

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2016 AT 8:30 A.M.
POLICE TRAINING CENTER
45125 Ten Mile
Novi, MI 48375**

Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Burke, Casey, Markham, Mutch and Wrobel

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas Schultz, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 16-01-001 Moved by Wrobel, seconded by Burke; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the Agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 16-01-001 **Yeas: Staudt, Burke, Casey, Markham, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt**
Nays: None

PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

Early budget input work session

AUDIENCE COMMENTS – None

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

City Manager Auger provided initial thoughts about the input of each goal, broken down by the four categories of Nurture Public Services, Operate a world-class City, Value and Build a desirable community, Invest properly in being a safe community. So far, we have hit many of the short term goals. In this early budget input session, after Council input, long term goals will be addressed first, followed by short term goals.

1. Initial City Council Member Roundtable Thoughts

Mayor Gatt began by stating that the first part of the meeting will contain the initial thoughts of Council members. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt stated he wished to have a corridor improvement committee for Grand River from Novi to Wixom or the corridor over the freeway including Suburban Collection and the Adell property. This is where we have opportunity for economic growth in the city. He also noted the City has \$100 million in Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and suggested Council consider a permanent Charter amendment of a half a mill that encompasses anything in the CIP. It would allow us to bank things or take on additional projects without additional

bonding. Also, Council could consider Headlee rollbacks for public safety and that has been reduced to 1.4 mills. He suggested rolling it back to a permanent 2 mills giving us \$1.8 million per year for public safety. That would help defer some funds from general fund and go to police and fire. That could improve facilities, hiring more staff in the police and fire departments, allowing us to work more hours on the paid on-call side, giving us more flexibility and giving us the opportunity to do more without using the General Fund. Also, he noted Council should plan to begin the implementation of DPW facilities. We need a building because it's extremely hard on equipment to leave it outside. Last, the Eight Mile road pathway between Beck Road and Garfield should be completed, then it can finally connect to Maybury Park in that second segment that isn't built yet. Everything will connect through this gateway as Maybury Park has made vast improvements in their paths and trails. We will have 2 millages coming off in the next 2 years and some may just have to be an additional investment. We need to begin reinvestment into the community. We have parks, land acquisition, etc., things that we have to buy and it is daunting as many are needs not wants.

Member Burke noted we need to be careful how far out long-term really is and felt it should be kept within the next few years. He too thought about corridors and how they want that to end up. When Grand River was widened, he thought it may have been more attractive as a boulevard. The City has a need for housing for a certain demographic group similar to brownstones in Royal Oak that could have been done there as well as on Twelve Mile with focus on economic development. He suggested to bring forward a strategic plan that is long-range along Grand River with businesses that are currently there and discuss how we want to move forward on Grand River and Twelve Mile. He noted it would be best by establishing a group to focus on this. With regard to staffing for Police and Fire, we should always be immediately ready to staff these units. Also, he was interested in looking at bringing a black box theater to the community while working with stake holders and the Parks Department that could host several events each year.

Member Wrobel noted many of the same items were on his list, but also spoke about looking at or reviewing the entire book of ordinances. He thought there were some that could be antiquated and addressed much like the Charter Review committee. The aging population in Novi must be also be addressed. Meadowbrook Commons is at capacity now. Council should determine if we want to get out of the business or increase locations. The Ten Mile and Meadowbrook area has had the Planning department review a plan for that area. We need to improve that area. He noted Mainstreet is moving forward again and he hoped something would be done there. He suggested we light the tennis courts at Rotary Park. No one knows it is there and even a program of "pay to play" could be used. Many people also like Lakeshore Park and there is a need for more pavilions there.

Member Casey stated she was excited to hear the ideas about paying for or funding items into the future. Also, she thanked everyone for being present and was also excited to see what comes out of the visioning session.

Member Mutch commented on the process of the goal setting session stating Council should adopt specific goals that are clear to city administration to implement. Long term goals will be aspirational. Specific ideas would be best. Short term goals with budget implications should be reflected in the upcoming budget. There should be a clear connection between the goal and the place in the budget. We also need to rely on our data in the community when talking about additional millages for the residents. By showing the specifics, it will assist residents. We have a lot of information that City staff has collected and we should be using that. Last year, the Planning Commission approved projects that would permit the removal of over 3,000 trees. There's another request for just over 2,000 tree removals. Last year, we acquired 10 acres of parkland and planted just over a few hundred trees. We need to close that gap. Those things are what attract people to Novi. He would like to see us be more proactive in protecting what's left out there. We can use our resources to protect the green qualities of our community.

Member Markham stated that as we continue to grow, our needs are more diverse. We need to be careful about being fiscally responsible in providing amenities and activities that people need such as the theater. We've lost that aspect and cultural arts in general. She would like to create a cultural arts center where we foster those aspects and possibly use Mainstreet for a cultural arts district. With regard to Public Safety, she still felt that people are crossing I-96 and Beck Road at night, on foot, and people are walking in dangerous places. We have low income workers coming to the community and wondered how we can keep a stable work force. Lakeshore Park infrastructure needs to be addressed, potentially for the library annex and a potential for a precinct location for those who have to cross the freeway right now.

Mayor Gatt thanked the staff for being here today. As this is the 13th goal setting session for him, he agreed with Member Mutch that we shouldn't put a goal out there without the funding. He commented there should be a district created along Grand River with the growth that has occurred and the growth that is yet to come. He would also like to include Grand River to the east where Mainstreet is located in any corridor discussions. There is talk in the private sector about a theater and that we might be able to partner with them. At the County level, there's been talk of making a Japanese cultural center in the City either at Tollgate Farms or Mainstreet. His number one concern is Public Safety. While we live in Novi as a safe community, the Police and Fire departments have not grown proportionally. If we want to be the great city, we shouldn't have to wait for Fire people to arrive, so when Mayor Pro Tem Staudt talked about a millage, he was all for that. He is all for improvements at Lakeshore Park. That could be part of the CIP. We would be able to make that case to the residents. One Fire truck is \$800,000 and that's where we need a funding mechanism. We do have an aging population and while we may not need another facility, he would be open to looking at that.

2. Early Budget Input Work Session

While discussing both long and short term goals for each of the four categories, the topic of Main Street was brought up. In order to clarify a specific need, it was narrowed to facilitate Main street development or act as a facilitator to get the Main Street

development back on track. Member Markham suggested working with the businesses in the area to see what type of businesses we want, but also nurture the entire project to grow. Also discussed was the idea of senior housing in facing such issues as income limitations. Should the City be involved or let the private industry explore it, but it will remain for discussion. Council then ranked the top goals (see attached).

During the goal-ranking, discussion was held about the need to increase staffing for Police and Fire departments.

Council recessed at 10:26 a.m. and reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

3. Visioning Session

Dan Gilmartin, President of the Michigan Municipal League, spoke to Council about the power of 10; that being 10 major destination districts that focus on whether or not people are engaged in a high level when they are there. He also spoke about businesses where young people want to go. The trend is for young people to only stay a short while as employees and then go to another business. They won't stay 40 years and retire from the same place. What matters most in a community is physical design and walkability, messaging and technology, green initiatives, being welcoming, transit, cultural and economic development, entrepreneurship and education. 30% of those eligible to drive don't have driver's license. He cited the lack of transport at Detroit Metropolitan Airport and noted it affects the metropolitan area. Governance Matters – for now in 2016, the way things are being done could be very much like the 1950's – he suggested we Google Splash Adelaide. In Adelaide, the City Manager created the ability to go into neighborhoods and have them hold whatever type of events they want to draw interest to the specific area. This included simple things such as decorating streets with flower pots to enhance the area.

Mr. Auger spoke about the City looking at all of the ordinances, not in the same way as Adelaide, but in relation to Corridor Committees. Member Mutch noted some rules and ordinances were so strict, even though it was designed to get a certain result. Mr. Auger thought a good question to ask is “what do you want there?”

The term “Patronicity” includes public spaces, community places and Mr. Gilmartin noted that the MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation) has a 97% success rate if you have an idea. One topic of discussion with regard to land use was the area itself if a developer wants to bring something to the City. New development - Member Mutch stated we need it if we want to do new things. It's important to look at all things if we are getting the best bang for our buck. Parking lots don't bring tax revenues. Spaces – we can keep it open space or program a space for a specific reason. Mr. Gilmartin cited Joe Minicozzi. Land Production – in the presentation, Mr. Gilmartin spoke about the size of a property and how it affects a return in taxes and jobs per acres and a different way to look at land.

When considering all these things in a City, there are those who are risk oblivious, risk tolerant and risk averse. Some discussion was held on the Ten Mile and Meadowbrook

area and the development there. Even though strip malls are there, they are all full in that area and it's an area that could be reviewed. We need to be data informed.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 A.M.

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

Date approved: January 25, 2016