

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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:** Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager  
Elizabeth Saarela, City Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**CM 20-10-115 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Agenda as presented.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-10-115**                      **Yeas: Staudt, Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt**  
**Nays: None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS: None**

**CANDIDATES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mayor Gatt noted that Cindy Gronachan moved to Novi in 1980. She lived on a 60-acre horse farm owned by first City Clerk, Mable Ash. He stated that Cindy started the Garfield Homes Association. She also worked on the Garfield Road wetland mitigation project for eleven years. She saved 106 acres of wetland to be protected for 100 years. She was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals in 2001 and served until 2006. She returned to her hometown in 2012 and returned to the ZBA until she was appointed to the Planning Commission. She purchased a home on a half-acre and plans to get back into horseback riding. She is still working for Mike Gabriel, State Farm Insurance here in Novi remotely. Her fingerprints are all over this town. On behalf of a grateful group of residents, staff, and Council, we wish you well in your new endeavors and thank you for all you have done for our great City. We have two candidates who are professional people with much to offer. Mayor Gatt stated that they only one opening. He can only appoint one person for Council to vote on. He said tonight will be different since we missed last meeting, we will appoint the successful candidate on this agenda. He asked the candidates to be ready for their two-minute speech about why they think they should be on the Planning Commission.

**1. Gary Becker**

Mr. Becker said he has been a resident of Novi for 44 years and has benefitted in so many ways by the managed, planned growth of our City. Novi has become a vibrant and diverse community for both private and commercial residents. It has changed in his 44 years from being a small town no one has heard of to being the most desirable city in Michigan. Since retiring six years ago, he began exploring ways to give back to his community using his time, experience, and perspective. Serving on the Planning Commission he felt this would be an opportunity to actively participate in continuing the successful management of land use in Novi and to build on the efforts and dedication of previous civic leaders being guided by our master plan and land use ordinances. When they moved here in 1976, they knew Novi would not remain farms and orchards. The thoughtful planned growth of our City is a big reason we are still here. He said he would be honored to play a role in the future development of this City. Thank you for the consideration.

## **2. John Honkala**

Mr. Honkala said he was a lifelong Michigan resident; he has lived in Novi at Fox Run for the past nine years. He lived in Lakewood Park Homes for four years. He left Novi for his job, he worked as an Engineer at DTE Energy. He moved to Grosse Ile and served for 10 years on the Planning Commission there as a member and secretary. He also worked for a civil engineering firm while in college. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Michigan. He also has experience with start-up testing, material engineering, contract administration, auditing, and emergency management. He said Novi is a desirable residential and business community with natural features of wetlands and woodlands which provide an open space that will not be developed. He supported planned community growth. He felt that his work experience in dealing with people in the federal and state government, consulting, manufacturing, engineering and testing would be asset to the Planning Commission. He said he has Planning Commission experience with consultants and staff.

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None**

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

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

Mayor Gatt removed Consent Agenda Item M for further discussion.

**CM 20-10-116      Moved by Breen, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

- A. Approve Minutes of:
  - 1. September 28, 2020 – Regular meeting
- B. Approval of the grant acceptance from the Center for Tech and Civic Life in the amount of \$26,194.

- C. Approval of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 18.293 to amend Article 5.0, Site Standards, Article 5.5, Landscape Standards, and modifications to the Landscape Design Manual, in order to update and revise the landscaping plantings and buffering requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, and other items deemed necessary, and adoption of a Revised Fee Schedule.  
**SECOND READING.**
- D. Acceptance of a sidewalk easement and approval of a proposed counter-offer of just compensation from Dennis Ireland for construction of a sidewalk along the north side of Ten Mile Road between Dinser Drive and Woodham Road (parcel 50-22-20-376-010) in the amount of \$15,000.00.
- E. Acceptance of a sidewalk easement and approval of a proposed counter-offer of just compensation from Larry and Faye Feindt for construction of a sidewalk along the north side of Ten Mile Road between Dinser Drive and Woodham Road (parcel 50-22-20-376-019) in the amount of \$20,000.00.
- F. Acceptance of a sidewalk easement from Ethel and Laura Everett for construction of a sidewalk along the north side of Ten Mile Road between Dinser Drive and Woodham Road (parcel 50-22-20-376-004) in the amount of \$21,900.00.
- G. Approval to award the emergency replacement of the jail cell telephone system in the amount of \$25,662.21.
- H. Approval to purchase one Ditch Witch SK800 mini skid steer, and attachments, from Ditch Witch Sales of Michigan in the amount of \$35,373.28.
- I. Approval to purchase equipment from Hasting Air Energy Control, Inc., sole source provider, in the amount of \$62,025.32 to upgrade the Plymovent exhaust extraction connections at the Fire Stations.
- J. Approval to award an invasive species removal contract to Monster Tree Service of West Bloomfield, the low bidder, in an amount of \$24,025.08.
- K. Approval of the request from the Living and Learning Center for two variances from Design and Construction Standards including Section 11-239(b) to allow wheel stops in lieu of curbed parking spaces and the use of gravel for vehicular travel and parking, as well as Section 11-256(b) to dismiss the sidewalk requirement along Eight Mile Road and Griswold Street, and to allow no payment into the City's Sidewalk Fund.
- L. Approval to purchase one (1) Lucas 3 chest compression system for the Novi Fire Department from Stryker, an authorized sole sourced dealer in the amount of \$18,163.28.

M. Approval to amend the resolution temporarily authorizing outdoor gatherings to extend the termination date from October 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021.  
**REMOVED/LATER APPROVED**

N. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant No. 1069.

O. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant No. 1070.

**Roll call vote on CM 20-10-116**                      **Yeas: Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer Mutch, Gatt, Staudt**  
**Nays: None**

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

1. Appointment to Planning Commission.

Mayor Gatt proposed Gary Becker be appointed to the Planning Commission.

**CM 20-10-117**                      **Moved by Crawford, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**  
**Appointment of Gary Becker to the Planning Commission.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-10-117**                      **Yeas: Casey, Fischer, Crawford, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Breen**  
**Nays: None**

2. Consideration of approval to purchase a 2020 Tymco 600 Sweeper from Fredrickson Supply through the Sourcewell Contract #122017-TYM in the amount of \$279,555.

**CM 20-10-118**                      **Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**  
**Approval to purchase a 2020 Tymco 600 Sweeper from Fredrickson Supply through the Sourcewell Contract #122017-TYM in the amount of \$279,555.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-10-118**                      **Yeas: Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Breen, Casey**  
**Nays: None**

3. Consideration of a unit price contract for as-needed catch basin, storm water pipe, and concrete slab stabilization services to Havener Tech, LLC, using the Farmington Hills contract (extended to MITN members), for a one-year term at an estimated amount of \$100,000.

**CM 20-10-119**                      **Moved by Casey, seconded by Gatt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approve to award a unit price contract for as-needed catch basin, storm water pipe, and concrete slab stabilization services to Havener Tech, LLC, using the Farmington Hills contract (extended to MITN members), for a one-year term at an estimated amount of \$100,000.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-10-119**

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

**Nays: None**

4. Consideration of a resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2021-2

**CM 20-10-120 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval of a resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2021-2.**

**Roll call vote on CM 20-10-120**

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

**Nays: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:**

City Clerk Hanson read an email from William Andrews, 41671 Sudbury Court: Please act against advertisers that are throwing litter all over our community. He said the Detroit Free Press is the latest. They pitch unwanted advertisements into our driveways. That driveway was his private property, and they have no business littering his driveway. He asked that City Council stand up to them, ticket them, and go to court to fight them. He wanted them to stop this gross practice.

Aaron Martinez, 31168 Shorecrest Drive, said he has greatly benefitted from the knowledge of our City Clerk's Office and thanked City Clerk Hanson and her staff for all their hard work preparing for this upcoming election. He believed we had the best Clerk's Office in the entire state. He said we are quickly approaching a regrettable one-year anniversary in our City. On Election Day in November 2019 the Novi Police Department was politicized by a member of Council for their own political gain. Three police officers were dispatched to the polling location at the Novi Library at the request of Mayor Pro Tem because a Precinct Delegate was there performing her duties per the constitution. In response to a FOIA request that was submitted to the City, it was discovered that this Council Member lied to the officers and used his position to weaponize and politicize the Novi Police against political opponents which regardless of which side of the aisle you are on, it's simply not tolerable. He said he could think of few greater abuses of power than using private phone lines to make false reports to our Police Department, all under the guise of an elected position. He said this concern is again at the forefront because this Council Member is on the ballot. He said he was there to publicly and respectfully request that the members of this body take seriously their obligations and see to it that our hard-working Police Department officials are not

being used as pawns for politics. In an age where voter intimidation is on the rise, our Mayor Pro Tem and this Council owe a responsibility to make sure the voters are respected, even when they may not be supporting a person who is currently in office. He hopes the Council will see to it that the Police are respected, and their skills are only used in response to a genuine emergency. He thanked them for the opportunity to speak and for their leadership in this uncertain time.

Shane Trejo said there is an instance of abuse that was reported on in recent days regarding County Commissioner Gwen Markham. He said she reported a business owner by the name of Justin Nazaroff to County Homeland Security because of a sign he had on his door opposing mandatory mask mandates. He said she reported him to attempt to get the store owner of Phoenix Ammunition into trouble with Homeland Security by pointing out that he had opened carried guns, which is a second amendment right to do so, and that he had done that at different events throughout the county. She wanted him to be profiled by Homeland Security and had law enforcement on their radar. He was investigated, thankfully law enforcement did their jobs and noted there was no violation for him exercising his second amendment rights. The way that this business owner and lifetime resident of Novi was profiled and harassed by Markham is a stain on the city. He hopes he never sees it by anyone on City Council. He hopes to see them defend the basic constitutional rights of Novi citizens. Those rights are under supreme attack. He hopes Council does what is right and rejects this type of bullying politics where officials abuse their power and go after the core fundamental rights of citizens.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None**

**COMMUNICATIONS: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

Mayor Gatt said when this was first written, there was opposition from the Fire Department and he would never approve a matter if the Fire Department had safety concerns. He asked Director Johnson to confirm they have no opposition to this item. Director Johnson said he spoke with Director Boulard about the section in question and they removed the section that was of concern. They no longer had any safety concerns.

**CM 20-10-121      Moved by Gatt, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

M.      Approval to amend the resolution temporarily authorizing outdoor gatherings to extend the termination date from October 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

**Roll call vote on CM 20-10-121**

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

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 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: November 9, 2020