

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 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  
Thomas Schultz, City Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Member Fischer added to Mayor and Council Issues: Pull ahead budget Items.

**CM 20-12-129 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Agenda as amended.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-129**                      **Yeas: Staudt, Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt**  
**Nays: None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS: None**

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS**

Mayor Gatt stated that there were two candidates that will be allowed to speak for two minutes regarding their interests in being reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. We have a total of three openings, and we have three candidates all seeking reappointment. He explained that one of the candidates, because of Council Rules, did not have to appear that evening because he has come before Council within the last year. He reminded them that we have their resume, we have studied it thoroughly, and we know what you have done with the Zoning Board of Appeals in the past. We will not have any questions afterwards. There will be no appointments made that evening, they will be made at our next meeting scheduled in December.

1. W. Cliff Montague- Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Montague said he is a 25-year Novi resident. He is an architect with Albert Kahn Associates and has been an architect with the firm for some 40 years. He stated he has been on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a little over a year. He thought that his skills being in the architectural world would bode well for doing this position. He said he really enjoyed it. He has had a good time and he thought he brought a steady decision

process and information to the meetings. He was very happy to be serving the community. He liked serving both the people who need special attention because of their problems with their sites, and then protecting the community and the people around. He would love to continue service on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mayor Gatt thanked him for his service on behalf of all his colleagues. He said he would have full support when it comes time to voting next week.

## 2. Joe Peddiboyina- Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Peddiboyina thanked City Council. He said he has been in Novi for more than 23 years. He stated that he has an IT Consulting Firm, and that he was a software engineer. He is interested in community service. He has engaged in this community, not only in the Indian community. He is very interested in community service. He enjoyed being on the Zoning Board of Appeals. There are a lot of issues and he is enjoying that. He would like to go further into detail on what was going on. He was interested in gaining more knowledge. Everyone has helped him with a smooth transition to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He is currently the Chair on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He would like to enhance the reputation of the Zoning Board of Appeals as an applicant friendly and helpful branch of the City government. He stated that he was interested in learning more about the ordinances, updates, and view the growth of the City. He will be happy to the continue in this task. He really appreciated their time and thanked City Council and staff. Mayor Gatt thanked him on behalf our City Council. They appreciated his service and his great service to our community. He will support him.

### **MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:**

City Manager Auger stated the Consultant Review Committee has met a few times on a couple of contracts, one being Waste Management, our solid waste contract. We met before the meeting tonight and the Committee gave a recommendation to the City Administration to prepare documentation to go out for bids for our solid waste contract. We hope to have something back before you as far as timing and a red line document for the entire Council to see and get input on come time in January.

### **ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

### **CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

**CM 20-12-130            Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

A.     Approve Minutes of:

1. November 23, 2020 - Regular Meeting

- B. Approval of request to transfer ownership of an escrowed 2020 Class C licensed business with Sunday Sales Permit (AM &PM), Dance-Entertainment Permit, Specific Purpose Permit (Bowling, Food) and 2 Bars issued under MCL 436.1529(1), from Novi Bowl and Recreation Center, Inc. to Aurabella Inc., located at 21700 Novi Road, Novi, MI 48375.
- C. Approval of audit of retirement plans provided through the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan.
- D. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement from Production Tool Supply Co, LLC for Berkshire eSupply, located on the south side of Fourteen Mile Road between M-5 and Haggerty Road (parcel 50-22-01-200-147).
- E. Approval of a resolution of the City Council authorizing termination of a portion of the Water Main Easement for Berkshire eSupply, located on the south side of Fourteen Mile Road between M-5 and Haggerty Road (parcel 50-22-01-200-147).
- F. Approval of the interlocal agreement for Oakland County to approve the Designated Assessor for the of period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025.
- G. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant No. 1073.

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-130**

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

#### **MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

- 1. Consideration of the recommendation from the Consultant Review Committee to award a three-year Environmental Services Consulting Services Contract to Mannik & Smith Group/Davey Resource Group (with the option for two additional one-year renewals), effective within 30 days of Council's approval, and for the adoption of revised fee schedule, subject to final approval of the form and terms of the contract by the City Manager and City Attorney.**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said the Consultant Review Committee took this up at their last meeting. We looked at the low bidder at the time, and somebody who was recommended. He stated they have since had some personnel changes that would affect their ability to stand by the bid that they made to us, therefore, we made this new selection. We are always excited to have a new partner, new vendors, working with the City of Novi.

**CM 20-12-131**

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

**Approval of the recommendation from the Consultant Review Committee to award a three-year Environmental Services Consulting Services Contract to Mannik & Smith Group/Davey Resource Group**

**(with the option for two additional one-year renewals), effective within 30 days of the date of Council's approval, and for the adoption of the revised fee schedule, subject to final approval of the form and terms of the contract by the City Manager and City Attorney**

Member Mutch had a couple of questions related to the contract details that were provided. He directed his questions to City Attorney Schultz. He asked if he could clarify the scope of work section that is included in the part of the contract. City Attorney Schultz said it will be, this is just to confirm what the maker of the motion is incorporating the prepared motion, which does give the City Manager's Office and the City Attorney's Office a chance to go over that final form that is in your packet is essentially what was in the bid package. Member Mutch mentioned that he had a couple of questions or comments related to that scope of work section. His first question was under the woodlands review related to single family, residential plots. It talks about the consultant issuing permits, and he believed, in our past conversations that is the sole function of the Planning Commission issued permits. City Attorney Schultz said yes, that was correct, and we will deal with that with the final version. Member Mutch said in terms of ensuring that everybody is on the same page under the wetlands and woodlands sections. In both sections they talk about reviewing plans related to preliminary site plan, final site plan and stamping set plans. He believed our Environmental Consultants review planned rezoning overlays and provide environmental assessments for those as well. He asked if that was correct. Schultz said yes that was correct. Member Mutch said in terms of approval he was fully in support of this. He did not think it will surprise anybody when he was saying that he was not particularly thrilled with some of the work done by the previous consultants as it related specifically to the woodlands. He thought they did a fine job with the wetland review, but he was not as happy with the level of review being done as part of the woodlands review process on the consultant side. He thought it was important that while these consultants work for the City, and they are working hand in hand with staff doing the review process, that they are an independent voice. He felt that it is important for them to provide an independent and objective assessment of woodlands review and be able to present that to the decision-making bodies, whether that is the Planning Commission or the City Council and then allow us to make an assessment based on that independent and objective assessment that they are providing. He just did not feel like we were really getting that level of quality of work from our previous consultants. He looked forward to seeing the work coming forward from the new consultants and hopefully that we will see an improvement in that regard.

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-131**

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

**Nays: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENT: None**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt brought up the topic of City Council having to state their location when speaking at City Council meetings and whether they overlooked stating their location at the time of speaking at this meeting to. He thought it would be appropriate to do that, but he was not sure. He said they should be saying "this is Mayor Pro Tem

Staudt from Novi, Michigan, Oakland County". City Attorney Schultz said they discussed this at the Rules Committee, and they did not need to start identifying their location until the first of the year. His said the new statue that they will be applying essentially says that City Council Members must identify the city, state, and county that they are participating from. He agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Staudt and said that It is a good idea to start getting into the habit. Mayor Gatt said they could all state their location. Each Council Member then stated their name, city and county. Mayor Gatt said after the first of the year we will state our name, city, state, and country during roll call. He asked City Clerk Hanson that it be added to the printed Agenda.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said the Consultant Review Committee met today for the single purpose of discussing our contract with Waste Management and whether we would want to extend it. There was an option for up to three-year's worth of extension available. After discussing it he said their proposal had a significant increase in price, the Consultant Review Committee decided that they would recommend that we go out to bid. It has been five years and our goal is to always provide the best service at the best price for residents. We think this is a better opportunity than accepting what was offered to us. Member Fischer stated Mayor Pro Tem Staudt did a good job summarizing. He said the percentage increase that was being requested really pushed him towards thinking that bidding out would be the best interest of the residents. He was fully in support of what the Consultant Review Committee decided. He thanked staff for their efforts because he said they met several times and he knew there was a lot of time that went into negotiating and trying to bring this to fruition, but here we are.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:**

Member Fischer said he asked the City Manager to go back to the Capital Improvement Program and other budget items, our other capital outlays to see if there were any items that might make sense for us to pull ahead as a Council and as a City in the effort of maybe savings or potentially a less impact to the residents and or to City staff. He said a couple of weeks ago we got the result of that study. There were about six items resulting in approximately \$177,000 that could be pulled ahead from FY 2021/2022, FY 2022/2023, and FY 2023/2024. Things like replacing the doors at the Civic Center and carpet replacement within the Civic Center. The goal is if you replace the carpet while they are not fully staffed, you are going to not impact productivity. If we are replacing doors around the Civic Center, you are not going to have moms and dads with strollers having to go to different entrances and be impacted in a negative way around the parking lot. He said he was very happy with the results. He thought the City could certainly go ahead and fund these. He would like to go ahead and see them do that with the clear direction that these would be taken out of future budget years. If you think about how our financial plan and budget works, we can pull these ahead, take them out of the future years and the bottom line over the three-year period should be really a net zero increase. With that background, Mr. Mayor, he would make the motion to direct staff to go ahead and pursue these six items. He would ask that the appropriate budget amendments be brought to City Council as necessary, if necessary, and with the clear direction that any

pull a head be reduced from future budget years. He put that out as a motion and opened it up, he looked forward to hearing his colleague's opinions and positions.

**CM 20-12-132            Moved by Fischer, seconded by Staudt: CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To direct staff to pursue the six pull ahead items requiring any budget amendments be brought to City Council as necessary, and with the clear direction that any pull ahead funds be reduced from future budget years.**

Mayor Gatt asked where the money will go that we save. City Manager Auger replied that we just would not budget those projects. In the future budget, we will see \$177,000 less being spent out of those departments that would have spent those funds. So, it is a wash over the long period of all the budgets as Member Fischer explained. Mayor Gatt asked where the money would go. City Manager Auger said we will have from a budget amendment coming before Council that will have pull ahead numbers from Fund balance going for those projects. We will not spend that amount of money in those future years, we are spending money now. Mayor Gatt asked if in the future should we take money and put it back into our Fund balance. City Manager Auger said it was the same concept. We will not be spending the money in those years; we will spend it now.

**Roll call vote on CM 20-12-132**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS: None**

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

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 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: December 21, 2020