

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021 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 Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch

Mayor Gatt, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Casey, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Crawford, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Fischer, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Maday, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Mutch, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Member Maday added to Mayor and Council Issues "Mental Health Awareness".

CM 21-05-068 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 21-05-068 **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt**
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. FY 2021-22 Budget and 2021 Millage Rates

Opened at 7:03 p.m. and closed at 7:04 p.m. with no public input.

PRESENTATIONS: None

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:

City Manager Auger said everyone has been waiting for the federal rules on the federal funding that is going to work its way down. He said he took a quick review but did not even get through the whole document. He said they downloaded it about four o'clock

with three one-year renewal options for an estimated annual amount of \$175,000.

Roll call vote on CM 21-05-070

Yeas: Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Casey

Nays: None

2. Approval of Resolution for 2021 Millage Rates.

City Manager Auger said this is the process we must take every year to set the millage rates before we set the budget. He stated we are still one of the lowest taxing entities in Oakland County, and the sixth lowest in the state of Michigan. He said the millage rate proposed is 10.5376.

CM 21-05-071

Moved by Casey, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Resolution for 2021 Millage Rates.

Roll call vote on CM 21-05-071

Yeas: Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Casey, Crawford

Nays: None

3. Approval of Resolution for Fiscal-Year 2021-2022 Budget and acknowledging the Multi-Year Budget, Including Projections of Future Fiscal-Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

City Manager Auger believed all the areas that City Council discussed are included in this budget, including the Holiday Market brought up by Member Maday. He said when he was meeting with two departments this week to talk about some different ideas on that. He said they covered the out years for the pilot sidewalk program for an additional \$200,000 a year as Member Fischer recommended. He said we continue to work with the schools for crossing zones, and that should all be covered as well in the budget. He said all the department directors were there and were willing to answer any questions that you may have any. He said the budget is balanced, as normal. Mayor Gatt thanked City Manager Auger and City staff. He thanked everyone on behalf of the 60,000 residents and hundreds of thousands of visitors. He thanked staff and everybody concerned for putting together this fiscally responsible budget that allows us to have a millage rate the sixth lowest in the state of Michigan, it did not just happen by chance. It takes the work by a lot of people. He thanked his colleagues for all their work.

Member Fischer agreed with everything that Mayor Gatt said. His only comment was that he wanted to make a signal to Mr. Auger and then staff going forward. He said the budget had a lot of key priorities with Public Safety, Parks and Rec and roads. He said we have \$8 million or so in roads, but something Member Casey said during her comments really struck him and he has struggled with it over the past couple of weeks. Member Fischer said Member Casey was talking about the Roads Committee and of all

the work that they have done, and that we still need to address what is called out to be about a million and a half per year funding gap. He said his signal to Mr. Auger and staff is that as we continue to see some of these conservative estimates hopefully come in better, whether it be property tax revenue, whether it be statutory state share revenue, he will be looking for those budget amendments to direct that money towards the roads. He thought that there is an opportunity in the budget to diminish that, and not close the whole gap. He thought there was an opportunity and with some creative thinking and some hard work by staff and City Council, we could put a little more money towards the neighborhood roads or other road projects, as necessary. He stated that was his only comment, and that he wanted to send a signal, what he will be looking for as this budget progresses through the year, he thought that was a fair signal to send at this point. With that he moved for approval.

CM 21-05-072 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Resolution for Fiscal-Year 2021-2022 Budget and acknowledging the Multi-Year Budget, Including Projections of Future Fiscal-Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

Roll call vote on CM 21-05-072

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

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:

Member Maday added "Mental Health Awareness" to Mayor and Council Issues. She said that May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, so she thought it was appropriate to bring this up today. She stated for many years she has been involved with the Novi Community School District's Mental Health Alliance group. She stated this group consists of parents, staff, and community members with its purpose to help raise awareness and begin to solve the challenge that our country is facing with kids and mental health issues. She said when she was fortunate enough to be appointed to this position on Council, her first thoughts were, how can I bring more awareness and help to all the citizens of Novi, our staff was very good to her and gave her a quick education of her role as local elected official. She said when we talk about mental illness, we often think of serious mental illness as SMI's which includes schizophrenia and bipolar disorder or severe depression and conditions that involve psychosis. However, most people diagnosed with mental health issues do not have SMI. She stated mental illness refers to a wide range of mental health conditions, disorders that affect mood, thinking and behavior, such as mild or moderate depression, anxiety disorders, and post-traumatic

stress disorder. She believed that these mood disorders are what we can help make an impact on at a municipal level. She realized that Oakland County has the role and responsibility for mental health in our form of government. She said when Mayor Gatt brought his desire to help our community after the difficult last 12 months that they have endured, she was thrilled. She said this decision to put forth money and resources to help that segment of our population is another way to make a difference in the mental health of our Novi citizens. She thought our city already does a great job to help combat issues of mental health, it is not very demanding or expensive. She said some of our projects that Novi has done and continues to do to physically address ways to affect our mental health across the community are things such as making it a priority to purchase more green space. She said a great example of this is the creation of the new City park, Northwest Park. The ITC trail is a tremendous resource for citizens to help with connectivity, exercise, and social interactions. She said the installation of the inclusive design playground equipment and Ella Mae Power Park, which allow special needs children to play and integrate with all children and our older adults, our City's desire to connect all our sidewalks to the City with recommendations from our Walkable Novi Committee, our City puts tremendous and significant resources to accomplish this objective as part of the SOS program, Jeff Muck is working on an outdoor adult fitness park project. This will not just help our seniors, but it will help all our citizens, as well as begin to make awareness as to the importance of mental health in our community. She said she wanted to ensure we focus on the gap of people that may need more of these opportunities and interactions. She stated gap covers the time between the time the children leave our Novi Community School District, and age 55, where the SOS program begins. Investing in items and projects and improve the mental health is essential if you want to have a vibrant, sustainable community. She said building a population that has coping skills and strong relationships means you have a happier healthier citizenry. She thought the more we make awareness to mental health as part of our everyday conversation, the less negative stigma is associated with mental health and the more people will reach out to get help. She said anything we can do as leaders of our city, to help our citizens make awareness to it, she would be thrilled if we could investigate that.

Mayor Gatt thanked Member Maday. He thought it was a perfect example of why one of the reasons why you were chosen to be on Council because long before you ever dreamed of being on City Council, you are doing this. He said for a long time now, Novi is made up of a bunch of residents that really care really act and then they just do not talk the talk, they walk the walk. He thanked her and we will as a Council and as a City will keep this in mind. He said it affects our everyday, it affects our Police Department every day, and it is something that when he first started with this city, 45 years ago, there were mental hospitals, there were lots of different outlets for people who had problems to get help, and they all went away. He said now it is left to the cities, the villages, to townships, to schools, people like us, people like Julie Maday to continue to work. He thanked Member Maday for her efforts. He said if there is anything that Council can do, please do not hesitate to bring it forward and continue doing such a great job. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

Dawn Spaulding, Deputy City Clerk

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: May 24, 2021