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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 19-12-203 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 19-12-203
Yeas: Staudt, Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. 2020-24 Strategic Community Recreation and Master Park Plan

Public Hearing opened at 7:01 p.m. and closed at 7:02 p.m. with no public input.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Update from Oakland County Commissioner, Gwen Markham

Gwen Markham, Oakland County Commissioner said she used to be on the Novi City Council. She said Hugh Crawford has sat in her seat before so a lot of this will be familiar to him. She said she was elected to this seat in November 2018. She said a month ago she looked up and realized that she has been in this job for a year already. She thought she would share some of what she has learned about the job and what she is doing. She stated that she used to be on three committees here at the City, she is on a lot more committees at the County. She said people used to ask what the County Commission does. She explained that this was just a sampling there is a wide diversity of things covered. She stated she is on the Finance Committee because the Democrats are in the majority. She is the Vice Chair of the Finance Committee. She is a member of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee. That Committee looks at roads, buildings, and economic development issues. She is Chairperson of the Airport Committee. She did not know that Oakland County had three airports. She ended up on the Airport Committee and was elected Chairperson. She said we have an airport in New Hudson right on Pontiac Trail. It turns out that the FAA says we don’t get rid of
airports. We were given this airport by the State so it is one of those things that we are trying to look forward and say how can that airport work and be part of economic development or other things in this part of the County. Our main airport is on M-59 and it is the Oakland County International Airport. It has the second highest number of flights in and out just behind Metro Airport in Detroit. She is also the Chairperson of the Financial Audit Committee. The County’s budget is audited throughout the course of the year. She is also the Chair of the Coordinated Zoning Committee. She explained that they meet when a community like Novi is going to change their zoning on a piece of property that is adjacent to another community such as South Lyon. She said it is that Committee’s job to be the arbiter between those two communities and make sure that the zoning change that is happening over here is not inconsistent with what is going on over here. She stated that she likes planning and she is a planning geek so they gave her that job. Many of the lakes in Oakland County have Lake Boards where they manage water quality as well as working with the Water Resources Commissioner on lake levels and invasive species. She is a member of the Lake Board for Walled Lake. She is Democratic Vice-Chair of the Oakland County Human Trafficking Task Force. There is a lot more human trafficking in the Metro Detroit Area including Oakland County then you may think. She stated they are looking at a lot of different areas, they are trying to educate people on what to look for, and what to do if you believe you have seen someone that is being human trafficked. There is a special Committee on invasive species prevention. We have been mostly looking at invasive species in water this year, but we have issues with phragmites and many other non-aquatic invasive species. She mentioned the Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board she is also a member of that. The Committees are very wide ranging, everything from the environment, mental health, and airports. She said the Tax Increment Financing District Review Policy Ad Hoc Review Committee members look at everything like the Corridor Improvement Authority. They make sure that the taxes are being captured properly. They look at districts that are drawn in communities to capture those taxes for special development. She said she is also a Youth Assistance Coordinating Council Member. She has a few other assignments that keep her very busy. She is working at the County between 20 and 30 hours a week, she has learned a lot and it has been very interesting. The Board of Commissioners made the County Executive appointment when L. Brooks Patterson passed away. They appointed David Coulter as County Executive. He was the Mayor of Ferndale; he had also been a County Commissioner for four terms before that. When he was a County Commissioner he was the Chair for the Democratic Caucus in leadership. He was very familiar with county and municipal government. Out of all the potential candidates that we had to be working with he was the one person through all the discussions could get eleven votes and that is what we needed. Everyone felt David Coulter could hit the ground running and was honest. The experience of people who work at the County is that he has been a stable force and hasn’t upset anything. She said Mr. Coulter’s Leadership Team includes Hilarie Chambers as his Deputy, Rudy Hobbs, April Lynch, and Sean Carlson are all other deputies working for him. She said they passed their Triennial Budget in September. Mr. Coulter was the County Executive by that time. They had started the process under Mr. Patterson’s administration. It was really a matter of putting everything into place. The Commissioners themselves put $500,000 into the budget for local road repairs. She
stated that is not Oakland County Road Commission money, that is not from the State of Michigan, and that is not Federal money. That is from Oakland County taxes that they are allocating to local roads. The Road Commission money typically goes to county roads. In urban areas like ours there are a lot of roads that are not county roads and we end up having a city millage for example. The County Commission wants to help those urban areas with additional money. They added $300,000 for clean drinking stations in all high schools in Oakland County. Last year the Board of Commissioners did all of the elementary schools, and by the end of this year they will be in all of the schools in Oakland County. This was a partnership between Oakland Schools and the Board of Commissioners. She said one of the things that they put into the audit this year was a comprehensive energy audit of the Oakland County complex to really take a look at how the County is using energy. Whether the sources, whether it is coal, solar, or anything, and get a sense of where the County is at. They looked at this in 2011, but it is time to do it again as things have changed a lot. They are upgrading all of the public safety radios for all of the municipalities in Oakland County which is a $53 million dollar project. The last thing she wanted to mention was that they put in was to distribute 20,000 oak trees throughout the county this year as part of their bicentennial celebration. Oakland County is 200 years old this year. We are also moving towards net-zero carbon emissions. She said just last week they passed a nondiscrimination resolution to add language to protect folks for gender identity and expression, veteran’s status, familial status, and marital status which will take effect in February. She mentioned Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw Counties have proposed a change to the states Municipal Partnership Act which is a law that was written in 2011 which allows local units of government to form partnerships for the purposes of funding and offering services. The original communities that used this law in the first place were Grand Rapids and Wyoming; they wanted to do some partnering. The proposed changes are part of a House Bill 5229 revising that act. It is a bipartisan effort; it has been sponsored by Republican from Monroe County. It has the support from Lee Chatfield and Christine Greig, Republican and Democrat in the House. There are plenty of business leaders and philanthropic communities that are in support of this. Basically what this law would say if it passes is that Wayne, Washtenaw and Oakland County can work together to try to develop a transit plan. There are a couple of pieces; one would be that the Headlee Amendment requires governments to roll back the taxes that they are able to collect every year as property values increase. In this case this law says that won’t happen. She stated if there is a 1 mill tax that’s not going to change over the length of the term. She said Macomb County is not part of this because they have public transit throughout the County. SMART is through Macomb County. At this time Executive Hackel said we are happy with the public transit that we have, they didn’t want to be part of anything. He was not excited about the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) a few years ago. She stated that there is no plan yet. They are trying to adjust a law to make it more flexible so that we can come into the communities to talk to folks about what they want. Executive Coulter is very committed to getting into the communities and find out what they want in terms of transit. They will be setting up listening sessions in the spring with the goal if they can get a good plan together that they think people want to put in on the ballot in 2020. The law does say that there is a maximum 5 mills that could be levied, but no one is talking about 5 mills. The last two
proposals that came forward were 1.2 mills, and 1.5 mills. We don’t know what this is going to look like. Anybody that has been talking about it thinks that it might be more in that range. Certainly if it was going to be 4 or 5 mills it would never pass. The goal is to design something that people want to work with, let’s design something that people want. She is excited about it. She hoped when they come to the listen sessions that everybody that has an interest comes and talks about it. She said she was open to questions. Mayor Gatt thanked her for her service and a very detailed presentation.

2. Annual Library Presentation - Julie Farkas, Library Director

Director Farkas thanked Council for the opportunity to go over their 2019-2022 Strategic Plan and Annual Report. She introduced Dana Brataniec, Communications Coordinator and the President of Library Board, Melissa Agosta.

Dana Brataniec said the theme for the Annual Report is Possibility Lives in Your Library. Possibilities were ever present in 2018 and 2019 as the Library was abuzz with countless programs and events. They had many guests coming through their doors on a daily basis to get materials, learn something new at their programs, relax and meet family and friends. During the year time was also spent connecting with the residents of Novi to figure out new ways that the Library can improve its services, collections, programs and resources to create a Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2022. In the spring of 2019 the Novi Library was awarded Excellence Status by the Library of Michigan for completing QSAC which is the Quality Services Audit Checklist. The Novi Library was the first Library in Michigan to achieve this and is currently one of two in the State. The Novi Library is proud of its many accomplishments in 2018 and 2019 including the grand opening of the their iCube Maker Space in June, the launch of the successful Volunteer Fair Event for residents in April, the unveiling of Business Resource Center and Kiosk on their second floor, the expansion of their Experience Culture Programs and many other things. In addition over 930,000 items were checked out and over 460,000 library guests came through their doors. She said 75,000 attended Library programs. They issued over 4,300 library cards which brought their total number up to 22,778. She stated for additional statistics as well as for Library expenditures are in the Annual Report as well. They would not have been able to accomplish would they did in 2018-2019 without the generous support of our community and partners. They received over $10,000 in program and event sponsorships, $2,750 in in-kind donations, and the Friends of the Public Library generously donated $30,696 to the Library for programs, technology, and furniture. Closing the door on 2018-2019 they are excited for the future and what comes with it. They are looking forward of the Lending Library Kiosk at Lakeshore Park in the spring of 2020, more creative equipment in the iCube Maker Space, and giving Novi Library cards to Novi Community School District employees and students, Walled Lake students, and the City of Novi employees to give them barrier free access to everything that the Library has to offer. She thanked the residents of Novi for making the Public Library such an integral part of your life in 2018-2019 and hopefully even more so in the coming years.
Melissa Agosta, President of the Library Board said they have a three-year plan that started in July of 2019 and goes through June 2022. They held over 10 focus group sessions and they had over 400 responses from surveys and feedback. She stated that they had an amazing Strategic Planning Committee, with members Geoffrey Wood, Kat Dooley, as well as a former Board Member and Council Member, Doreen Poupard. She said with the help of Library and the Committee they took all of those responses and they came up with focus which is growing on what we are currently doing. They will be enhancing services, connections, and look for ways to be barrier free, and access to all. She gave a huge thank you to the Pete Auger, City Manager for allowing them to include the questions regarding the Library on the Citizen Survey from 2018. The community information was completely invaluable. It had so much feedback. It gave them a lot of opportunities for exploration and to grow on. There are seven areas to focus on to help them reach their three goals. The three goals are to empower universal literacy, escalate an innovative and inclusive culture, and enhance core interactions within our diverse community. Mayor Gatt thanked them for the very comprehensive report on the Library. He always says that Novi is blessed with so many jewels and beautiful things. There is nothing better than our Novi Library lead by the greatest Library Director in the State of Michigan, Julie Farkas. Thank you for all you do. He is there often and gets Starbucks in the morning, it’s the best.

Member Mutch thanked them. A lot of libraries are looking at going “fine free” and changing their policies so that patrons will no longer experience overdue fines. He said they are directly trying to address access and equity in terms of access to materials. He wondered if the Novi Library explored that and if so, where is that conversation. Director Farkas said that was a great questions, it has been brought up a number of times with the Library Board and they are reviewing it. They continue to look at what that means in terms of revenue that comes in. She said currently it is about $60,000 in terms of fines and lost items. She is aware and took part in a webinar to hear how libraries are looking at that trend and doing that. It has been part of the Strategic Planning and it was also a question in the Citizen Survey last year. She stated that about 50% people that answered said they would be interested in hearing more about it. She said that we also have to look at those revenues coming in over the next couple of years and how that will impact them. It’s been on her radar for a number of years. Member Mutch echoed all of the positive comments that were shared. It’s always a wonderful experience with the staff and the facilities. He has taken advantage of the new Starbucks. He mentioned that the Library Board in particular, Melissa, he commended everyone on the Board for all the work they do to provide direction for the Library Director and staff and to continue moving Novi Library ahead. These accomplishments being someone that works in the Library world, the accomplishments that Novi has achieved this past year in terms of QSAC are really phenomenal. Folks outside of the profession may not recognize that. Knowing the amount of work that goes into that whole process to reach that level and be only one of two libraries in the State of Michigan to accomplish that really is telling the work that the Library Board, the staff, and community have done to continue to make the Library one of the gems in the community.
Director Farkas said she was going to leave them with one number. They had just over 937,715. When she started 12 years ago we had just over 600,000 items checking out from the community. They have grown that much in terms of items checked out from our community. Her goal 12 years ago was to hit 1 million. She is confident with this community and how they support education, lifelong learning, programming, and the opportunity to engage in materials in the Library. Her goal in 2020-2021 is to get there with her Lending Library that connects our north end. They are bringing in people with the new iCube and the new café. They are very excited to be one of your destination places in Novi. She thanked everyone for all their support.

Mayor Gatt said next on the Agenda will be the Boards and Commissions Candidate Introductions. He explained that they will make no decisions that evening, this is just an introduction. The next regular scheduled meeting is where they will make and announce their decisions. The Council changed the way we interview, we don’t interview anymore. City Council has a copy of the completed resume. The candidates will be given two minutes to come up and tell us why you want the job and what you would like us to know about yourself. Please don’t be offended if after the two minutes he says thank you, your time is up. He will do it for everyone.

CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Linda Krieger- Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Krieger said she lives on the south end of town. Her Zoning Board of Appeals term is up and she would still like to participate. It is nice to drive around Novi and see how we are maturing. She said Kathy Crawford mentioned at the park about the rise and fall of empires. She said she thought about that a lot. How can we grow and age well. She thought Novi was looking really good. She mentioned zoning, use variances, and what people like to do with their property. She said she likes to look for a win-win situation for the property owner and City. She said she likes to help. She mentioned as the City becomes more dense, she wondered how are laws will apply for the size of signs. If you see too much, it becomes invisible as well. What is the best opportunity for signage in the future? She stated that she has lived here since 1981. She has seen Novi go from nothing to a lot of growth. Her parents and grandparents came from Argentina.

2. Liz Larson- Election Commission, Housing and Community Development Advisory Board, Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Larson said she figured she would apply for everything. She said she was probably the newest resident there. She moved to Novi in April, she came from Bloomfield Township. She worked for three cities, Traverse City, Signal Hill, California and Perrysburg, Ohio where she was also on City Council. She said that they re-wrote their Planning and Zoning Plan so she has that experience for Zoning Board of Appeals. Her mother was a government teacher so she knows a little about elections. In Ohio the elections are through the County. When you are an office holder, she said she was a non-partisan office holder you have to have quite a bit of input in your election,
governance and board. She said Perrysburg, Ohio was a historic area. She has some experience on historic types of things. She said she was the City Treasurer so she also was overseeing the Community Block Development Grants, and she was also the staff member on the City Income Tax Board of Appeals.

3. Eric Retzbach- Zoning Board of Appeals, Corridor Improvement Authority, Historical Commission, Housing and Community Development Advisory Board

Mr. Retzbach said he lives on the north end of Novi. He serves on the Homeowner’s Association Board in Saratoga Circle. He said he has lived in Novi for 32 years. He said he has a BA in Economics and a BS in Nursing from the University of Michigan. He is a former paid-on-call firefighter for the City of Novi and currently a Paramedic and firefighter in the City of St. Clair Shores. He added that he serves on the union board there. He started a 501(c)3 to raise funds and distribute to less fortunate people. He is trying to be more involved in the City. He said he hopes to become part of the Ambassador Program next fall to learn more. He has seen the City grow and wants to keep it going. He would like to be appointed to the Housing and Community Development Advisory Board. He has written Federal Grants with over 1.2 million awarded to his fire department and is able to distribute funds through the 501(c)3. He thanked Council for all they do.

4. Dr. Mav Sanghvi- Zoning Board of Appeals

Dr. Sanghvi said he came to this City in 1975 when the population was 6,300. He said it has been an interesting experience to live in this City all this time and to see the great leadership by the Council, Mayors, and City Managers. He said he learned a long time ago that you must do something you are good at. He’s been on ZBA for almost 20 years and thought he was good at it. He said he would like to continue what he’s been doing well.

5. Brandon Stewart- Corridor Improvement Authority

Mr. Stewart said he has been a Novi resident for 14 years and has two daughters in Novi Schools. He said he loves Novi. He is a 2016 Ambassador graduate and has served on the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee for 5 years and on Board of Review for 2 years. He was thrilled that the City asked him to give resident perspective on the Corridor Improvement Authority. He said he has background in operations management and business development. He looked forward to continuing to serve.

6. Mike Thompson- Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Thompson said he is a resident of Novi but also a business owner. They have had an auto salvage yard in Sterling Heights for 19 years. He said he is used to change because cars keep changing. Over the last 10 years they got into commercial land management building opportunities. He said he has been on other side of the counter
asking for small variances that made sense. He has leases with three Fortune 500 companies and deals with small issues and large issues. He said the biggest thing, since he wants to be part of ZBA, is that residents and businesses should feel welcome here. He explained that he goes on sales calls and can see how proud the shop owner is. He said it was interesting to see how proud people are at their store but in front of a board they freeze up. He would like to help out by welcoming businesses and residents. He said once in a while there are rules that are old and need to be looked at, which is why they would come in front of the board. He thought he could be an asset to the businesses and residents of the City of Novi.

7. Arjun Tuteja - Zoning Board of Appeals, Historical Commission

Mr. Tuteja thanked City Council for the opportunity. He said he is a retired manager from General Motors. He has lived in Novi since 1974. He has a PhD in Mechanical Engineering. At GM his focus was research and development and he has always been interested in new technologies and new products. He represented the company at various industry committees. He is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He said after retirement he organized an annual technical session on “Turbocharging of IC Engines” for 11 years. He said he didn’t have specific experience in any of the boards or commissions. He believed based on his education and his experience that after studying the rules and regulations and the logic behind those rules, he could analyze any issue and contribute towards the resolution of the issue. He said he previously served on the Board of Directors for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

8. Carolyn Upton - Zoning Board of Appeals, Election Commission

Ms. Upton said there was wonderful competition. One of the best things about Novi is the residents’ willingness to step up and serve in this community. We are truly blessed. She said she is always inspired by everyone who works so hard on behalf of the City. She has lived here for 24 years and has 2 grown sons which give her more time for her passions. In the past she was a Boy Scout leader, she is on her Homeowner’s Association, she ran for City Council, and she has served on the Beautification Commission. She said she wants to continue her service in the City of Novi. She felt strongly about community involvement and making where we live a better place. She has a desire to do that. She would like the opportunity to become more informed and educated on how some of the other commissions work. She said she has an interest in planning and zoning and the Election Commission. Her first preference was the Zoning Board of Appeals because she felt planning and zoning were critical functions for the City. She said it's an opportunity for her to learn. She has 30 years' experience in a corporate business setting. Her most recent positions were at Lear Corporation in the legal department and currently at Amerisure Insurance as a project coordinator. She said she will be prepared. She said she will study the packet, know the information, ask questions, and be an engaged participant. She will work with the team and make good decisions for Novi.
9. Jeffrey Wainwright - Corridor Improvement Authority

Mr. Wainwright said he is employed at Paradise Park. He is interested in staying on Corridor Improvement Authority. He has a sincere love and passion for the City of Novi, the people in it, and the people who manage it. He wants to make a difference in the community for the residents as well as businesses. He said he is passionately involved in as many things as he can that make sense. The Novi Library plays a big factor in what we do in the City of Novi so he is various committees at the Library. The school system is vibrant part of this community and he is on various committees with the school system. He said they are a fairly large youth employer. The development of Grand River plays a vital role in being able to do that. Their invested interest in Grand River motivates them to play an important role in this. The development of this corridor is critical for Novi. The ability to leverage the CIA program to be able to do pull-ahead plans within the City that are long term Master Plan puts the City in a powerful position to move forward competitively as a City. It attracts people to Novi as well as businesses. The corridor will become vital part of the development.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT:

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt removed Consent Agenda Item G regarding the approval of the street light agreement.

A. Approval of Minutes of November 25, 2019 - Regular Meeting

B. Approval to adopt the amended City of Novi Retirement Health Care Fund investment policy.

C. Approval of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.290 an ordinance to update Zoning Ordinance standards for hotels, including minimum parking, open space, and loading requirements. SECOND READING

D. Approval to purchase a Tennant M-M30 Floor Sweeper/Scrubber from Tennant Sales and Service Company, through the Minnesota State contract 135743, in the amount of $68,747.84.

E. Approval to purchase (3) WANCO WTMGB Message Boards from Truck and Trailer Specialties through the City of Rochester Hills cooperative purchasing agreement, in the amount of $53,865.
F. Approval to award engineering design services to Spalding DeDecker and Associates for Sidewalk Segment 51 (north side of 10 Mile Road, between Dinser Road and Woodham Drive), in the amount of $30,376.28.

G. Approval of a Street Light Purchase Agreement with Detroit Edison Company for the installation and ongoing operation cost of two (2) GFI outlets on the existing street light posts at the entrance of Valencia Circle and Beck Road. REMOVED/LATER APPROVED

H. Approval to purchase fitness equipment from Life Fitness, LLC, through the NJPA/Sourcewell contract 120215-LFF for $28,875.56.

I. Approval of Claims and Warrants – Warrant No. 1049.

CM 19-12-204 Moved by Casey, seconded by Gatt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 19-12-204

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

Nays: None

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Consideration of approval to award Janitorial Services contract to RNA Facilities Management, in the amount of $136,970 for a one (1) year contract with the option of two (2) one-year renewals.

Member Fischer asked if there was thought of going longer than a one year contract with two renewals. City Manager Auger said in this industry, there is a lot of turnover with personnel. Keeping the contract shorter gives us the ability, as things change in the industry, to remain flexible and keep our standards where we want them.

CM 19-12-205 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval to award Janitorial Services contract to RNA Facilities Management, in the amount of $136,970 for a one (1) year contract with the option of two (2) one-year renewals.

Roll call vote on CM 19-12-205

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

Nays: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None
COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

G. Approval of a Street Light Purchase Agreement with Detroit Edison Company for the installation and ongoing operation cost of two (2) GFI outlets on the existing street light posts at the entrance of Valencia Circle and Beck Road.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt noticed these particular locations of lights are directly behind homes across the street. Over the past 6 months he has received calls about the new LED lights going into neighborhoods. He thought this was more of a cautionary issue to ensure we have a clear understanding of the effect they have on the backs of these homes. Frequently they have bedrooms there. He asked the City Manager and staff that before they finalize locations, they consider a shroud or something around the light. He wants everyone to understand the impact. He said they had issues in his Homeowner’s Association where they didn’t think lights would be a problem, but they were.

CM 19-12-206 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve a Street Light Purchase Agreement with Detroit Edison Company for the installation and ongoing operation cost of two (2) GFI outlets on the existing street light posts at the entrance of Valencia Circle and Beck Road.

Voice vote on CM 19-12-206 Carried Unanimously

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

____________________________________     ________________________________
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk                  Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

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Date approved: December 16, 2019

Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry