m. for our first field of honor. He said this is going to feature over 200 flags lining the pathways in Fuerst Park and he will talk about those in a second here, a free dinner for our veterans, a community concert with a very patriotic themed song playlist, very poignant and educational remembrance ceremony, we will be having our traditional taps, 21-gun salutes, remarks, things like that. He said then the Flag Walk of Honor is really going to be the highlight of this event. He said you can see in the poster; the flags will have medallions on them that will honor the lives of Novi citizens who lost their life in service to their country. He said they plan to educate the public with those medallions about the lives of these individuals, as well as teaching them a little bit more about the origins of Memorial Day, and other branches of the service. He thought this

was going to be a nice new tradition. He said they would like City Council to be there, if possible, to join us in this new tradition. He said the flags will be up to the Wednesday after Memorial Day, so that people could do a self-directed tour of those if they would rather come in private and honor those who were lost.

He said moving on to the Memorial Day Parade, we heard from City Council at the last meeting that you wanted the parade reestablished. He said our staff went back and we talked with some of our veterans who organized the veterans' groups in the area. He said we are now proposing a parade route that starts at Meadowbrook Commons. He explained there are several reasons for that. First, we want to kick off the morning with refreshments and a gathering for not only our veterans, but with our Meadowbrook Commons residents. He said our veterans were very much in favor of that, they love the idea of being able to interact with the Meadowbrook Commons residents, as well as our Meadowbrook Commons team. They thought that would be very good for those residents. He stated going this route also gives prime viewing opportunities for those Meadowbrook Commons residents who may not have come out to see the parade in the past. He said the Manor of Novi residents across the street are also going to be much more inclined to be able to view the parade because it will go right past them. He said one of the things we have heard from veterans in the past as we were staging the parade was that they were out in the open for about an hour at a time in the elements. He said this allows them to have them gathered in stage in bathrooms and climate controls rooms at Meadowbrook Commons. He said this takes a little of the burden off them from being outside and using Porta-Johns. He said we are staging at Meadowbrook Commons it also allows us to set up earlier it is pre staged which makes it much easier. He said it is not a public roadway, we are not using private facilities or City owned facilities. He said we can also set up and manage the event beforehand. He said one of the most important things is safety for our bands and other participants. He explained if you have never been down at the staging area, it is kind of chaotic. He said it is when we were trying to stage bands on the south side of 10 Mile, and all the participants and people not knowing where they are going, it is a mid-block crossing, it can be a little hectic at times. He believed this is going to be much safer for our participants and for traffic flow for drop off and pickup. He said they are planning on using Holy Family Church, we are trying to confirm with them, but that would be an additional staging area as well. He said the day will be a little bit shorter and speaking with our veterans, we will do the continental breakfast for veterans and Meadowbrook Commons residents as well as our dignitaries such as yourself are welcome to join us from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in the Meadowbrook Commons Activity Center for that continental breakfast, the rest of our participants will stage from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. He anticipated the parade will kick off about 10:00 a.m., and then probably about an hour to an hour and a half of the parade route and then ending here at the Civic Center. He said that would conclude our morning.

Mayor Gatt thanked him on behalf of City Council for listening to us. He said Memorial Day parades have been going on in Novi for as long as he could remember, and then some, so at least 50 or 60 years. He said it is a tradition that we do not want to see end. He thanked everyone for coming together with this in such a quick fashion. He thought it is going to be a great route. He believed for all the reasons you have already articulated;

it was going to be successful. He said if we can just get somebody to make the weather nice, that would even make it better.

Member Crawford asked if they are having a ceremony at the end of the parade at the Civic Center. PRCS Director Muck said that is happening on Wednesday night. He confirmed with Member Crawford that the parade will end here at the Civic Center and that would be the end of it.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Brian Sharrow, president of Turtle Creek Homeowners Association, said he has been a resident there since 2005. He stated that for the last several years they have received many complaints and inquiries about an increase of water around the neighborhood, or lack of drainage through the neighborhood. He said his neighbor, Ray Henderson has raised some issues with that in his yard. He said Ray Henderson would like to tell you a little bit more about it and ask some questions about the work we have done with inquiring about some of the drainage issues and their inquiries around this issue with the city.

Ray Henderson said he lived in the Turtle Creek Subdivision. He said the previous speaker noted there exists a few lots, parallel to Meadowbrook, and south of 9 Mile Road a drainage pipe that goes to a city drain. He stated upon checking with the DPW and Community Relations it does not exist. He said it is there because he saw it, not only did he see it, but he also tied into it with his sump pump. He said a problem arose and come to find out that there are some blockages in the line. He said they were wondering since the city put it in, whether the city could check it occasionally or if somebody brings it to their attention that it is blocked, to clear it. He understood that cannot be done. He said with further investigation and talking with people they found out that somebody representing the city said the city would take care of the drainage pond, and the homeowners would take care of that pipe. He said he is in the process of paying for that now. He stated that he had Thornton and Grooms come out and originally when they came out last fall, they approached the city and they did not get anywhere with the city about the pipe being there, the city said it did not exist, but it does exist. He wondered if that is something that we could ask the city to check on, because he was aware now that there is at least two other pipes in the subdivision that have those functions and they were also blocked. He stated the problem started about 25 years ago. He said you cannot drain it into the street, there is no room on the properties. He wondered what they were supposed to do with this water.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 22-04-041 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Smith; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
March 28, 2022 - Regular Meeting
- B. Acceptance of a sidewalk easement from Andrew Lamoureux for reconfiguration of a sidewalk and pedestrian crossing at the southwest corner of the 9 Mile Road and Taft Road intersection (parcel 50-22-33-200-029) in the amount of \$18,000, conditioned upon receipt of a properly executed easement from the grantor.
- C. Approval to award services to JETT Pump & Valve for the installation of operational improvements at the West Park Booster Station, in the amount of \$17,374.39.
- D. Approval of a contract with Thomas Trucking Services for the demolition and removal of the structures located at 43755 and 43707 Grand River for a total cost not to exceed \$55,000.00 and amend the budget accordingly subject to final approval of the City Manager and City Attorney.
- E. Enter Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting of April 11, 2022, in the Council Annex for written confidential communication from the City Attorney.
- F. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1105

Roll call vote on CM 22-04-041

Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Smith, Thomas, Gatt, Staudt
Nays: None
Absent: Fischer

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

- 1. **Approval to purchase radio equipment and accessories for the Novi Police and Fire Departments through Motorola for \$128,929.75, the approved vendor for Oakland County, for the P25 Radio Replacement Project.**

CM 22-04-042 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

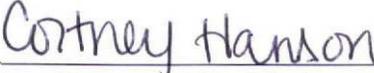
Approval to purchase radio equipment and accessories for the Novi Police and Fire Departments through Motorola for \$128,929.75, the approved vendor for Oakland County, for the P25 Radio Replacement Project.

Roll call vote on CM 22-04-042

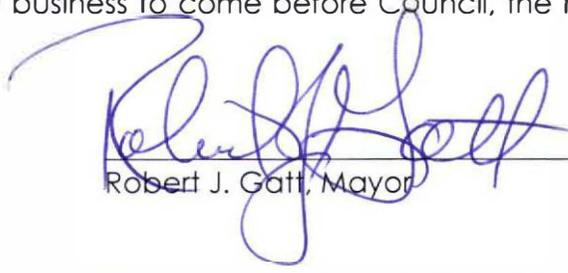
Yeas: Crawford, Smith, Thomas, Gatt, Staudt, Casey
Nays: None

Mayor Gatt announced City Council would enter Executive Session, and that City Council did not plan on returning to Open Session.

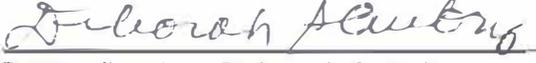
ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 P.M.



Cortney Hanson, City Clerk



Robert J. Gatt, Mayor



Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: April 25, 2022