

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas

**ALSO PRESENT:** Peter Auger, City Manager  
Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager  
Tom Schultz, City Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Member Casey added to the Mayor and Council Issues "Carefree Campaign".

**CM 22-02-013 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Crawford; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**To approve the Agenda as amended.**

**Roll call vote on CM 22-02-013**                      **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt**  
**Nays: None**

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

**1. Initial City Council Member Roundtable Thoughts Mayor Gatt**

Mayor Gatt noted that it is our initial City Councilmember roundtable regarding thoughts about our goals. He stated this is an opportunity for City Council to signal to City Administration and the department heads what they are thinking and what they would like to see as possible goals in the upcoming years. He said it could be a short-term goal or it could be a little bit longer than short-term. He explained that a couple years ago, Council decided that they would not meet every year to talk about their goals because they agreed that when a new Council comes in the goals from the old Council may not be acceptable to the new Council. He said they decided that they would not hold a goal setting session, a formal session like this, in an election year. However, this is not an election year for City Council. Therefore, we move forward during an election year, we do not have a formal meeting like this, but all Councilmembers certainly have the opportunity at a meeting in January to express their thoughts with City Administration. He said he would give every Councilmember an opportunity to speak and voice their thoughts and their opinions. He stated after they go around the table, then they will move on to our early budget input work session.

Member Casey said it was nice to see a large population of the audience that evening. She commented they were there that evening to give their thoughts and to give direction to City Administration from both a budget perspective and an overall program perspective. She said as she started putting her goals in, she realized that she had started

to develop a theme, which she was not expecting to do, and that there was sustainability, because we are very skilled as a City on fiscal sustainability. She said what she would like to see us start to look at now is sustaining resident engagement. She said we have a lot of people who come up for Boards and Commissions, and they wind up, unfortunately, not always having enough positions for those individuals. She would like the City to look at ways to add Boards and Commissions so that we can really take advantage of the residents interest in supporting the City. She would like us to start sustaining relationships with our neighboring cities and making sure that we as a Council are out there talking to our colleagues in other communities so that we can talk about the joint issues, and areas of opportunity for our communities. She said she would also like to see us look at sustaining our environment as well. She said she would be putting her goals in like the rest of her colleagues, she looked forward to the conversation that we have around the table and how the process plays out that evening.

Member Fischer said he put his goals in already and he did not have any more comments at this point. He said the goals kind of stand for themselves. He said it is a culmination of the conversations he has with residents. He said he will not take credit for any of the goals, because it really is about listening to the residents and hearing what they want to see from the City, City staff, and City Council.

Member Smith said the goals he was bringing forward that evening were in line with what Member Casey said about sustainability. He said his goals reflect his experience campaigning and talking to a lot of the residents last year and his 35 years as a Novi resident and lifelong interest in accessible open spaces and the environment. He mentioned he would like to comment on when we do this exercise again in 2024, he would like to extend the horizon to more than two years. He understood there is an issue of tying the hands of future Councils. He was not sure if that really ties their hands any more than anything else we do here, but with the kind of changes that he can see coming in the next 10 years, for example, automakers switching production to EVs instead of internal combustion, he thought we really need to be looking further ahead than just two years. He said he was looking forward to this evening's discussion.

Member Thomas said she spent a lot of time during the election talking to people and she was hoping that the goals that she put forth, are representative of at least what she has heard from the constituency, from all the people that she has spoken with. She felt like mostly everyone she spoke to, at least 70% when she did find someone to talk to, they cared about the environment, and what is happening to the environment and how we can create a sustainable community. She said she had a few goals that reflect trying to make sure that we are good stewards of our environment, and our communities, and that we try to make sure that we are preparing for what is coming. She said those are just really large items that she cared about.

Member Crawford said he did not have anything more specific than what is already been mentioned or the general guidelines that we have received from our staff. He thought that pretty much says it all. He was looking forward to some more specific things when we discuss it.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he did not have anything at this moment.

Mayor Gatt said he would put his comments on the record and say he has been part of City Council now for 19 years. I have seen a lot of goal sessions. He said he has seen this endeavor; he has seen it evolve. He said what he does see happening as we move into the future, on the past, is some of our goals should not really be goals, they should be actions items. For a proposed goal to become a City goal, it takes a majority of City Council to vote for that goal. He said it is going to take four votes to move a proposed goal to an actual goal. He said he is of the opinion that some things do not have to be written down as a goal, because we can add it to an agenda anytime, we want and just say, here is what we want to do and make a motion. He stated if we have enough support, then it becomes not a goal, it becomes a motion to put into force. He thought it will be interesting to see how we proceed. He turned the meeting over to City Manager Auger and Assistant City Manager Cardenas.

## **2. Early Budget Input Work Session Pete Auger & Victor Cardenas**

City Manager Auger stated these are goals for the next two years and it takes four votes to establish goals. He explained that if there are six to 10, you get three votes. Before voting, staff will tell you how many votes you are going to be allotted. We will go to the brainstorming where we look at all the goals up on the screen and add any that we need to, and then we will do the grouping and cleanup. He said that sometimes a couple of the goals are very similar, and we will try to condense those with discussion and clean that up. He stated that leads to the discussion before the vote. He stated he had a couple ideas that may move forward that in the next two years it could be obtained. The first one is under Emergency Management or Public Safety; it would be to pull ahead the Mobile Incident Command Center which is in the out years of the budget, and his preference would be to do it sooner than later in this is an expense that would be allowed under those ARPA Funds that we told you once we receive them that we would not use them and until City Council gave us the direction on how to spend it. He said he would like to get design in that sooner than later and that would be an acceptable spending of those funds, under facilities and properties. He mentioned developing a plan forward for City Facilities, Fire Stations, Police Stations, Civic Centers, etc. He said to meet the demands of the changing workforce we are dealing with lay out a way forward for the ITC Community Sports Parks which we pushed out when we found out some of the costs of developing those parks. He said in staffing, a couple areas, dedicated Human Resource Specialist where these challenging times were no different than any other organizations, finding quality employees is very challenging and specifically in the Police and Fire Department. He said if we keep doing what everyone else is doing, we are going to have those same results. He stated he would like us to be more aggressive and get creative in how we go after the next generation of employees here and in staffing Older Adult Services since Council brought forward the SOS program. He said they hired a programmer that specifically goes after activities for our seniors or people who have special needs to do certain things. He said we are having great success with that right now. He saw an opportunity maybe in the future as those programs grow, and the

numbers grow, to go after another program specialist so we can continue that trend with that population.

Assistant City Manager Cardenas said they can view GroupMaps and be able to see what everyone else is seeing. He said if you want to add any additional ideas, you could just simply hit that plus sign and you will be able to go ahead and add additional goals. City Council proceeded with voting on the goals.

Mayor Gatt commented that they got through the four buckets of goals, obviously this is a little bit different this year than in years past. Council is much more professional at it than in years past. He said the work that was done over the last week depleted the number of minutes they needed for that evening. He announced a 10-minute break beginning at 6:12 p.m.

Council reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS: None**

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None**

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Mike Duchesneau, 1191 South Lake Dr., Novi was there in support of Novi purchasing the island on Shawood Lake. He agreed that more information on the true costs of this purchase need to be understood before any purchase decision is made. He said in the short-term, only the initial purchase and related expenses should be considered. He said Novi is a wonderful place to live, lets make it more special.

Mark Adams, 1721 East Lake Dr., Novi said he was there in support of purchasing the island on Shawood Lake and he also supported the purchase of the property. He mentioned one of City Councils goals that evening, the goal was to continue to buy strategic properties. He could not think of a more strategic property in the City of Novi to purchase. He thought it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. He said if you go from here to downtown Detroit, and try to find anything, even remotely close to the island, you cannot do it. It does not exist. He said Livonia and Southfield has nothing like it, none of these communities have anything like that island, it is a very strategic property. He said if you want to talk about the environment, that is truly his motivation, he has a better understanding of the ecology of the lake. He believed the residents of Novi would cherish that island. He offered a tour of the lake if the Mayor or any Councilmembers were interested. He said if in the future they take down the house and make it a nature area, he would be fine with that, although he had a greater vision of making it into a nature center. He said the house is structurally sound, you've got to have the vision. He said we

spent millions of dollars on Meadowbrook Lake in Village Oaks Lakes. He believed the City could find \$190,000 for that.

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

**CM 22-02-014            Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANOMOUSLY**

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

- A.     Approve Minutes of:  
        January 24, 2022 - Regular Meeting
- B.     Approval of the Appeal of a Land Division Fee by Lisa and Scott Hoag.
- C.     Approval of Automated Video Broadcast Service Agreement with LiveBarn, LLC, to provide video service at the City of Novi Ice Arena.
- D.     Approval to award engineering design services to OHM Advisors for the design and implementation of operational improvements at the West Park Booster Station, in the amount of \$39,000.00.
- E.     Approval of the final payment to Merlo Construction Company for the Wildlife Woods Pickleball Courts and Meadowbrook Commons Ramp project, in the amount of \$8,804.19, plus interest earned on retainage.
- F.     Approval to accept the residential streets as part of the Valencia Estates South development and adoption of Act 51 New Street Resolution, accepting Alpine Drive, Presidio Lane, and Villa Terrace Court as public, adding 0.77 mile of roadway to the City's public street system.
- G.     Approval of a Completion Agreement with Mirage Development, LLC for SP 15-0076, the Montebello Estates residential development located north of 9 Mile Road and West of Novi Road, in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 26.5 and subject to final approval by the City Attorney and City Manager.
- H.     Approval of addendum to purchase agreement for property at Beck Road and Edinborough, Parcels 50-22-29-276-009 and 50-22-29-278-006, extending the date for closing from December 31, 2021 to March 31, 2022.
- I.     Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1101

**Roll call vote on CM 22-02-014**

**Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas,  
Gatt, Staudt**

**Nays: None**

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

**1. Approval of resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2022-3.**

**CM 22-02-015 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Gatt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval of resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2022-3**

**Roll call vote on CM 22-02-015 Yeas: Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt, Staudt, Casey  
Nays: None**

**2. Approval of Introduction of Ordinance 21-156.04, an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Administration, Article V, Boards and Commissions, Division 3, Board of Review, Section 2- 193.6, Guidelines to be uniformly applied; exceptions. FIRST READING.**

**CM 22-02-016 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval of Introduction of Ordinance 21-156.04, an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Administration, Article V, Boards and Commissions, Division 3, Board of Review, Section 2-193.6, Guidelines to be uniformly applied; exceptions. FIRST READING.**

**Roll call vote on CM 22-02-016 Yeas: Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt, Staudt, Casey, Crawford  
Nays: None**

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

**AUDIENCE COMMENT: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:**

Member Casey added to Mayor and Council Issues "Carefree Campaign". She mentioned about a month ago they listened to a presentation by the "Carefree Campaign" who came in to talk to us about period poverty and menstrual inequality, this is a passion project for them. She said it inspired many of us here up at the table. She met with the representatives, and they have graciously spent time with her talking and sharing their knowledge and energy on this topic after their presentation. She stated this evening, she was going to come in with a motion to have the City provide free menstrual products in all City owned bathrooms. She said she was also going to ask her colleagues to kind of break it Council Mori and consider a resolution that showed their support and rationale for their decision to provide these products for free. However, in our goal setting session earlier, a very similar and yet broader goal was proposed. She thought having the

City promote this action supersedes any resolution she would have asked her colleagues to consider. She stated this is an issue of Health and Welfare and of personal dignity. She said tonight, we will be making a motion and if it passes, we are joining a small, but growing trend of municipalities across the country who are making similar decisions or pass similar legislation, places like Massachusetts, New York, Cleveland, Akron, Ann Arbor, and her second favorite city, East Lansing. She said she would use the words from the Mayor's goal and make a motion that the City provide free feminine hygiene products at all City owned restrooms effective as soon as possible. She said if after time, it can be shown that certain non-staff restrooms suffer any damages because of this practice, Administration can report the same to City Council and cease providing those products at these locations. Additionally, efforts should begin to advertise our new program, while encouraging private businesses to do the same.

**CM 22-02-017                      Moved by Casey, seconded by Fischer;  
(Main Motion)**

**To approve of the City of Novi to provide free feminine hygiene products at all City owned restrooms effective as soon as possible. If after time, it can be shown that certain non-staff restrooms suffer any damages because of this practice, Administration can report the same to City Council and cease providing those products at these locations. Additionally, efforts should begin to advertise our new program, while encouraging private businesses to do the same.**

Mayor Gatt said he would speak first because this was his goal. He said when those three young ladies came before City Council the first time, they were just talking during audience comment, they had their three minutes. He said he was so impressed with their poise, their professionalism, and their passion, that he got in touch with them. He asked them to come back to the next meeting and this time do a presentation and take all the time they wanted. He was 100 percent behind this. He said he discussed this with City Manager Auger and there are some concerns to implement this at some of the restrooms that are not staffed, such as some of the parks where we do not have staff on site, that there is concern for vandalism. He said being a lifetime police officer he was aware that kind of stuff happens. He thought the motions says we are going to do it everywhere and if we find there is a problem, then we need City Administration to report to City Council. He said then they can seize the practice at those locations. He was not in favor of any resolution, he thought that was political, but he was in favor of the City advertising our new policy, our new procedure, and put that on our Facebook page and any media that we can and encourage private businesses to do the same. He said he would never be in favor of mandating that through an ordinance, but he was in favor of encouraging private businesses. He said the girl's passion touched him, and he thought it was long overdue. He said he would support the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked City Manager Auger if we have any estimate on costs at all at this point, and what it would cost to maintain this annually. He said they were making a motion to expend dollars without knowing the dollar amount. City Manager Auger said at this point, we do not have a dollar amount, but we can get that information and bring

it back to Council. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt commented that we are going to approve a motion that evening without knowing anything about the cost. He said he was in favor of the motion if we put a dollar figure to it. This is a year long process in terms of keeping supplies up, he could not support that portion of it. He said he would have to vote against the motion unless we can wait. He thought that we had addressed this at another meeting so that City Council was going to get some numbers back from City Administration on dollars so that we can make a proper vote on it, but he will not be able to support something that does not have any costs allocated to it.

Member Thomas said that she was a very strong supporter of this proposal and as a woman who knows when you are going to need these products and they are not optional. She said we do not budget how much we are going to spend in toilet paper, she said there is air freshener in the bathrooms, and we pay for that, it seems like it is just something that should be provided in a restroom because it is mandatory for the woman who need it. She said it is very important that we show our support for the women in our community.

Mayor Gatt said he understood where Mayor Pro Tem Staudt was coming from. He stated that he and City Manager Auger talked about this a couple of weeks ago, and they snowballed some figures in our head. He asked the maker of the motion and the support, if they would consider adding to the motion, not to exceed \$10,000 for the first implementation, because obviously, it needs to be in budget year after year and it will come through that process. Member Casey agreed with and confirmed with Mayor Gatt the amended motion to include, for a cost not to exceed \$10,000 on the initial implementation.

**The Amended Motion:**

**CM 22-02-017      Moved by Casey, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Amendment)**

**To approve of the City of Novi to provide free feminine hygiene products at all City owned restrooms effective as soon as possible at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 on the initial implementation. If after time, it can be shown that certain non-staff restrooms suffer any damages because of this practice, Administration can report the same to City Council and cease providing those products at these locations. Additionally, efforts should begin to advertise our new program, while encouraging private businesses to do the same.**

Member Fischer assumed that the ongoing costs will be added as part of the normal restroom maintenance that we approve as part of what we do approve such as toilet paper, and air freshener, for every budget, and he assumed that ongoing will be included once the budgets proposed in a couple of weeks. City Manager Auger said that was correct, it will be with all the other facilities equipment that you just mentioned. Member Fischer said this \$10,000 would really be machines and things to get you stated



and he was very surprised if it comes close to that. He thought it was a great compromise and appreciated the effort.

Member Casey said this should not have been an issue, but she wanted to make sure we had one of the "Carefree Campaigners" with them that evening, she thanked her for coming forward and raising the issue and making us aware of an opportunity for us to make a positive change in the City. She said she was very proud to be at the table that evening. Mayor Gatt said this is one issue the student became the student, so thank you.

**Roll call vote on CM 22-02-017**

**Yeas: Smith, Thomas, Gatt, Staudt, Casey,  
Crawford, Fischer**  
**Nays: None**

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 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: February 28, 2022