

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act this meeting was held remotely.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch\*

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Gatt stated we already had one item in Mayor and Council Issues, and he would like to add two more items to Mayor and Council Issues: 2. Interlocal Agreement with Oakland County regarding vaccinations, and 3. January 4, 2021 Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m. for interviewing applicants for an open seat on City Council.

**CM 20-12-133 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0**

**To approve the Agenda as amended.**

<b>Roll call vote on CM 20-12-133</b>	<b>Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Gatt</b>
	<b>Nays: None</b>
	<b>Absent: Breen, Mutch</b>

Member Breen was absent during vote due to technical difficulties.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

\*Member Mutch arrived at 7:03 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Gatt stated they had three presentations that evening, presentations are just that, they are not action items. He said City Council will not be voting or discussing these items. The first presentation is a field naming request. Mayor Gatt said we have three of Novi finest citizens, Ramesh Verma, Dr. Sanghvi, and Joe Peddiboyina, the floor is yours.

**1. Field Naming Request – Ramesh Verma, Dr. Siddarth Sanghvi, and Joe Peddiboyina**

Mr. Verma said that Dr. Sanghvi was the most senior representative that evening, so he asked Dr. Sanghvi to speak first. Dr. Sanghvi thanked the Mr. Verma, Mayor and City Council. Before he began, he requested a moment of silence in memory of a mutual

friend, and a friend of Novi, Senator Bill Bullard Jr. Dr. Sanghvi stated he was there with Ramesh Verma, and Joe Peddiboyina to make a request for you all to consider naming Bosco Field at Beck Road as Gandhi Field, Nation of India. He said you may ask why. He said he need not tell you all who Mahatma Gandhi was. Everyone knows about Gandhi. Dr. Sanghvi explained that he had the privilege of meeting Gandhi when he was nine years old in his town where he grew up. He also attended the same high school of Gandhi. The greatest lessons he taught It is to honor his life-mission of peace and non-violence. He has been residing in Novi for over 45 years. Dr. Sanghvi said he has tried his best to live up to his teachings and he has friends of all political affiliations. He considered it an honor that you considered him one of your friends. He stated that we have so many immigrants in this city from all over the country and different parts of the world. Mahatma Gandhi did not belong to just one nation, he belonged to the entire human race. He has had some renowned followers such as Nelson Mandela, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and a all kind of people. The United Nations in a hundred different nations honored him during his 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. He pointed out that President Trump and the First Lady visited his cremation site and laid a wreath there while visiting India. By honoring Mahatma Gandhi in Michigan's best city, we will be honoring a person of peace and non-violence. He quoted Mayor Gatt, "A person does not become whole until he or she becomes part of something bigger than himself/herself". If Novi honors Mahatma Gandhi they will become bigger than itself by honoring Gandhi. He thanked the Mayor and Council for taking the time and patience to listen to him. Mayor Gatt thanked Dr. Sanghvi.

Mr. Verma said he wanted to make a few comments. He is proud of the City of Novi where diversity is being recognized. He stated that there is more than 17% ethnic people live here. We have a Police Department Headquarters named after the first police chief. He believed that one day they will name the Civic Center after a distinguished leader in the community. He requested that City Council consider naming Bosco Field after Mahatma Gandhi who was a man of peace. He thanked City Council on behalf of their community for considering their request.

Mr. Peddiybonia supported Dr. Sanghvi and Ramesh Verma's request to name Bosco Field after Mahatma Gandhi and he requested City Council consider their request.

Mayor Gatt said they would not discuss or vote on this. He stated that he shared his view in an email with Mr. Verma and any member can bring it forward for discussion as a future meeting.

## **2. Library's Annual Report 2019/20 – Dana Brataniec, Communications Coordinator**

Communications Coordinator Dana Brataniec said that this past year 2019-2020 was a special year. She highlighted the letter that Julie Farkas wrote in the front of the Annual Report. The staff and many visitors dove into the exploration of the iCube Makerspace and its fabulous opportunities to "think outside the box" when it came to design, creating or trying something new They opened the Library's Café in September and celebrated the fact that a well-known coffee product would be sold – Starbucks. The innovative partnership with the Novi Community School District and Chatwells would also offer skills

training to students during the school day. She mentioned that they said good-bye to the Novi Special Racecar. For ten years it was prominently displayed in our youth area for our community to view and learn about its history. Thanks to the City of Novi's leaders, it has a new home in the Civic Center for all to see. This allowed the Library to gain additional space for our youngest guests (those under the age of five) and create opportunities for the staff to get creative with how the space will eventually transform over the next few years. She said they are planning for their newest service, the Lakeshore Lending Library which is a self-service kiosk or vending machine which did get delayed because of COVID. Should be here in the Spring of 2021. She explained that COVID-19 changed how library services were offered in the spring and early summer months. The library was closed for some time, and she believed many of them were heartbroken to be kept distant from our community and not offering the services they would normally provide. She said they have a strong dedicated library staff to tackle these changes with a lot of humor, the awesome knowledge to learn new technologies quickly to go virtual for all public programming without skipping a beat and the "can do" attitude with offering the best services we can with the restriction that have been governed. She stated that the Novi Public Library is looking at our footprint for improving diversity, equity and inclusion when looking at collections, programming, services, outreach, and policies. The work has just started and the opportunities for improvements and building stronger relationships and partnerships is endless. We released a podcast while we were closed. It was a fun experience and we released 13 episodes during that closure. We also improved library access for students and employees at the Novi Community School District by providing them with already done library cards. She explained they received their card, and it was already set up in the system so they could easily just go online, or they could come into the Library and use it. Lastly, we received a \$40,000 commitment for Lakeshore Lending Library by Community Financial. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to get involved in, to bring this technology to Novi, which she said is going to be the first of its kind in Michigan. They are always on the forefront of helping us and we are looking forward to that coming in the Spring. She mentioned that conquering COVID items was a huge chunk of their fiscal year. They prepared a six-phase reopening plan, which they were currently in. They are trying to open the building as safely as possible for their guests and providing as many services as they could within the guideline provided. They did complete the last staff training; it gave them a lot of time to take webinars and do training to brush up on their skills to better serve the community. They did reopen in July and they also reintroduced some services like locker holds and the drive up window, which has been really popular. Obviously being closed that kind of took a hit on the number of guests that came into the Library, and the items that were checked out. With our digital services that really helped us with our items checked out for the year we were a little over 720,00 items. Our program participants were a little over 62,000 for the year. Our Friends of the Library obviously have been incredible advocates for them and have donated so much money over the years to help us provide new services and technology and programs for Novi. They donated \$30,000 to the Library during that fiscal year. Our total expenditures for the year were a little over \$3 million. One of the highlights for their Excellence Status for Qstack you must be over 15% in collections, online resources, and cataloging. Those services that we provide directly for the community were at 16%. We got to hold not to that Excellent Status from the nearby community. To wrap it up she thanked everyone for having here that evening

and said that 2019/2020 started off well and with COVID we had a lot of challenges, but the Library was more than ready for the challenge and they stepped up to the plate. We did as much as we could for the community during that time and we are still doing it now during COVID. She said they are looking forward to next year and they are hoping to do ever bigger and better things. Hopefully, we can reopen fully and provide all those great services again to the community. Mayor Gatt thanked her for her presentation and the very positive note on what is happening at the Library.

### **3. Recognition of Member Breen**

Mayor Gatt said he was going to take the lead and said that tonight is our final meeting of the year. Unless something happens that he could not anticipate. It is also the final meeting for Member Kelly Breen who has been here for three years. He said Kelly has been successful in her attempt to become the State Representative. She will be moving on to Lansing the first of the year to tackle problems much different than the ones we have now, the one is that she is used to talking about. Mayor Gatt wished Kelly the very best on behalf of his colleagues on City Council and on behalf of the whole City staff. He said he would bet that the 60,000 residents wished her the very best and thanked her for her service. He said his sources told him that a little elf may have rung your doorbell today and dropped off a special tile signed by City Council; we hope that you hang that in your office in Lansing as a reminder of where you started. Mayor Gatt thanked her again for everything, we look forward to hearing from you time to time as you come back to address us as our State Representative. He asked Member Breen if she wanted to say anything. Member Breen thanked Mayor Gatt and apologized because her internet connection was horrible and that is something that we are hopefully going to be working on in Lansing to help improve municipal funding and make sure that we can get better broadband access to everyone. She said this was a very bittersweet moment. It was an honor and privilege to serve Novi. She thanked them for the beautiful plaque. She mentioned they also dropped off a beautiful bracelet and she will be wearing it opening day. She said they will always be welcome in Lansing and she hoped to see you for a visit. She will be bothering all of you on a regular basis anyway, so you can count on that. She told Pete; the emails are not going to stop. She told Mayor Gatt that she will hearing from her regularly, she is going to need their help to make sure that we can continue to provide the best services we can to our communities. She said she looked forward to her continued role, but she will miss serving all these colleagues. Mayor Gatt thanked her and said do not be surprised if you do hear from all of us whenever there is an issue that we think you can help with.

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None**

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

**CM 20-12-134            Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

- A. Approve Minutes of:
  - 1. December 7, 2020 - Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of a contract with Municipal Web Services to host and maintain cityofnovi.org, novilibrary.org, novi.org and the intranet (eWeb) for three years for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023, with two renewal options in one-year increments, in the approximate amount of \$72,000 and redesign of novilibrary.org, cityofnovi.org and the eWeb on the same platform, including an enhanced Responsive Web Design for Smart devices in the amount of \$39,025.
- C. Consideration to approve amendment to the resolution temporarily authorizing an extension of the temporary signage from December 31, 2020, until March 31, 2021.
- D. Acceptance of a landscape easement from GR Meadowbrook LLC, for woodland replacement plantings being offered as a part of JSP16-34, Huntley Manor, for property located south of Grand River Avenue and west of Meadowbrook Road, in Section 23 of the City.
- E. Acceptance of a sidewalk easement from Biotech Holding & Real Estate, LLC, for construction of a sidewalk along the west side of Meadowbrook Road between Gateway Village and Eleven Mile Road (parcel 50-22-23-226-033) in the amount of \$21,478.50.
- F. Acceptance of a declaration of access easement by the City of Novi granted to the City of Novi located within Lakeshore Park parcel 50-22-03-455-009 for the purpose of pathway access.
- G. Approval of a DTE Permanent Line Relocation Agreement to relocate a DTE Energy utility pole on 25825 Meadowbrook Road to allow for construction of the Bishop Creek Streambank Stabilization project in the amount of \$30,081.57.
- H. Approval to award engineering design services to Spalding DeDecker to replace and upsize the existing sanitary sewer for the Drake's Bay Effluent and Lanny's Influent sanitary sewer capacity upgrade project along Wixom Road in the amount of \$82,400.00.
- I. Approval to award engineering design services to Spalding DeDecker for replacement of the force main from the Hilton Sanitary Pump Station project in the amount of \$24,320.00.
- J. Approval of the final payment to Cadillac Asphalt, LLC, for the Cabot, Lewis, Trans-X, and Donelson Drives Rehabilitation project in the amount of \$75,588.80, plus interest earned on retainage.

- K. Acceptance of a Warranty Deed to dedicate 30 feet of half-width right-of-way along the west side of Holmes Road as part of the Manchester residential development (parcel 50-22-11-200-019).
- L. Approval of a Consent Judgment for the acquisition of a sidewalk easement and temporary grading easement over property located along the west side of Haggerty Road between Eight and Nine Mile Road, along the frontage of 22279 Parcel No. 22-36-200-003, in the total amount of \$58,766.
- M. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant No. 1074.

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-134**

**Yeas: Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer Mutch,  
Gatt, Staudt  
Nays: None**

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions.**

Mayor Gatt said that all their votes had been sent to City Clerk Hanson and she will read the winning names right now. He said if you applied for a Board or Commission and you were not chosen to please keep trying. Keep coming back because it is people like you that make Novi so great. We appreciate that want to get involved and want to help. There is only so much space on these Boards and Commissions that we cannot appoint everybody to every seat, but we do appreciate your help and your desire to serve. He asked City Clerk Hanson to read the results.

City Clerk Hanson read the results of the votes as follows: Beautification Commission, we did not have a person earning enough votes to be appointed. Board of Review Margaret Beller was appointed to the full term. Election Commission, Bob Copes was reappointed to a full term. Historical Commission, Kelly Casper, and Debbie Wrobel we appointed two full terms and we did not have an applicant with enough votes to be appointed to the partial term. Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee, Esther Kerr and Dan McGee were both reappointed. Zoning Boards of Appeals, Cliff Montague, Joe Peddiboyina, and Michael Thompson were reappointed. Mayor Gatt said to those whose names were call thank you very much. We look forward to your continued service, and if your names were not called, please keep trying.

**2. Consideration of a resolution to authorize a budget amendment in the amount of \$176,740 for COVID-19 shutdown pull-ahead projects.**

City Manager Auger stated this was the request to City Council to look at times that might deal with a lot of traffic not coming to the Civic Center due to the COVID-19 shutdown for the convenience of those residents there are a couple projects that we have brought to you to pull-ahead which is what we voted at the last meeting.

**CM 20-12-135**

**Moved by Fischer, seconded by Staudt: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval to Authorize a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$176,740 for COVID-19 shutdown pull-ahead projects.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-135                      Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Breen  
Nays: None**

- 3. Consideration of a Completion Agreement with M/I Homes of Michigan, LLC for SP 17-0034, the Bolingbrooke residential development located north of 12- 1/2 Mile Road and West of Old Novi Road, in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 26.5 and subject to final approval by the City Attorney and City Manager.**

**CM 20-12-136                      Moved by Staudt, seconded by Fischer: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval of a Completion Agreement with M/I Homes of Michigan, LLC for SP 17-0034, the Bolingbrooke residential development located north of 12-1/2 Mile Road and West of Old Novi Road, in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 26.5 and subject to final approval by the City Attorney and City Manager.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-136                      Yeas: Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Breen, Casey  
Nays: None**

- 4. Consideration of approval to award the construction contract to Fonson Company, Inc., the low bidder, for the Lee BeGole Headwall Reconstruction, Bishop Creek Streambank Restoration, and Segment 70 Meadowbrook Road Sidewalk project, in the amount of \$894,884.05.**

**CM 20-12-137                      Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval to award the construction contract to Fonson Company, Inc., the low-bidder, for the Lee BeGole Headwall Reconstruction, Bishop Creek Streambank Restoration, and Segment 70 Meadowbrook Road Sidewalk project, in the amount of \$894,884.05.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-137                      Yeas: Fischer, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Breen, Casey, Crawford  
Nays: None**

- 5. Consideration of approval to purchase one (1) 2021 Ford Escape, five (5) 2021 Ford F-350s, and one (1) F-150 from Signature Ford, through the Macomb County Cooperative Purchasing Contract; and upfits to be completed by Truck and Trailer Specialties through the City of Rochester Hills RFP contract, in the amount of \$282,677.**

**CM 20-12-138                      Moved by Staudt, seconded by Crawford: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval to purchase one (1) 2021 Ford Escape, five (5) 2021 Ford F-350s, and one (1) F-150 from Signature Ford, through the Macomb County Cooperative Purchasing Contract; and upfits to be completed by Truck and Trailer Specialties through the City of Rochester Hills RFP contract, in the amount of \$282,677.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-138**

**Yeas: Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Breen, Casey,  
Crawford, Fischer**

**Nays: None**

**6. Consideration of a request by Manchester 13 Mile Road, LLC for waiver of the requirement for a completion agreement and the requirement to maintain financial guarantees for the commercial portion of the Manchester Development otherwise required under 26.5 of the City Code.**

City Manager Auger said he did not have anything to add although he believed City Attorney Schultz had some changes in the language of the motion. City Manager Auger stated we had discussion today about improving the motion to make sure that we ensure the future development coming in must abide by our ordinance. City Attorney Schultz noted that we are just making it clear that when the commercial portion does come in for development, though we have the usual pre-construction meeting, and they will also be subject to the financial guarantee ordinance. He stated the new language will be added where the motion ends now and the wording to add is: Provided that when the commercial portion of the development commences the City shall require all appropriate financial guarantees to be posted prior to the required pre-construction meeting for the commercial portion, and further provided that the City administration shall determine if any financial guarantee(s) for the site should be posted and/or retained now for sidewalk improvements, landscaping, or any other improvement that relate to the site generally. So again, this is a clarification on the improvement of the motion. If it is the Council's pleasure, they can make the motion and they could add it.

Member Mutch asked City Attorney Schultz a couple of questions in terms of the timing of this, just to ensure as the property changes ownership and the fact that there is already been some activity on the site because of the unique nature of this. A particular project because it is covered by consent judgment that the same language that would apply to any other project applies to this and his primary concern was there is an unfinished section of sidewalk along Holmes Drive which we just accepted under the other portion of this on the Agenda that evening. We just accepted a portion of that street this evening and he wanted to make sure that it gets addressed so we do not get in a situation where if because of the Academy or because of developers just sitting on the property that does not sit unaddressed for years on end which unfortunately has happened elsewhere in the community. He stated the language that City Attorney Schultz incorporated addressed all his concerns and he was happy to go ahead and make a motion using the revised language that was provided that evening.

**CM 20-12-139**

**Moved by Mutch, seconded by Staudt: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval of a request by Manchester 13 Mile Road, LLC for waiver of the requirement for a completion agreement and the requirement to maintain financial guarantees for the commercial portion of the Manchester Development otherwise required under 26.5 of the City Code, provided that when the commercial portion of the of the development commences, the City shall require all appropriate financial guarantees to be posted prior to the required pre-construction meeting for the commercial portion, and further provided that the City administration shall determine if any financial guarantee(s) for the site should be posted and/or retained now for sidewalk improvements, landscaping, or any other improvements that relate to the site generally.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-139**

**Yeas: Gatt, Staudt, Breen, Casey, Crawford,  
Fischer, Mutch**

**Nays: None**

City Attorney Schultz said Council should all go back and state their names, city, and state for the record, although he did not think that had to do this until the first of the year, he thought they should get into the habit of doing this. Starting with the Mayor, all Council Members stated their name, city, state, and county. Mayor Gatt asked City Clerk Hanson to add that to the Roll Call on the Agenda.

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENT:**

A Novi resident said he wanted to voice his concern about the memorandum that was included in the Agenda regarding Assistant Chief Erick Zinser request for the riot gear. He stated that there was an event in 2016 when President Trump came during the rallies that the police needed to get gear from the Oakland Training Technical Training consortium. He wanted to voice his concern that he did not believe that the City requires it based on the six peaceful protests, that again is his opinion. He did not see the City of Novi as having to go through the effort of preparing for a riot. He pointed out that the Assistant Chief stated that 7% of protests became a riot. This year with the peaceful protest he did not see the need to get the gear and if you want to get the gear, he would at least appreciate you refrain from buying the batons, and body shields. That really seemed unnecessary.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Member Casey said she realized she has not been in front of her colleagues and the community to talk about the Roads Committee in a while. She wanted to share briefly that they are making great progress in our works. They have been meeting bi-monthly this fall and they are starting to work on our Findings Report to present to City Council. If we stay on track, as she would expect they will, they will be looking forward to sharing their information and their study with City Council in February.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:**

**1. Public Safety pull-ahead projects.**

City Manager Auger said Chief Molloy was also in on the Zoom call for any detailed information. He said these are things that we took advantage of to pull-ahead that were budgeted in the out-year but brought these forward as we were pulling next year's budget ahead. Knowing what this year's budget numbers are and where we were sitting and the projections for the next year, these are all things that were planned to be purchased to equip our Police Department to handle all conditions that they must deal with. Mayor Gatt asked if they could tell us the amounts we were talking about. Chief Molloy said he believed the total cost for the three projects to be \$179,720.

**CM 20-12-140            Moved by Gatt, seconded by Staudt: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve pulling ahead funding from future budgets into FY 20/21 for Public Safety in the amount of \$179,720 for P25 radio system replacement, rifle replacement, and mobile field force equipment.**

Mayor Gatt said he would go ahead and make a motion that we fund that money into our budget now and that when the time comes these projects were supposed to be funded the money is taken out of the budget that year and put back into our Fund balance. We are going to use to fund this like what we did at our last meeting. He said being a former police officer he could tell you that being prepared is what it is all about. Why do officers wear bulletproof vests, and why do officers carry guns? He said it is because they must be prepared for the worst and he did not think that this signals to our residents or at least it should not that we are expecting trouble that we are anticipating any problems that are not there. Novi is one of the safest communities in the State. He said that Novi was just named one of the safest communities in the County, maybe in Southeast Michigan. He did not remember exactly what, but we are a very safe community. He stated that Novi has the most professional police agency anywhere that can be found, led by the best chief anybody could ever think of. He said he would happily make that motion. He hoped that his colleagues would agree.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said every time he has run for office in Novi, his number one priority has been Public Safety, whether it is Police, Fire, or EMS services. He said when he got a memo from our Chief saying that they have immediate needs, his priority is to fill that need. He felt that the things that have been requested are prudent and they are cost-effective, and he was in full support of this motion. He said he looked forward to funding this and continuing to have the best Police Department in Oakland County and maybe in Michigan.

Member Mutch said he had a couple of questions related to the equipment that he has heard it referred to in different ways, but the mobile field force equipment and how it is referred to in the memo. During the audience participation there was a question or a comment about inclusion of batons and body shields, face shields under the preferred vendor listed as optional add-ons. Can the Chief clarify whether those optional add-ons

are incorporated into the request? Chief Molloy replied the helmets are not, we already have Kevlar helmets that we have purchased in previous past budgets. His understanding is the shields, and the batons are included. Member Mutch said it would be helpful when this comes back to City Council as a budget item if it is approved this evening just to see that spelled out because he did not see it, there are several pages here and he did not see the total amount for that item listed. He did see the total for the main package of items, but not for the others. His other concern that underlines the comments that we heard this evening and some other comments we that we as City Council, so the public is aware. He said for much of this year as obviously there has been a lot of attention focused on police policies, lease actions across this country. City Council received several emails from folks who expressed concerns about various policies related to how police in general operate. He did not necessarily think for the most part they were focused on the Novi Police Department specifically, but for our information he asked Chief Molloy if there is a policy or kind of criteria guidelines that would guide when this equipment would be put into use by your officers? What type of situations would warrant them utilizing this gear and is there anything that kind of parameters that determine one that is utilized? Chief Molloy said obviously we garner as much intelligence as we can from multiple sources, public, private overt, and when we have information about potential protests that could turn violent then we would advise our officers to have this gear with the. Our officers have been carrying this gear for the better part, the gear that they have now which is a helmet and a baton for the better part of this year. Again, we rely on those intelligence sources, obviously if we were deployed to not only a community other than Novi, but we also need to have this gear readily available. We are part of multiple mutual aid agreements here in Oakland County. There are 40 some other law enforcement agencies that we have partnerships with and if they call for mutual aid request because of a violent protest our officers need to be prepared and they need to have equipment on hand to keep them safe. We are not talking about any military grade equipment, we are simply talking about chest protection, arm protection, knee, and shin protection. That is really nothing more than you would see on an average catcher than on a high school baseball field. Obviously, the batons and shields must be used, batons must be used to keep people back. Shields must be used to prevents rocks, bottles, nails, whatever improvised device that protestors, violent protesters, extremists like to use. That is why we would deploy that if we had intelligence to believe that. Those situations could be occurring, or we could be deploying our men and women to communities where those could be occurring. Member Mutch asked what type of training do our officers receive in terms of the use of something like a baton? He said he probably watched too much video footage of various protests across the country but saw those utilized in a variety of ways. He said from the civilian perspective, sometimes when you see those utilized it is pretty jarring to watch that visually and see that happen. He said he was curious on what type of training our officers go through to prepare them for that. Chief Molloy replied every single one of our police officers have gone through at least 16 to 24 hours of mobile field force training. He stated that back when the Oakland Tactical Association was put together certain trainers are trained by the Michigan Department State Police, so we had a standardized training that was covered. Not only if we were here in Oakland County, but if we send people to Way, Livingston, Genesee, Lapeer Counties, wherever it might be. Every single law enforcement officer in this County has been trained on the exact

platform that would be required. The batons are simply used as a protective measure. He said he was not familiar with what he had watched in the media. You are more than welcome to come out and engage in any of the training if you would like, we'd certainly be able to show you a demonstration of how we use those and when we use those. Fortunately, we have not had to use those which he thought was a good thing. He said it is also a testament to the training and experience that our men and women have and the fact that they can show that restraint, but this goes back to preparedness. We may not be seeing those situations here now, but I do not think anyone predicted the events of Memorial Day, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Moving forward, he said he was going to do everything he could to make sure the men and women in the nearby Police Department are just as protected as the men and women are in the Novi Fire Department. He stated he would not stand for anything less. That is his responsibility to make sure every one of these men and women go home at the end of their tour. Member Mutch thanked Chief Molloy and said he appreciated the additional information. He felt it was important for our community to hear both in terms of the training that officers have received in the use of this equipment and understanding the context in which it would be used. There have been a lot on conversations around police policies and police procedures. He understood that one of the challenges that they are facing in our Police Department and Police Departments across the country. You must ensure that your officers are protected and at the same time, project an image that does not come across to the community as an adversarial one because community policing is such an important part of what you do. He said one of the reasons why Novi Police Department is so successful is that our officers are approachable, they are professional. Residents know whatever situation they have when they are encountering them, they come away from the feeling like even when they are wrong for something that they were treated fairly and equally, no matter what their situation is in their life. He appreciated the information and thought it was helpful. He did state that he hoped we could get some more clarification on the total amount related to that specific item when it comes back before Council. He would like a little bit more information on the total amount when it does come back around.

Member Casey thanked Chief Molloy for coming in. She stated that when you look at this memo, she absolutely respected the comments of the member of the audience who gave us his feedback. She could understand that the fact that it has the word immediate need and thought it could be a bit misleading to people. After hearing City Manager Auger say most critically that these are items that are all pull-ahead items that have been in the budget for future years. She said that all we are doing in this conversation is approving purchased that we would have approved in successive years. We are doing it now because right now we have the available funds to do this. She appreciated the additional questions from the previous speaker she thought that helped also to alleviate some concerns among the public who might be looking at a memo wondering why we are having this conversation. She thanked Mayor Gatt and Chief Molloy for being able to give them further information.

Member Breen thanked Mayor Gatt and Chief Molloy for answering a lot of these questions. She said Member Mutch brought up some of the issues that we have discussed before. As far as the radios go, she thought this is necessary and this has been an ongoing

effort with the County to try to streamline communication between our department and the County. She also wanted to say that she was present at several of these events that occurred over the spring and summer and the behavior of the Novi Police Officers and she that the Chief for his leadership in that aspect. She went along way with many members of the community to see the police presence to know that we are a true partner. She said she would support this.

Member Fischer said he had no problem supporting this. He said he read through the memos quite extensively. He understood what the ask is and there is one other thing, there is a trust that has been gained by not just Chief Molloy, but his entire department. When they send a memo like this, you know, he can fully believe in what he is reading and fully understand it. He understood the logic behind it. He said one of the reasons why he has that trust is the transparency that we see from the department as well. You can go on to the City's website, every directive having to do with responding to resistance, the training, the career development he has glanced through all of that. He thought we are one of the few departments that have that level of transparency out on our website. Because of that, because of the trust that he has in his leadership and the leadership of the entire department makes it very easy to approve this request.

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-140**

**Yeas: Staudt, Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt**

**Nays: None**

**2. Interlocal Agreement with Oakland County to utilize Fire Station #4 for COVID-19 vaccinations.**

City Manager Auger stated this was brought to us by our partners at Oakland County to help disseminate the vaccination they are requesting that we assist them and give them a location to do so. He said Fire Station 4 seems to be our best option with making available one of the drive-thru bays. The Chief has gone through it with his Fire Department and we got this legal department cleared it this weekend, so we are recommending approval of this relationship.

**CM 20-12-141**

**Moved by Crawford, seconded by Gatt: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval of a Facility Use Interlocal Agreement with Oakland County for the use of Fire Station #4 as a temporary drive through COVID-19 testing site and vaccination site.**

Member Fischer wondered what other sites may have been considered. He was trying to understand why the decision was made on Fire Station 4. City Manager Auger said Chief Molloy could probably fill Council in with the details, but this is the Fire Station that has more parking availability for the public as well as a good drive through situation. We also worked with the County beforehand, looking at some private sites that for one reason or another, they chose not to and preferred to keep it with a public site. He asked Chief Molloy if he had any other details on the selection. Chief Molloy said that he hit the

nail right on the head. We offered up a few private locations throughout the community that are vacant that could do the drive through. He thought it came down to economics for the County. They relied on other cities, villages, and townships to step forth with their Fire Stations. This is really the only one that could accommodate the parking for up to 20 staff members as well as the drive through bays that they are looking to utilize for the vaccinations. Member Fischer said that makes sense. He was not thinking of the staffing levels and parking needed for that. He understood and thanked them for their clarification.

Member Mutch wondered who will be able to access vaccines at the site. Chief Molloy thought the County will continue to follow the parameters that are set out by the Federal government, which had been adopted by the State government. He said right now, we are in the Group 1A group with all our healthcare providers and residents of the long-term care facilities. As we speak, our EMT and paramedics and the Fire Department are being vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine. Step 1B is going to be opened to critical services, police officers, teachers, there is a whole plethora of critical service workers that are going to be eligible. Once those are completed it is likely to be open to the public. He thought that is why the County was looking for the one day up to seven days. He could fully envision when the vaccinations are available that we will probably have that station open eight hours a day, seven days a week. Member Mutch asked if we had an expectation in terms of how long the County will be offering services from this location. Chief Molloy said he did not. From his understanding, we do not have a great deal of the vaccine right now to complete all the dosages that we need for that 1A group, so he did not know. He could tell them when we had the COVID-19 testing facility at the rear of Power Park that was one of the most highly utilized facilities in all the counties footprint. He anticipated that this setting at Fire Station 4 will likely mirror that as well. He said he was proud of the fact that we can partner and help provide this key service to our partners in Oakland County. Member Mutch said obviously this is in the early days here, so it is hard to know how long this is going to be available. It is dependent on how widely available the vaccine supply is made once we get out to the point where the public can have access to it. Member Mutch said obviously we want to utilize, we want folks to get the vaccines, but he was just curious in terms of the timeframe, but he felt the City will continue to support it if there is a need, and not only for our own residents, but people who work and visit the City.

Member Crawford asked Chief Molloy if he had any idea how one would schedule an appointment and is it open to everyone or just residents of Novi. Chief Molloy stated that his understanding was that you would have to call the on-call health nurse at the Oakland County Health Division. He believed it will be open to residents of Oakland County and even the surrounding counties as well. Getting back to the question regarding how long this might be utilized, it really is until we get through the winter months. He would not be surprised if we are still conducting vaccinations in April or May for the County to come back to us and say, that facility you had at Ella Mae Power Park was convenient we would like to get that up and running again. This is simply so we can get through the winter months and not only protect the staff, but also provide them for the appropriate social distancing for the community members looking for that vaccination.

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-141**

**Yeas: Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch,  
Gatt, Staudt**

**Nays: None**

**3. Approval to add a Special City Council meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Gatt said the third item on Mayor and Council Issues is a calling for a Special Meeting on January 4, 2021, which is the first Monday in January at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of interviewing applicants to fill the seat of Member Breen who will be leaving to go to Lansing.

Member Breen said she was recusing herself from this vote. City Attorney Schultz said she did not have to recuse herself; this was just to schedule a meeting.

**CM 20-12-142      Moved by Gatt, seconded by Staudt: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval to schedule a Special Council Meeting on January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of interviewing applicants for City Council.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-142**

**Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt,  
Staudt, Breen**

**Nays: None**

**COMMUNICATIONS: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION: None**

Mayor Gatt announced on behalf of the City Council, that Chief Molloy's father passed last week. He gave Chief Molloy their sincere condolences.

He also on behalf of City Council wished the whole community a very Happy Holiday Season, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, to all that celebrate those, and to others who do not celebrate any of those, peace, joy and health to you all.

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

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Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

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Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

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Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: January 11, 2021