

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Fischer, Mayor Pro Tem Casey, Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith, Staudt (absent/excused), Thomas (absent/excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Cardenas, City Manager
Tom Schultz, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem requested action item #3 be postponed until a time when all seven members are present.

CM 25-02-21 Moved by Smith, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

To approve the agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 25-02-21	Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith, Fischer
	Nays: None
	Absent: Staudt, Thomas

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Cardenas gave a quick reminder that they'll be having another workshop meeting. This is recommended by the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee. It's going to be held at the firearms training facility on Monday, March 3rd at 5:30 p.m.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Musa Salim was present to talk about a project that he and his partner have been working on for the past five months which is implementing healthier snacks in their school's vending machines. These unhealthy snacks can contain horrible and dangerous chemicals that can affect students' physical and academic performance. During the pandemic, he and his family would consume unhealthy snacks, day in and day out, which started to impact his academic performance. He was not able to reach his full academic potential because of the virtual learning experience and the unhealthy snacks made him feel sluggish, tired and unfocused. These snacks not only impact students' academic performance but deteriorate their physical success. In Novi schools, thousands of kids participate in school sports. These students put in hard work, effort, time and commitment to their respective sport. Allowing for these unhealthy vending machine snacks is unacceptable when the students are putting in as much work as they can. If students are allowed to eat cookies, chips and candies before a practice or game, that can impact both their physical

performance and mental mindset. He's not saying that all snacks should be wiped out, but they should invest in some alternatives where they can implement healthier snack options that contain more energy but feed the needs of the students. This is why they are in contact with contact with the Novi Community School District food coordinator.

Karthik, a Novi High School student, said they believed change was necessary at their own school and before going to other schools, they contacted Ms. Nicole Carter, Principal of Novi High School, to better understand how they could make a change. They presented to her and persuaded her to make a change within the Novi High School vending machines to implement healthy snacks. She told them they had to contact Ms. Kimberly Sinclair, Food Service Director of the Novi Community School District, to make changes directly within the vending machines. After multiple discussions, they understood that they had to meet government regulations to make specific changes. They can't implement specific snacks that are high in sugar and high in fat. Right now, snacks in Novi High School vending machines are low in sugar and fat content but they can also have very harmful alternatives like oils, chemicals and nutrients that are bad for the body. Some of the regulations that they had to meet were that items had to dispense properly in the vending machines. They also had to make sure that they were low in the nutrients of fats, sugars, cholesterol and make sure that the snack's base was either a vegetable, fruit or wheat. There are other categories that they had to hit and after trying and failing multiple times, they successfully implemented two new snacks to the school. They contacted a pediatrician to better understand how these nutrients affect the human body and why junk food does not provide the specific nutrients needed to keep a student energized throughout the day.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

Mayor Fischer removed item F from the consent agenda.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
February 10, 2025 - Regular Meeting
- B. Acceptance of a Conservation Easement associated with PWD 24-0016 Primrose Daycare and Swim School, for property in Section 27, located west of Novi Road, and south of Ten Mile Road.
- C. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement for the Catholic Central High School Connector Road project located on the south side of Twelve Mile Road and west of Wixom Road (parcels 50-22-18- 200-026 and 50-22-18-200-027).
- D. Approval of a Warranty Deed to dedicate 43 feet of half-width right-of-way along the south side of Twelve Mile Road and acceptance of a sidewalk easement from Catholic Central High School as part of the Connector Road project (parcel 50-22-18-200-026 and 50-22-18-200-027).
- E. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement for Extra Space Self-Storage located on the east side of Novi Road between 8 and 9 Mile Road (parcel 50-22-35-101-016).

- F. Approval to award services to ICC-IMS through the TXShare cooperative purchasing program, in the amount of \$68,097 to perform a sidewalk condition survey of the City's sidewalks. **(REMOVED AND LATER APPROVED)**
- G. Acceptance of a Warranty Deed to dedicate an additional 60 feet of right-of-way along the south side of Nine Mile Road as part of the SPARC Arena development (parcel 50-22-35-127-015).
- H. Approval of Traffic Control Order 25-01 for the implementation of a 25 MPH school speed limit on Taft Road from Eleven Mile to Emerald Forest Drive on school days only during the peak student drop-off and pick-up times.
- I. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1174

CM 25-02-22 Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

To approve the consent agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 25-02-22

**Yeas: Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith, Fischer,
 Casey**

Nays: None

Absent: Staudt, Thomas

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

City Clerk Cortney Hanson read the results of the ballots previously provided to the Council. For the Beautification Commission, Torry Yu was reappointed, and Dinesh Seksaria was appointed. For the Building Authority, Larry Czekaj was reappointed. There was two terms open for the Construction Board in which Jeffrey Bowdell and John Enkemann were reappointed.

CM 25-02-23 Moved by Casey, seconded by Gurumurthy; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Approval to appoint Patrick Torossian to the Corridor Improvement Authority for one partial term ending December 31, 2027.

Roll call vote on CM 25-02-23

**Yeas: Heintz, Smith, Fischer, Casey,
 Gurumurthy**

Nays: None

Absent: Staudt, Thomas

CM 25-02-24 Moved by Casey, seconded by Gurumurthy; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Approval to reappoint Marcia Goffney, Julie Maday and Michael Watza to the Economic Development Corporation.

Roll call vote on CM 25-02-24 Yeas: **Smith, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz**
Nays: **None**
Absent: **Staudt, Thomas**

2. Approval of a Resolution to set public hearing to consider vacation a portion of Gen Mar Drive north of Ten Mile Road and west of Novi Road.

CM 25-02-25 Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Consideration to Approve a Resolution to vacate a portion of Gen Mar Drive north of Ten Mile Road and west of Novi Road.

Roll call vote on CM 25-02-25 Yeas: **Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith**
Nays: **None**
Absent: **Staudt, Thomas**

3. Beck Road Discussion (POSTPONED)

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS

F. Approval to award services to ICC-IMS through the TXShare cooperative purchasing program, in the amount of \$68,097 to perform a sidewalk condition survey of the City's sidewalks.

Mayor Fischer said there was a robust discussion in the Walkable Novi Committee. The City staff did an excellent job putting together different proposals and making some efforts to continue to make improvements to the sidewalks. They often talk about the importance of investing in the infrastructure and there is a good sidewalk network but as more are added, they want to make sure that they're continuously updating and getting rid of cracks and deflections, etc. The City staff put together a good proposal and part of that took a lot of manual effort. They were looking maybe being near to needing additional staff or consultants to help identify, mark down and inventory all the issues that they had in sidewalks. The City staff had the opportunity to find a vendor that will, for a little bit of cost, survey the entire city using a robot, AI, and other great technologies. He wanted to highlight this as an awesome effort by staff to use technology to be efficient.

CM 25-02-26 Moved by Smith, seconded by Heintz; MOTION CARRIED: 5-0

Approval to award services to ICC-IMS through the TXShare cooperative purchasing program, in the amount of \$68,097 to perform a sidewalk condition survey of the City's sidewalks.

Roll call vote on CM 25-02-26 Yeas: **Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith, Fischer**
Nays: **None**

Absent: Staudt, Thomas

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said the Committee met last week and interviewed two of the 19 proposal vendors who came up with a proposal for their long range strategic plan. They asked for more information after those meetings. They had a couple of questions that they needed to go back and get further details on. Her plan is hopefully to get a committee meeting scheduled for next week so they can regroup and hopefully make a recommendation to this body for which vendor to hire at their next meeting on March 10.

2. Public Utilities & Technology Committee

Member Smith said they are planning on having a meeting with some representatives from DTE to talk about power issues. They were discussing what information they wanted to get out of that meeting with DTE. They also discussed an upcoming FlashVote survey of Novi residents for what their broadband needs are and how satisfied they are with their current broadband supplier.

3. Mobility Committee

Member Smith said the committee met on Thursday and discussed eBike classifications and use on City pathways. The current ordinances were written back before eBikes became a thing. They were talking about mopeds and go-karts and things like that. There are three classifications of eBikes, two of which are allowed on pathways that the State controls. They will be referring this to the Ordinance Review Committee to get the City's ordinances to align with the State rules for eBikes.

The Mayor, the City Manager and Member Smith met with Gwen Markham, the Chair of SEMCOG, and Amy O'Leary, Executive Director of SEMCOG, for a discussion of how they as a City can work with SEMCOG and utilize their resources to help achieve their goals.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Justin Fischer, Mayor

Transcribed by Becky Dockery,
Account Clerk

Date approved: March 10, 2025