

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 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: Victor Cardenas, Interim City Manager
Tom Schultz, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 22-12-155 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

To approve Agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 22-12-155 **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Smith, Thomas, Gatt**
Nays: None
Absent: Fischer

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Gatt announced they had a presentation that evening regarding our Library, one of our crown jewels of Novi, one of the most talked about buildings within 100 miles of here. He said wherever he goes people want to talk about the Novi Public Library and how great it is and how much fun it is and how professional it is. It truly is one of our crown jewels. He wanted to take a moment to say thank you to you and your staff before she gave her presentation that evening. He said he would open it up for questions afterwards. He thanked her again for all she did and being who she was. He thanked her for making Novi shine.

1. Annual Library Presentation - Dana Brataniec, Library Communications Manager & Julie Farkas, Library Director

Dana Brataniec, Communications Manager at the Novi Public Library thanked City Council and said she was very excited to present our 2021-2022 Annual Report. She stated that she usually starts these presentations with statistics and then she will go into talking about our milestones and accomplishments, but she thought that she wanted to do that first. She said the past fiscal year was a year of getting back into the groove of our regular library services as well as introducing some new and exciting services. She noted at the beginning of the year we were still doing mostly remote programming. She said we were so thankful for Zoom and Facebook as we heavily utilized those services to connect with the Novi community and provide them with a lot of virtual programs, educational entertainment, and interesting programs for all ages. She said in September 2021, we started to dip our toes to in person programming or more hybrid options. She

said they were thrilled to reopen Teen Space in October 2021 so our teen community could have a place that they could come to after school and socialize, hang out, do homework and just be together. She said we officially welcomed back in person programming at our National Library Week celebration in April, and we held the concert that was called Connect with your Library spring concert, or home meeting room had not been that full since before COVID, she said it was an amazing experience together that day. It was full steam ahead. She stated that during that time, they introduced a brand-new email marketing system called Patron Point that allows them to connect with all their card holders, we have about 21,000 card holders so they can email them directly, it is amazing. She said they also planned special outreach events at local Senior Centers to bring entertainment to seniors who hadn't been able to enjoy these musical performances that we typically have throughout the year. She stated these programs were generously sponsored by the friends of the Novi Library. They also engage with residents near Lakeshore Park with polar prizes at Lake Shore Lending Library. She said we put gift cards in some of the materials in the kiosk and if you checked out something you could find a gift card. She said they also hosted the Top Annual Community Read Event with Angeline Boulley, the author of *Firekeepers Daughter*. We had amazing attendance both in person and virtual. She said that is just a few of the many things we accomplished that fiscal year.

She stated that library usage was up 41% from the previous year, which makes sense because we were closed for a couple months and then we were limiting our services and then opening gradually. She said they were seeing those numbers increase steadily as the community comes in and uses the building more and more each day. She said Teen Space visits for the year were at 984. She stated that they reopened meeting rentals in October of last year, and we welcomed 204 groups, organizations, and individuals that would use our meeting spaces, Lakeshore Learning Library saw more usage as well. She said NPL @ Your Door program had 154 items mailed. She noted the number of checkouts both physical and digital were almost at 900,000. We also issued about 4,000 new library cards as well. She said in this year's Annal Report she was including some reading stats also, because that is a huge part of what we do with the Library each summer. She said last year's theme was "Ocean of Possibilities" and they saw an 8% increase in the number of books that were read this past year. She gave a huge thank you to all the communities who participated this last year and of course, Library staff because there is a huge amount of planning and everything that goes into the process of running a smooth summer reading program as well as running the building smoothly to, as we are so busy during the summer. She noted that Friends of the Novi Library are dedicated, steadfast library supporters, they gave the library over \$26,000 to help support our programs, services, and technology, especially in our iCube Makerspace and as part of their annual contribution Community Financial also gave us another \$10,000 for Lakeshore Lending Library. She was very happy they did that as well.

Ms. Brataniec explained that their Annual Report this year also features a new section to highlight the Library's efforts in diversity efforts and advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in everything that we do. She stated last fiscal year 25% of the total collections budget was dedicated to DEI materials, their original goal was 15% and we ended up

being 10% more than anticipated. She said they ran a sample survey and from that survey they saw that picture books were the most popular item checked out that were in the DEI category, 22% of the total programming budget was dedicated to DEI programs as well. She stated that their HR Specialist, Nicole developed a DEI staff training program and that is our staff completing 280 training sessions throughout the year. She highlighted some of the DEI programs, the Library Board approved a holiday closure the Juneteenth, then they held our subsequent first annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 18 of this past year. She said the Library Board also approved the continuation of the fine free policy through June 2023 to help bring that barrier free access to the Library. She said if people have materials that are still checked out that are overdue, we please ask that you bring them back as soon as you can, because you will not get charged fines for them. She said on March 28, they excitedly began a new program called NPL @ Your Door which is sponsored by the Friends of the Library which has improved library accessibility to all in the community. She said if the library guest is unable to make it to the library due to illness, accessibility, or other reasons we can mail them materials right to their home. She explained that we have information on our website, people can apply to it, and you will get put into the program and we mail whatever you want to your home. She said staff completed a collection audit throughout the year with more staff training opportunities, more diverse programming and displays, additional partnerships with community organizations and so much more.

She highlighted the presentation slide with the total revenue and expenditures for last fiscal year. She then highlighted looking forward to our current fiscal year. She said they embarked on a strategic planning process that outlines the next five years of library services. She said they will have more information on their website, along with surveys, and focus groups as well. She said they wanted to hear what the community had to say and how we can better ourselves to then bring those services and collections to the community, everything that they want. She said they always wanted to remove the barrier of access to library cards as well. Patron Point, our new email marketing system has allowed them to accept online library applications, so people can apply online if you cannot get to the library, you will get a digital card so you can get access to our digital materials, ASAP. You can also renew library cards also, you will get an email and you can just click yes, I want to renew my card, you do not even have to come visit them. She said staff will be continuing their education with more DEI training throughout the year and we will also be applying for the (QSAC) on Quality Services Audit Checklist accreditation. She said instead of one community read they were going to do two. We just did one in October, were we partnered with a Novi Community School District, the Novi Education Foundation, and the Hotel Baronette of Novi to bring an author to the community, her name is Dr. Devorah Heitner, she wrote the book *Screenwise, Helping Kids Thrive and Survive in Their Digital World*. She stated they are currently planning one for spring, which will be during National Library Week in April.

Lastly, she said their focus was less on COVID, and more on getting programs, services, materials, and so much more out to the community. However, it was not without its challenges, our staff worked tirelessly, during staff shortages to make sure that library services ran at the best capacity possible for library guests. She gave a huge thank you

to their incredible dedication to our community and for what they do and continuously do daily. She knew Julie would echo her comments when she said the Novi Public Library has the best staff in the world. She also thanked the Novi community for their continuous support, every time you walk through our doors, you check out digital materials from home, you come in and attend a program, or come in and sit at a table and study, that they are so happy to have you. She said the list can go on and on with other things you can do at the library. We are honored to serve you. She thanked Council for having her that evening and for presenting their Annual Report for last fiscal year.

Mayor Gatt thanked her for a comprehensive and such a positive report. Mayor Gatt commented the Library is a truly remarkable place. He thanked Julie and said he could see that her staff does a lot of work in the background, and we appreciate that.

Library Director, Julie Farkas thanked the Councilmembers, not only are you residents of our community, but she knew that they also were supporters of our library, and she thanked them so much for that. She said she has had the pleasure of meeting with all of Council having the opportunity to share the library and talk about programs and opportunities and services over the years and even with the newer members. She mentioned it was always a positive interaction and it is always something that we can springboard off to see what more we can do. She said the iCube was seeing a lot of appointments and lots of usage. She said that was something we introduced, just as COVID happened, unfortunately. She was happy to tell you how wonderful it was that it is continuing, and we will continue to build it. She said it is a nice new feature of the building to get people in and to see what our building is about, along with, having wonderful books and materials, we try to be beyond that. She said the staff she has just under 70 of them, each of them brings such professionalism and wonderful aspects and creativity and ideas that we know, try to cultivate at every moment that we can, and it has been great to have such unique people on her staff to bring wonderful ideas, they are good listeners.

Ms. Farkas mentioned Dana shared earlier that we are going to do a Strategic Plan, she looked for all of you to be part of that process. She said you will get invitations; we know that you are out in your communities and in your neighborhoods, you serve as faces and opportunity for listening. She hoped that you will engage with us so that we can hear what your neighbors want and how you can help bring some of that to our library if we are not doing it already. She said they were very excited about it because it is the first time we are working with a consultant and she thought it was good to have that overview and have someone come in with different eyes, fresh eyes, and then also live it listening from a different perspective. She said we have done them in house in the past, but this is good for us at a good time where we can work with someone who might identify new things that we can target and bring to our community. She looked forward to working with all of you. She also mentioned that they did win the Community Collaboration Award from the Michigan Association of Media. She said with media and education, which is the branch of library specialists that work specifically in schools. She stated we have an amazing partnership with our Novi Community School District, as well as Walled Lake and Northville, and a tiny bit of South Lyon, and Catholic Central as well. We have just a great

connection with our schools. Novi Community School District, though, allows us, she called them guinea pigs sometimes, because they let her try things with them first, to see how it will be received. She said they always had an open door; they have always been welcoming to our ideas and opportunities to try new things. She believed that we have a wonderful purpose with serving those students and those families, we try hard to do that. She was appreciative of Novi Library receiving the main award for collaboration because it is just such a great opportunity to work with our school district, and that is where it is coming from, their librarians. She noted that a lot of schools now a days do not have librarians in their district and in their buildings. She said Novi keeps that professional position, she believed it was an important position in a school district, it is literacy. That is our connection is literacy, if you are not reading, you know that you are not improving, you are not growing, and that is a fundamental need by our children is to be reading. She said to have that connection with school librarians in our school district, she appreciated them, giving us this award. She named Kim Wesner from Novi Middle Bethany Bratney from Novi High and Todd Erickson from Novi Meadows who were the ones who championed, this connection and this award with us. They were the ones who were open to listening to us and how we can partner so we brought databases to them through the Library, and the students are accessing it. She said they are doing Parent to Parent book discussions. She mentioned they are doing Superintendent talks at the library, giving them a location, and we are partnering with Novi Youth Assistance, which is part of the school as well. She stated these are just ongoing opportunities that we have had which had been wonderful, and they have been so receptive to us. She appreciated the Novi Community School District, she knew that you know how wonderful they are, they are top notch in our community. She said they are very appreciative of that award, and for them recognizing us.

Mayor Gatt mentioned that he said it three times already that evening that the Novi Library is part of our crown jewels, so are the Novi Schools, wherever we go, that is spoken about also. Everything you just said certainly does not come off as a surprise. They are the best of the best, and we are very lucky to have you also. He said he would open it up to Council for questions.

Member Smith said he was glad to hear everything was up and running with the iCube. He wanted to say to anyone out there watching or anyone in here that has not been there, you should go check it out. There is some excellent stuff in there, that was one of his favorite parts of the library.

Mayor Gatt thanked Dana and Julie for their presentation. He stated if there was anything that they could do for them they knew where to find them.

PRESENTATIONS FOR APPLICANTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Gatt announced that they had five people that were going to present to Council in their quest to be named to one of our Boards or Commissions. He explained that our format is that we will call a name down, you will come to the podium, you will be given two minutes to present to us. He told them to keep in mind that they have their resume,

we have everything that you sent into the City Clerk of some of you they know very well from your past service to our community. He said there will not be any questions afterwards. At the end of the night, there will not be any decisions made. He said the decisions will be announced at our next meeting, which is December 19, 2022. He said they will have two minutes, and he has a timer here and he will cut you off at two minutes because that is how it will be fair to everybody.

1. Nicole Fuller - Board of Review

Nicole Fuller said she grew up in a real estate family, her dad, mom and her grandpa, and her great grandma were in real estate. She said she has been a realtor for 11 years, and has co-owned her brokerage for five. She said she lived in Novi for 21 years now, she had moved out and she was moving back in about three months. She said she loved the community. She stated her sister is 16, so she is all about the library and the schools all over again, like she was when she was little. She said she started in real estate when she was 10, she worked in her mom's office and answered phones, and then she got her license and started working for her. She wanted to serve on the Board of Review to give back to the community and that was something that she could do, and she knew that she would be good at. She said her mom had given her a lot of pointers; she has been on the Board of Review for a few years now.

2. Linda Krieger - ZBA

Linda Krieger thanked the Mayor, Council and City Administration. She said she was a longtime Novi resident and has been volunteering for a long time. She loved the city, went through the Citizens Academy back in the 90's and that grounded her real good in Novi. She said she got interested, went through the Historical and Beautification Committees, Library Board and now the Zoning and she really liked it and felt at home there. She thought they were a good team. She said she would like to continue volunteering there.

3. Kim Nice - Historical Commission

Kim Nice thanked Mayor Gatt and Council for the opportunity to seek reappointment for the Historical Commission. She said she was one of the second class for the Ambassador Program and some of her fellow ambassadors encouraged her to investigate the Historical Commission. She volunteered for a year and decided where she really liked this and applied. She said she is now applying for her third term. She enjoyed all the projects and all of the people she has been involved with the City and really is learning a lot more about Novi. She stated that one thing that kind of strikes her heart is that she said some research for Kathy Crawford early on, when they did the cemetery walk about and she found out the one of her ancestors started the first sawmill in Novi. She said she did not know that it is a small world. She said that was back in the late 1800s. She said she was the co-chair for the Veterans Wreath Project because of Kathy and her opening her mouth. She said she appointed her four years ago to be the treasurer for the Commission, which was a newly created position. She enjoyed doing that keeping track of things

working with Julie's staff has been wonderful. She said they were very honored that they have the privilege of having been a commission and being able to have their history room in the library. She said she is also working on some projects for some for the programs that we are doing, looking to develop a feedback program to make sure they are targeting the proper audiences for the programs they are bringing in. She mentioned they are working on the display cases to advertise their programs right now. She said if you are at the Library look at their display case by the elevator. She said they have highlighted all kinds of Novi history through the years and all the 50's festivals and so on. She said they have a lot of memorabilia; they just want to keep doing what she was doing, and she really enjoyed it and enjoyed working with the everyone.

4. Daniel Pierce - Historical Commission

Daniel Pierce thanked Mayor and Council and asked if he could take two seconds to wholeheartedly endorsed Kim Nice. He said she is the heart of the Historical Commission and a fantastic member. He said he has been on the Historical Commission for two years now and has been serving as the secretary of the Historical Commission. He said he has been a resident of Novi for 13 years and has received a history degree from the University of Missouri. He said the Historical Commission has given him a reason or way to use that history degree. He said that it has been great working on the Commission finding out more about Novi, and just generally being more involved in the community. He said this year, he has done such projects as worked on photography of all the tombstones in our two cemeteries for historical documentation. He said he also helped rewrite the Novi Historical Commission pamphlet. He was looking forward to hopefully serving two more years and doing more for this community. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to talk that evening.

5. Pamela Superfisky - Election Commission – (absent)

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 22-12-156 Moved by Casey, seconded by Thomas; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

To approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
 November 28, 2022 - Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of Resolution Appointing Jeffrey Wainwright and Victor Cardenas to
 the Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

C. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1121

Roll call vote on CM 22-12-156

**Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Smith, Thomas, Gatt,
Staudt**

Nays: None

Absent: Fischer

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Consideration of a request from Garage Novi, LLC for a new Class C quota license to be located at 44375 W. 12 Mile Road, F-139, Novi, MI 48375 and Agreement on the Prohibition on Profiteering by Class C Liquor License Holders.

Interim City Manager Cardenas said this is a request from the new Ford's Garage which is going up on Fountain Walk off 12 Mile. He said City Council has seven quota licenses as designated by the Liquor Control Commission after the increase in our Census count. He stated this will be a request from one of those seven licenses. He believed that the petitioner is here to answer any of your questions.

Billy Downs thanked City Council for considering their application for a quota liquor license for his new restaurant, Ford's Garage in Fountain Walk. He said he was there that evening with his wife Amy. They have lived in Novi for the last 27 years and raised their children here and they all attended and graduated from Novi area schools. He said they were excited to bring Ford's Garage to our hometown. He said Ford's Garage restaurants celebrate the history of the Ford Motor Company, and its founder, Henry Ford in a 1920s service center atmosphere. He said each restaurant is independently owned and an official licensee of the Ford Motor Company. He said the concept started in 2012 in Fort Myers, Florida just blocks away from Henry's winter home, which is now a museum. He stated the concept is unique, special and has a very wide multigenerational appeal, though they specialize in burgers and craft beer, we also have delicious salads, grilled items, and comfort foods to go along with a full bar. He said he was asked by Ford Motor Company to open Ford's Garage in Dearborn, Michigan, which he did in 2017. He said they have enjoyed terrific success in Dearborn and planned all along to come to Novi. He said as you are aware, we chose the former Tilted Kilt in Fountain Walk. He said it was time to freshen up that building and other things that are in the center. He noted they have worked hard to make this building special, including adding approximately 800 square feet to the footprint. He said when it is done the restaurant be at 900 square feet with seating for around 240 people. He said it has been an exciting project. He said so far, they had a beautiful 1929 Ford partially gifted to them from someone very passionate about it. He said it will be in the center of the restaurant, a 1929 Model A and it has 536 miles on it. He said they drained the fluids put it up a couple weeks ago and the rest of the restaurant we built around it. He mentioned Fountain Walk, and said they were excited to be part of the revitalization of the center, they have worked closely with the ownership, Michael Zimmerman, and his team. He hoped to be here for a very long time. We believe that Ford's Garage and Fountain Walk will enhance dining choices for residents, as well as become a regional dining destination which we have done. He said

so already in Dearborn, we believe that will help the existing businesses within the center and the area. He said it may even sport spur additional interest in that area of the city. He thanked Council again for their consideration for this application. He wanted to let City Council know that they have had nothing but helping support the entire way through this project. Thank you.

Mayor Gatt said he would go first, and he said he was thrilled that you are here tonight and have come before us asking for one of our seven quota licenses. He stated not too long ago, another entity came, and they asked for one and we politely, he did not know if they tabled that, or turned them down. They said at the time, seven sounds like a lot, but we do not get any more for 10 years and we wanted to reserve these for the type of business that will fit in with our community that will enhance our community and bring more people into the city of Novi. He thought that is exactly what you are going to do, that is the exact kind of business that we are looking for. He supported this when the motion is made. He hoped his colleagues felt the same way because Ford's Garage is a welcome addition to our community and to 12 Mile Crossing. He said that is a center that is an outdoor center, as everybody knows that. It has problems in the wintertime and people like you and other businesses like you will help keep it moving in the right direction. He thanked them for coming before us, and when the motion is made, he noted that he would have his support.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked if he was the same Billy Downs from Mongolian Barbecue. He replied yes. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said BD Mongolian Barbecue was an early business in the Main Street area, it is still there today. Very successful. He remembered the day you sold off your interest and was kind of disappointed because it was always a first class run operation. He said when he heard that you were coming back with this, the Mayor and he talked, they thought we had fallen into some real luck. He echoed the Mayor and said he would support this license.

CM 22-12-157 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Gatt; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approval of the request from Garage Novi, LLC for a new Class C quota license to be located at 44375 W. 12 Mile Road, F-139, Novi, MI 48375 and Agreement on the Prohibition on Profiteering by Class C Liquor License Holders County because the proposed use is in an area that is focused on entertainment and the proposed licensee will foster or generate economic development or growth with respect to this by offering a unique setting and menu options including the vibe of being in a 1920's service station to include vintage Ford vehicles, gas pumps, and fixtures. Furthermore, the business is family friendly with a focus on American Craft Beer with beverage options ranging from a number of non-alcoholic options, multiple draft and bottle beers, to wine and cocktails. The premises was previously occupied by a similar business licensed to sell alcohol and such use is not incompatible with other uses in the area, the existing use will continue and has not adversely affected surrounding uses, and

because the applicant appears to qualify for a license under the City's ordinance.

Member Crawford welcomed Mr. Downs to Novi. He said a few weeks ago he was in Orlando, Florida and ate at a Ford's Garage. He told the folks that he was eating with, that we sure needed one of these in Novi, it will be an instant hit. He believed it would be full all the time. He thought it was a great concept of all the little amenities there like the car and there were a lot of other things. He said even the restroom was unique, it had hose nozzles for the doors. He wasn't sure if they were going to do that kind of stuff, but it was a unique experience. He said it had great food, great service.

Member Smith echoed his colleagues, he was in full support of this. He mentioned that he has been to the one in Dearborn, it was a really good experience. He believed it would be a great addition to that area, and a little better fit than Tilted Kilt, it is more family oriented. He thought it was going to be great, he was looking forward to going there.

Roll call vote on CM 22-12-157

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

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION: None

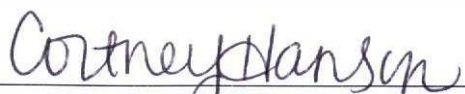
AUDIENCE COMMENT:

Randall McCure said he lived in Novi for about 14 years. He mentioned he worked at Ford for 21 years, and he liked the idea of Ford's Garage coming to Novi.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.


Cortney Hanson, City Clerk


Robert J. Gatt, Mayor


Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: December 19, 2022