

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Casey, Crawford, Fischer (absent, excused), Smith, Thomas

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Mayor Pro Tem Staudt added to Mayor and Council Issues "Memorial Day".**

**CM 22-03-034 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Crawford; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

**To approve the Agenda as amended.**

**Roll call vote on CM 22-03-034**                      **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Smith, Thomas, Gatt**  
**Nays: None**  
**Absent: Fischer**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- 1. Proclamation in Recognition of National Library Week April 3 - 9, 2022 – Julie Farkas, Library Director and Dana Brataniec, Communications Manager**

Mayor Gatt read the Proclamation in recognition of National Library Week April 3 - 9, 2022. He encouraged all the residents to visit the Library this week, including Lakeshore Lending Library in Lakeshore Park to take advantage of the wonderful materials and resources available.

Communications Manager, Dana Brataniec thanked Mayor Gatt for recognizing National Library Week at the Novi Public Library. She said this one feel so much sweeter to them because two years into the pandemic, we are using it as a celebration to bring back in-person programming. She noted that they have their first live music at the Library since March 2020 on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to come. They will have 60's and 70's, rock and pop, and everything. She said they are excited to have that as a kickoff to having some wonderful programs in person at the Library and Lakeshore Park as well in the surrounding areas in the spring and summer to come. She stated they are very excited for National Library Week next week. Mayor Gatt thanked Ms. Brataniec on behalf of the City Council. He asked that she give our regards to Director Farkas. He believed we have many beautiful and great things in the City, but nothing greater than that "Crown Jewel" called the Novi Public Library. Thank you for all you do.

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:**

City Manager Auger mentioned they would find the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 at their seats. He stated the first Council Budget Session is scheduled for April 6th. He asked that they do not hesitate to reach out with any questions that you may have before that time so we can get you the answers that you need. He said he had two quick updates. He indicated that during the Council meeting on February 7th, we received direction to make available free feminine projects in Novi restrooms. He stated that shortly after that, dual napkin and tampon dispensers from multiple suppliers were reached out to leveraging the multiple suppliers helps us address some of the supply chain issues people are having. He said the first 10 units have arrived and installations have begun in the following places; City Hall, Police Department lobby, DPW, Lakeshore Park, both the interior and exterior restrooms, ITC Park, Powers Park and Pavilion Shore Park. He said that Council may get some feedback because the dispensers must be lower on the wall than you might normally think to follow ADA requirements. He said as they get used, they will keep Council up to speed with where we are with the program.

City Manager Auger stated that during the November 8th Council meeting, the Mayor brought forward an idea to honor those who are currently serving in the armed services from Novi. He noted that in this edition of Engage you see a revamped Memorial Day tradition that we hope to serve as an educational way to honor our veterans who lost their lives in the service of our country, a way in which will tell more of the service member story that people can learn about by going through Fuerst Field of Honor at Fuerst Park and participate in the Community Remembrance Ceremony during that process. He said staff continues to work and discuss how to honor those currently serving as the Mayor wanted to highlight, some ideas are now being vetted. He stated we are trying and attempting to do something grand enough and classy enough that represents Novi well and will stand the test of time. He said they are working on ideas from flags to something more permanent. He said when they are discharged from service, whether it be for 8, 10, or 20 years, they receive whatever item is out there with their name and service emblem on it to start a tradition that all would be proud of. He hoped to have that done on Memorial Day which is coming up in a month. He said they hope to have the final plans back and maybe vetted through Council; an idea shared so we get feedback. He stated maybe we can get this rolling by July 4th, that is where they have it right now.

Mayor Gatt said he strongly appreciated that; it was an idea that was brought up in the November 8th meeting. He explained the grander part of his vision is that when this is done, people driving down any road where it is visible will see something that they will never forget. He said they will know that Novi is a special City and that we know how to take care of and honor and commemorate our brave men and women who served in the armed services at that time. He said we have already done a magnificent job honoring at least one Air Force veteran who died in the line of duty, a Novi resident. He said he wanted to see that relate over to a "Field of Honor", as you call it, because his vision is something that will be flying in the wind and people will shake their head and say wow, just wow. He said that is what he is hoping we get. He said Memorial Day is about

two months away, so we have time. A great veteran of the Police Department once taught him that there is an easy wrong and a hard right. He said this is a hard job, but the right thing to do. He thought if the staff put their heads together, and you come to Council, if you need any money because he thought that Council will be receptive to that. He believed we could do something that no other City has done. He thought that TV stations will be very interested in it, and it will bring acclaim to our City.

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Sandra Carolan, 1661 Harbor Cove, Novi said she lived on the west side of Walled Lake and the sad adoption of the gerrymandered map districts has mocked the stated goal of the independent council that drew the maps and the citizens and candidates that must now live by them. She said her candidate for the new US House of Representatives, along with her Democratic opponent, will both be handicapped in their outreach by the outrageous and irrational ways the new district was drawn. She said it includes four different counties. She said Novi is one of the communities sliced in unusual and unreasonable divisions. She stated that she is a Novi resident, yet her home does not fall in her district. She said she would read as much of the list as her three minutes allowed, and she encourage Novi Republicans to join them tomorrow and perhaps sign her petitions. She listed the following cities and townships which included Ann Arbor City and Arbor Township, Augusta Township, Belleville City, Bridgewater Township, Brownstown Township, Canton Township, Chelsea City, Dexter City, Dexter Township, Flat Rock City, Freedom Township, Gibraltar City, Grosse Ile Township, Huron Township, Lima Township, Lodi Township, Lyon Township, Manchester Township, Milan City in Monroe, and Milan in Washtenaw, Northfield Township in Washtenaw, Northville City in both Oakland and Wayne, Northville Township in Wayne, Novi City and Novi Township, Pittsfield Charter Township in Washtenaw Plymouth City, and Plymouth Township Riverview City, Rockwood City, Salem Township, Saline City and Saline Township, Scio Township, Sharon Township, Sumpter Township, Superior Township, Sylvan City, Trenton City, Van Buren Township, Webster Township, Woodhaven City and York Township, Ypsilanti City and Ypsilanti Township. She stated if this isn't a big mess of a map for your candidates, and the people trying to pick up petition signatures for people who do not even know what district they are in. She said a person in Plymouth today got their voter identification recently and they were confused because her information said they are in District 6 and the new voter registration card said they are in District 11. She said something needed to be done and she encouraged the City Council to contact the independent committee that had made this mess.

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

**CM 22-03-035      Moved by Casey, seconded by Thomas; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

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

- A. Approve Minutes of:  
March 14, 2022 - Regular Meeting
- B. Approval to replace/upgrade the phone system at the Novi Police Department's Communications Center through an arrangement with Oakland County at a cost not to exceed \$74,410 from Motorola Solutions, Inc. the approved vendor for the County.
- C. Approval to award a unit price contract for Street Sweeping Services to G&M Enterprises, Ltd, the lowest qualified bidder, for a one-year term with two one-year renewal options at an estimated annual cost of \$85,105.
- D. Approval of the 2022 Summer Maintenance Agreement between the City of Novi and the Road Commission for Oakland County for street sweeping selected County Roads in Novi; and adoption of resolution authorizing Novi to provide summer maintenance on selected County roads.
- E. Approval to award services to ICS Integration Services for the design and implementation of operational improvements at the West Park Booster Station, in the amount of \$56,500.
- F. Approval of an Agreement for Direct/Temporary Connection to Sanitary Sewer and Water Main allowing 24561 Glenda Ave. (50-22-22-301-035) to connect to the City's public sanitary sewer system on Taft Road.
- G. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1104

**Roll call vote on CM 22-03-035**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Fischer**

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION: None**

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

**AUDIENCE COMMENT: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Member Thomas reported on the SEMCOG General Assembly meeting that was held on Thursday, March 24, 2022. She stated during that meeting there was a presentation about working together to leverage the regions strengths, which talked about bringing the people back into the city and bring back conventions and such. She said it was very exciting to see that it is opening, and we are getting businesses back in. She said the second presentation was on advancing mobility and electric vehicle interest infrastructure. She explained there were some exciting information provided about some

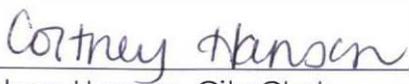
upcoming possible funding opportunities for EV charging planning. She said the details are not out yet, but she would be very excited to see them once they are available to see what opportunities exist for us. Thank you.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said several weeks ago, maybe a few months ago, they received notice from the City that the parade this year for Memorial Day had been canceled, and that there were a bevy of very good and thoughtful reasons for it. However, you know, after talking to folks around him, and especially Member Crawford, he thought that this is the best time for us to reconsider that option, and perhaps move forward with, even if it is at a limited scale, some type of parade that honors our veterans and all of those who have fallen. He said it is time for us to really get ourselves together, get them outside and get them active again. He believed it was time to have this parade. He would like the Administration to reconsider canceling the parade and at least come up with something that even if it is limited, get us back going, this has been a long tradition of Novi's. He said he was not ready to walk away from it. He understood during COVID, that it was a difficult time to get people to get involved in it. He said he was willing to be there and show up and he thought a lot of other folks will, especially our resident. He said he did not think they necessarily need a vote, but maybe we do. He would like to see the parade rescheduled at some limited size, at least for this year.

Mayor Gatt said this piggybacks on what they talked about in the Manager's Report. He said when we think about Memorial Day what it is for is to honor our veterans who gave their lives. He said we all know that there are literally hundreds and hundreds of brave men and women who have given their lives. He said in this time of war right now, he thought it is most appropriate to not skip the parade. He stated Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said it is a long history he can tell you. He has been part of the City for 45 years and 45 years ago, there was a huge Memorial Day Parade walking down Novi Road, and it certainly was before that time also. He said he supported that you ask the City Manager Auger to get with staff, and maybe by the next meeting, come back to us with some sort of plan that will satisfy our wishes or desires to continue this parade. He said at the same time, maybe we can change the route or do something that staff might find appropriate, but let's not kill that parade.

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

  
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

  
Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

  
Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: April 11, 2022