



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of recommendation from the Consultant Review Committee to exercise the renewal option for 2022 for General Legal services to Rosati, Schultz, Joppich, and Amtsbuechler P.C. and on January 1, 2022 increase the hourly rate to partner from \$145 to \$160 and Associates from \$135 to \$150

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Manager

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** For the last nine years the City has contracted with Rosati, Schultz, Joppich, and Amtsbuechler P.C. for General Legal services and to serve as the City Attorney. The current contract was awarded by City Council in 2017 for four (4) years with one (1) optional year. The Consultant Review Committee convened on October 19, 2021 to consider the City's current agreement with the City Attorney. Upon conclusion of the discussion, the Committee unanimously recommended to exercise the contractual option for the fifth year and adjust the hourly rate increased to \$160.00/hour for Partners and \$150.00/hour for Associates through December 31, 2022. Tom Schultz has served in the capacity of City Attorney since 2005

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval of recommendation from the Consultant Review Committee to exercise the renewal option for 2022 for General Legal services to Rosati, Schultz, Joppich, and Amtsbuechler P.C. and on January 1, 2022 increase the hourly rate to partner from \$145 to \$160 and Associates from \$135 to \$150

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ROSATI | SCHULTZ  
JOPPICH | AMTSBUECHLER

October 19, 2021

Pete Auger, City Manager  
City of Novi  
45175 Ten Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375

RE: City Attorney Legal Services

Dear Mr. Auger:

As we have discussed recently, the contract for City Attorney legal services is set to expire at the end of the year. We are hoping that the City will consider a renewal of the agreement. In the past, a three-year agreement with a potential option for extension has been a good arrangement as far as planning for providing those services on our end, but we of course will defer to Council on that issue.

You asked for a fee proposal as part of the discussion. We evaluated our arrangement with our other clients and what we know about fees charged by others for similar services and I provided you a suggestion of \$160/hour for senior attorneys and \$150/hour for associates. That actually would put Novi in the "mid-range" of those other communities. We have been at \$140/hour for senior attorneys (\$130/hour for associates) since January 2017. Again, of course, we are happy to discuss and adjust the fee proposal with you or with Council (or the Consultant Review Committee).

I look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, feel free to call me.

Very truly yours,

ROSATI SCHULTZ JOPPICH  
& AMTSBUECHLER PC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas R. Schultz', written over a white background.

Thomas R. Schultz

TRS/jah



CITY OF NOVI  
Consultant Review Committee Meeting  
**Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:30 p.m.**  
Council Chambers | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road  
(248) 347-0445

**CALL TO ORDER** 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Casey, Fischer

**STAFF LIAISON:** Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Pete Auger, City Manager  
Katherine Oppermann, Executive Assistant

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Tuesday, February 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

1. Discuss Attorney Contracts
  - a. General – Rosati, Schultz, Joppich, & Amtsbuechler P.C.
  - b. Prosecuting – The Baker Legal Group
  - c. Labor - Shifman Fournier

Mr. Cardenas stated that this meeting was to discuss the contracts of the three legal firms currently working with the city – General counsel, prosecuting and labor attorney. The expiration of the current contracts, established in 2018, is nearing and the fees need to be readdressed. Mr. Auger commented that City Staff, Boards, and Commissions who work directly with the legal firms have all been pleased with the services provided and staff recommends that the Consultant Review Committee recommend the approval of the renewals with revised pay scale proposed by the individual firms. For General Counsel, provided by Rosati, Schultz, Joppich, & Amtsbuechler P.C. staff recommends an additional two years at \$160.00/hour for senior attorneys and \$150.00/hour for associates as proposed. For Prosecuting services, provided by the Baker Legal group staff recommends an additional three years at \$115.00/hour as proposed. For Labor services, provided by Shifman Fournier staff recommends an additional three years at the graduated scale of \$165.00/hour in 2022, \$175.00/hour in 2023, and \$175.00/hour in 2024 as proposed.

**Motion** made by **Member Fischer** that for the general Counsel, provided by Rosati, Schultz, Joppich, & Amtsbuechler P.C., to recommend that, as an adjusted option year of the existing contract, the hourly rate is increased to the proposed \$160.00/hour for senior attorneys and \$150.00/hour for associates through December 31, 2022. Member Fischer recommended to staff to bring the Consultant Review Committee back together again no later than June 2022 to further discuss the General Counsel contract and decide whether to retain Rosati, Schultz, Joppich, & Amtsbuechler P.C. or go to bid.

**Motion was supported** by **Member Casey** and carried unanimously; motion passes 3-0.

**Motion** made by **Member Casey** that for the Prosecuting Attorney, Baker Legal Group, to recommend a one year no-bid contract for legal professional services at the increased rate of \$115.00/hour as proposed. As with the prior discussion it was recommended that this matter be taken up again in June 2022.

**Motion was supported** by **Mayor Pro Tem Staudt** and carried unanimously; motion passes 3-0.

**Motion** made by **Member Fischer** that for the Labor Attorney, provided by Shifman Fournier, to recommend a three year no-bid contract for legal professional services at the graduated scale of \$165.00/hour in 2022, \$175.00/hour in 2023, and \$175.00/hour in 2024 as proposed.

**Motion was supported** by **Mayor Pro Tem Staudt**; motion passed 2-1 with Member Casey dissenting.

## **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

No comments were submitted or shared by the public during this meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. **Moved** by **Mayor Pro Tem Staudt**, **supported** by **Member Fischer** and carried unanimously: to adjourn the meeting.