



CITY OF NOVI
Public Utilities & Technology Committee Meeting
January 14, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Novi Depot Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER 5:30 PM

ROLL CALL: Council Members Heintz, Smith, and Thomas

PRESENT Council Members Heintz (Zoom), Smith, and Thomas (Zoom)

STAFF LIAISON: Rob Petty, Chief Information Officer (CIO)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Smith motioned to amend the agenda to include a presentation by Mayor Joe LaRussa of Farmington Hills. Motioned by: Member Smith; Seconded by Heintz. (Motion approved 3:0) Approval of the agenda: Motioned by Member Smith. Second, by Heintz. (Motion approved 3:0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

N/A

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Thomas thanked Director Sheryl Walsh for providing the committee with information about the FlashVote tool and an overview of survey options.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Discuss survey options to gauge community broadband satisfaction and fiber options.

- Councilmember Smith inquired about the access to people who have signed up for the community survey and those who have participated in specific events.
- Councilmember Smith asks if the survey results are anonymous or if specific answers can be traced back to individuals. It was confirmed that survey results are anonymous.
- The committee stressed the importance of knowing the geographic location of respondents to understand internet satisfaction rates.
- The topic of a second survey to investigate specific areas of dissatisfaction, such as speed, price, or availability, was discussed.

2. Presentation by Farmington Mayor Joe LaRussa.

- Mayor LaRussa shared information about a joint broadband task force and the decision to opt for a public-private partnership with Sci-Fi Networks.
- The benefits of an open-access fiber network, which allows multiple providers to offer services, were discussed.
- Chairperson Thomas and Mayor LaRussa discuss the potential for using county-owned fiber networks for economic development and low-cost internet.

- The process of sending letters to DTE and the Michigan Public Service Commission to demand better performance and transparency was shared.
- Chairperson Thomas and Mayor LaRussa discussed the challenges of getting DTE to provide detailed data and the importance of building trust.
- Mayor LaRussa emphasized the need for continued engagement and accountability to ensure that DTE meets its commitments.
- The committee discussed the role of the council and community in holding DTE accountable and advocating for better service.
- A discussion was had explaining that state regulation preempts local ordinances, making it challenging to enforce utility line burial.
- The committee thanked Mayor LaRussa for his time and wealth of information.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- The group discusses the feasibility of creating a map of existing fiber infrastructure and the need for accurate data.
- The group discusses the need to schedule future meetings to continue their discussions and set the next steps.
- Future meeting dates: February 5th and February 19th were established.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Member Smith; Seconded by Member Heintz.
Approved 3:0 (6:25 PM)