

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – NOVI CIVIC CENTER – 45175 W. TEN MILE ROAD**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Casey, Fischer, Margolis, Mutch, Wrobel

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clay Pearson, City Manager  
Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager  
Thomas Schultz, City Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**CM-13-10-136 Moved by Casey, seconded by Margolis; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:**

**To approve the Agenda as presented.**

**Roll call vote on CM-13-10-136**                      **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Fischer, Margolis, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt**  
**Nays: None**

**PUBLIC HEARING - None**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair Presentation – Blair Bowman

Mr. Blair Bowman, representing the Michigan State Fair, LLC, gave a report and presented an \$8,000 donation. Brighthouse Networks returned this year to support the event and the Midway sponsor was Wal-Mart Corp. They had over 80,000 in attendance and over 150 volunteers that helped. It was a charitable effort with over a third of the ticket proceeds going to the Shriners' Organization for their work with Children's Hospital. \$10,000 went to 4-H Scholarship programs. \$10,000 went to Urban Youth Scholarship programs. \$4,000 went towards the service groups in the form of the Lions and Rotary Club. Mayor Gatt thanked everyone involved and felt Novi is a perfect venue for the State Fair.

**REPORTS:**

1. MANAGER/STAFF - None
2. ATTORNEY- None

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:**

Kenneth Gutman, Walled Lake Consolidated School District Superintendent, spoke about the upcoming bond proposal for the November 5, 2013 election. He also thanked City Manager Clay Pearson for his outreach to the Walled Lake Consolidated School District. He explained the bond proposal is requesting an additional tax. The school district began a three phase safety proposal with a security plan for door monitors, security features in the buildings, new video surveillance systems, and equitable technology systems. They also plan to replace about 70 buses. It is a 30 year bond. This is a .78 mill in the first year. All bond projects are listed by building on the School's website. He appreciated the collaboration with the City of Novi.

Maureen Schiffman, Novi resident, wanted to address the no left turn signs on 11 Mile Road by Wal-Mart. She didn't see the need for the No Left Turn Signs. Also, she wanted to address West Oaks Drive in Novi. She stated she had to slow down to 1-2 mph in order to avoid a large bump in the road and questioned the need for the speed bump.

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS (See items A-M)**

**CM-13-10-137            Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:**

**To approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of item G for Council Action.**

- A. Approve Minutes of:
  - 1. September 30, 2013 – Regular meeting
- B. Enter Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting of October 14, 2013 in the Council Annex for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, labor negotiations, and privileged correspondence from legal counsel.
- C. Approval to set a Public Hearing date on November 12, 2013 for the 2014 Community Development Block Grant Program.
- D. Approval of an Ordinance No. 13-44.11 to amend the City of Novi Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article III, Property Maintenance Code, to adopt the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code, and amendments to that Code as an Ordinance of the City. **Second Reading**
- E. Approval of an Ordinance No. 13-180 to amend the City of Novi Code of Ordinances, Chapter 7, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II, State Construction Code, to update and provide uniform references to the State Construction Code Act and State Construction Code, provide for future amendments of the State Construction Code, and to modify the adoption by

reference of the FEMA Flood Insurance Study and Rate Maps that designate flood prone hazard areas. **Second Reading**

- F. Approval of resolution recognizing Catholic Central Dads' Club as a non-profit organization for religious, charitable and educational purposes.
- G. Approval of agreement with Plante Moran PLC for professional services for a not to exceed amount of \$96,800 and not to last a period longer than 8 months effective October 15, 2013.
- H. Approval of the final payment to PAVEX Corporation for the Village Wood Lake Park Improvements project, in the amount of \$2,538.59.
- I. Approval to award an amendment to the engineering services agreement with Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment for additional design engineering services for the East Lake-Novı Road Neighborhood Connector in the amount of \$19,591.
- J. Approval to award a contract to Sidock Group, Inc. for the Long-Term Facility Needs Assessments for the Department of Public Services and the Public Safety Department in the amount of \$49,742, based on the results of a Qualification Based Selection (QBS) process.
- K. Approval to award Novi Enterprise Asset Management System (NEAMS) Phase III implementation & system upgrade services to Power Engineers in the amount of \$35,405.
- L. Approval of bid award to administer the 2013 Program year for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Minor Home Repair Program to Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency in the amount of \$15,530.
- M. Approval of Claims and Accounts – Warrant No. 901

**Roll call vote on CM-13-10-137**

**Yeas: Casey, Fischer, Margolis, Mutch, Wrobel,  
Gatt, Staudt**

**Nays: None**

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

- 1. Approval of resolution to authorize Budget Amendment 2014-1.

**CM-13-10-138**

**Moved by Staudt, seconded by Margolis; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:**

**To approve a resolution to authorize Budget Amendment 2014-1.**

Roll call vote on CM-13-10-138

Yeas: Fischer, Margolis, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt,  
Staudt, Casey  
Nays: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT – None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES - None

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

- G. Approval of agreement with Plante Moran PLC for professional services for a not to exceed amount of \$96,800 and not to last a period longer than 8 months effective October 15, 2013.

Member Fischer had some concerns regarding this expenditure. First, he wanted some background on the position and what took place with the vacancy. City Manager Pearson noted there have been a couple of vacancies and that cascaded up. Since July, they have had the Sr. Accountant position open and have had Plante Moran provide supplemental help for the City on a part-time basis. It has been difficult to fill the full-time position and wished to engage Plante Moran for a longer term which would allow Administration to focus on the Finance Director recruitment. Member Fischer clarified as to whether it was a manager position. Assistant City Manager Cardenas said part-time staff report to the Sr. Accountant. Member Fischer said the issue with the contract was that it was expensive and it is high level wages for what we are getting. The expenditure is \$100,000 over eight months for someone who works for four days a week. The math equates to about \$90 per hour or \$750 per day. It would be equivalent to someone working for a full year. City Manager Pearson said the starting wage range for the Sr. Accountant would be \$60,000 to \$70,000 without fringe benefits. Member Fischer felt it would be prudent to talk to Plante Moran about the expense. Another option would be to look elsewhere or he encourages the City to push forward in hiring someone for the position.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt shared many of the concerns of the previous speaker; however, this position needs to be filled for at least ninety days. He proposed the ninety days instead of eight months. City Manager Pearson felt it would be a sufficient amount of time.

**CM-13-10-139 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Wrobel; MOTION CARRIED: 6-1**

**To approve an agreement with Plante Moran PLC for professional services not to last for a period longer than 90 days effective October 15, 2013.**

Member Mutch said he often supports consultant opportunities because they provide cost savings but is concerned in this case. He feels the Mayor Pro Tem's suggestion is a reasonable compromise. He was concerned because a temporary person was serving in a supervisory role for an extended amount of time. He asked if Member Fischer felt his concerns were addressed based on the limitation of 90 days.

Member Fischer clarified that the Accountant had returned on a limited time basis and he asked why was she back. City Manager Pearson said it wasn't the same position. She was the staff Accountant to train the Accountant position recently filled and the Sr. Accountant position is what we are discussing. Member Fischer asked if Plante Moran was already on site and the expenditure in the budget. Assistant City Manager Cardenas said because of the recent vacancies, they were brought in for help. They have been serving on a smaller basis. Member Fischer asked if it was at this rate. Assistant City Manager Cardenas said it was at a smaller rate. Member Fischer asked why the rate was going up if it is the same person and asked if the rate would go down if we lowered it to ninety days. Assistant City Manager Cardenas said we were offered a lower rate because of the extended period of time. Member Fischer asked why this contract was necessary if we are looking at ninety days. Assistant City Manager Cardenas said this is outside of what was planned in the budget from unforeseen circumstances. It is larger than what was planned. Member Fischer said he was not comfortable with the amount in the contract and would not support it.

Member Margolis stated she would support it for ninety days and was concerned it was a short period of time. The amount is without benefits. Consultants and temporary employees are always more expensive. There is a premium paid for someone in the short term. Hiring two positions at the same time while getting the work done is what is necessary. Council should be ready if the right person is not found. She explained that she can relate to the same situation. She encouraged that Council understands, they may have to extend the contract, if the right person is not found.

**Roll call vote on CM-13-10-139**

**Yeas: Margolis, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt,  
Casey**

**Nays: Fischer**

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

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Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

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Maryanne Cornelius, City Clerk

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Transcribed by Jane Keller

Date approved: October 28, 2013