

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – NOVI CIVIC CENTER – 45175 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 (absent, excused), Council Members Burke, Casey, Markham, Mutch (absent, excused), Wrobel (absent, excused)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 16-12-156 Moved by Burke, seconded by Markham; UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED:

To approve the Agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 16-12-156 **Yeas: Burke, Casey, Markham, Gatt**
Nays: None
Absent: Staudt, Mutch, Wrobel

PUBLIC HEARING

1. 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program

Opened at 7:01 p.m. and closed at 7:02 p.m. with no public input.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition of the Novi High School Cross Country Academic State Champions

Athletic Director Brian Gordon thanked City Council for having them here tonight. He explained that this was the third consecutive year that they earned the right to be academic state champions. His team is considered the finest and most competitive. They ended up being ranked number 4th for their ability to run as well as academic recognition. They are driven, hardworking and some of the best, most respectful student athletes that any athletic director could want. He introduced Coach Bob Smith. Mr. Smith thanked City Council for having them. He explained that the first Saturday in November, the best, and fastest, 27 teams are invited to the State Championship at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan. They were invited to race, but there is also a competition for the overall GPA. This year their team had a perfect 4.0 GPA average. He invited Assistant Coach Samantha Hudson, who has been with them for several years, to help hand out the certificates.

2. Recognition of the Novi High School Women's Varsity Volleyball Team 2016 State Champions

Athletic Director Brian Gordon was also there to recognize the back to back State Championship Volleyball Team. The team is made up of 17 girls who are also successful in the classroom as well as other sports, churches, clubs, etc. He said that says a lot about them as individuals, but also as a team. He said they truly love each other and that makes a great team. They have accepted their roles as individuals on the team, but everybody supports each other in every possible way. They are truly a team and that's why they are here to celebrate. Coach Jen Cottrill thanked everyone for being there, it was quite an honor. In the last two years, they have only lost three matches and won 109 matches. She wanted to recognize Senior, Allie Cummings, who was Miss Volleyball runner up in the state, only losing by one vote. They did get academic recognition with an overall 3.83 GPA. Three of their players were named to first team All-State. She talked about what it takes to achieve what they have. She thanked Mr. Gordon and the Novi High School staff for their support and providing all the resources they need.

Mr. Gordon also wanted to add that Max Preps is a national organization that ranks teams and they were ranked second in the country, which is an unbelievable accomplishment.

Principal Nicole Carter said everyone is extremely proud of the students. They epitomize what it means to be a Novi Wildcat by their actions and words. She is so excited and proud for them to be recognized. She appreciates the City of Novi support and recognition.

INTERVIEWS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Mark Evenson – Board of Review; Planning Commission

Mr. Evenson said he has been a Novi resident for 3 years and is looking to get more involved. He said his volunteerism runs deep. He has spent 12 years at Community Financial in Plymouth running their main office. He has been volunteering since day one in the organization and has been involved with the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Plymouth Canton Schools Foundation. He is looking to transition his volunteering to Novi. He came from West Bloomfield where he was not involved in the community. He is looking forward to being involved.

Member Markham said she was especially interested in his financial background and his foundation work in Plymouth. She was wondering if he saw himself doing similar work here. She felt like they need people with more financial background and wanted to know if he would be open to other positions. He said yes, he would go wherever they may see fit. He is looking to be more involved in Novi, he calls Novi home.

Member Casey thanked him for coming out. She said part of the challenge of being on a board is saying no to someone and asked if he could give an example of a time where he had to tell someone no? He said yes, he leads a team of 16 individuals and manages roughly \$240 million worth of assets. He said he is required to hold people accountable for their actions so, on a professional level, he does it daily.

Member Burke thanked him for volunteering. He sounded like he would be a tremendous asset wherever they find space and the right fit. He did not have any questions.

Mayor Gatt thanked him. He said Novi is a great city because of volunteers. He had no questions and wished him luck.

2. John Avdoulos – Planning Commission

Mr. Avdoulos said he has been a resident for 25 years in August. He has served on the Planning Commission from 2002-2008 and stepped down to help his church and then became president of their Council. He will have more time to be involved again. He thought the Planning Commission would be a good start to get involved again.

Member Casey wondered if he could give an example of when he had to say no when he was on the Planning Commission before and how he handled it? He said there were projects in the past that came before the Planning Commission, where you have to decide if the decision that you make is based on someone's emotional view of a project or if that project is following the Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan. Unfortunately you have to make rulings of no. He also has to do that in his line of work as an architect. If it's not right or doesn't follow code, it's based on the right reason and not personal.

Member Burke thanked Mr. Avdoulos for coming forward again. They served together at one time on the Planning Commission. He said he was familiar with his thoroughness and he was insightful and prepared. He didn't have questions, but did mention that he looked forward to having him back.

Member Markham said she also served with him on the Planning Commission. She found him to be a really good member because he has insight that others don't have. He has creativity in how he looked at a project. She learned a lot from him. She asked if there was something he specifically remembered that he was proud of or left undone. He said he really enjoyed working on the Master Plan. He said he thought the City has done a great job working towards that. As the Mayor said, this City has phenomenal volunteers. During his time on the Planning Commission, there were great people involved who were passionate. There was good balance. He thinks they are staying the course of the Master Plan and always updating. It's fantastic to see this many people volunteering. He said he would like to be a part of it.

Mayor Gatt did not have any questions. He thanked Mr. Avdoulos for coming out again. He has given a lot of his time and willing to give more.

3. Mark Garrison – Planning Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals; HCD

Mark Garrison said he has lived in Novi for 3 years. He was raised in Livonia and when he got married, he made Novi his home. Growing up in Livonia, his family was involved in the community so he has grown up doing that. He joined the Michigan Junior Chamber, which was a young professional's organization that is all about community service. He said he tried to start a chapter in Novi a few years ago. They are all about active citizens trying to get younger people involved. He mentioned he just went through the Novi Ambassador's Program, and he loved it. He said that at the end of the program he heard that we had openings in the Boards and Commissions. He mentioned he has a background in Marketing and Communications. He also worked in Congress and CDBG's as well.

Member Burke thanked Mr. Garrison for stepping forward. He said they met at the Novi Ambassadors Graduation. Member Burke mentioned Mr. Garrison listed 3 Boards and Commissions that he would be interested in on his application and he wondered why he picked only 3 of them, he thought there may be other openings. Mr. Garrison said there were some concerns regarding his schedule, he would be open to others, but wants to make sure he can commit.

Member Markham had the same question as Member Burke. She thought he had a very interesting background and was sure that he could fit somewhere in the City. She said she hoped that he would be open to other openings as well.

Member Casey wondered if he had any insight for the City or ideas to get younger people involved. Garrison said yes, they could start a Michigan Junior Chamber Chapter. They only need 20 people within the age of 20 to 40 years old.

Mayor Gatt did not have any questions. He thanked him for becoming involved and going to the Ambassador Academy. He was sure they could find something for him.

4. Brandon Stewart – Planning Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals; Board of Review

Brandon Stewart said he has lived in Novi for 11 years and has two daughters. He mentioned he has a background in Operations Management/Finance. He is familiar with site plans, easements, setbacks, ordinances, in his day job. He said he works at Ace Hardware opening stores and helping people every day. He also is a Novi Ambassador Academy Graduate of this year. He also serves on CERT. He was able to be involved with Light up the Night and Addicted to Movies, Not Drugs. He said he is ending his second term this coming year on HCD Committee, which he has been on for 5 years. He would like a committee that is more active.

Member Markham thanked Mr. Stewart for coming forward. He is so busy yet he wants to do more. With your insight, what do you think the City could do to make it better? Mr. Stewart said Novi was great, it is the people in Novi that make it great. There isn't one thing/one park/one school that makes Novi great. He noted that the actual downtown development, Main Street, would give us an area that's been in the works for a long time another draw for people.

Member Casey said they had met at Addicted to Movies, Not Drugs and thanked him for stepping forward tonight. She said looking at the types of Commissions he is looking at, he would have to say no to people at some point. She wanted an example of how he has said no and how he handled it? Mr. Stewart said that it happens all the time at work. He said that is something that he deals with, but he tries to be helpful. Even if he has to say no, he still tries to solve the problem or help. He said he would give advice and hope they take it.

Member Burke thanked Mr. Stewart for continuing to be involved in the City. Currently he sits on HCD Committee; his term is up in about a year. He wondered which one was his preference. Mr. Stewart responded with the ZBA or Board of Review as his preference.

Mayor Gatt said Mr. Stewart was a busy man, a great volunteer, and ambassador. He did not have any questions. On behalf of everyone on Council, he thanked him very much.

5. Chester Roaden – HCD; Planning Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals

Chester Roaden said he came to Novi in March 1980. He graduated from Purdue in Electrical Engineering and also spent 8 years in the Air Force.

Member Casey wondered why he would be looking for something else to do if he is retired. She asked him what was happening in his life at this time that he would be interested in stepping forward in serving. Mr. Roaden said he was always interested in serving. He is the treasurer of a local charity organization and active with the boy scouts. He wants to give back to Novi. Novi has given him so much. He mentioned he listed his 3 choices in order of preference, and he would be happy to help the City.

Member Burke thanked Mr. Roaden. He listed his order of priority which was HCD, then Planning Commission and then ZBA, which meant he did some research. He wondered what he liked about the HCD Committee that made it his first choice. Mr. Roaden said that it requires responsibility and a lot of money, so he thought he could help there.

Member Markham thanked him for coming forward. She said understood him being retired and still wanting to do some important work. She, like Member Burke, wanted to know what appealed to him about the HCD Committee position. She mentioned they have been having a hard time getting a quorum for that committee. She was happy that it was one that he was willing to commit to.

Mayor Gatt thanked Mr. Roaden for his service to our country and volunteering to help in Novi.

6. Thomas Nafso – Zoning Board of Appeals; Planning Commission

Thomas Nafso has been an attorney for 7 years, working with government. His first 3 years he worked as prosecuting attorney. He has been with the State Attorney General's office for almost 4 years. He said he has been living in Novi for 3 years now and feels this is his permanent home. He has 2 children and a third child on the way. He took a step back and thought how he could help the community. He said he looked at openings available and thought the ZBA and Planning Commission were areas he could lend the most assistance.

Member Burke thanked Mr. Nafso for stepping forward. Member Burked asked what intrigued him most about ZBA. Mr. Nafso replied saying he has some familiarity with interpreting ordinances, laws, and promulgated rules. Being able to assess the ordinance, be able to look at different circumstances, and come up with decisions is consistent with his experiences.

Member Markham thanked Mr. Nafso and said he had very interesting resume. She said she is really happy to see a younger individual step forward and commit to the growth of the City. She said she didn't have a question for him. She thanked him for coming out, and said she hoped they could find a place for him.

Member Casey thanked Mr. Nafso for stepping forward. She wondered if he could give ideas on how we can encourage younger residents to step forward and get involved. He said he has heard a little bit about the Novi Ambassador Program which sounds like a great way. He also mentioned the survey that went out to the residents to ask how they feel about certain things. He said there may be a way to identify younger families/ individuals and reach out to them directly. He also suggested a younger focus group within the City. He mentioned the younger residents like to sit at local coffee shops and congregate. He said he can see the City is moving in the right direction in regards to catering to the younger families.

Mayor Gatt said he was very astute, Novi is moving in the right direction. Novi is in good hands and will be with people like him involved.

7. Kelly Breen – Planning Commission; Board of Review; HCD; Election Commission

Kelly Breen thanked everyone for this opportunity. She said she has been in Novi since 2006. She said she grew up in Northville. She said they live closer to the Walled Lake area and have no intentions of leaving. Ms. Breen said she attended Michigan State with an interest in social policy. She then went on to Wayne State Law School and is practicing in private practice. She mainly defends large employers, insurance agencies and more recently individuals. Her background from a legal standpoint is varied. She

said she likes law, but she would like to do more and serve. She has a vested interest in Novi. In her application she said she would be willing to go wherever there is a good fit, but maybe not as good of a fit with the Election Commission. She saw the citizen survey and thought we need citizen outreach. Maybe focus on ways to reach the younger people, such as text messages in addition to Nixel. She mentioned she had held leadership positions. She has had a recent job change and has more flexibility to assist. She started noticing what was going on in Novi with Pavilion Park and decided to recognize more of what was going on in the City. She said she hopes they can find something to suit her.

Member Markham thanked Ms. Breen for coming forward. She was happy to see someone from the north side of town come forward and want to serve. She said sometimes the City seems like it is divided. Member Markham agreed with Ms. Breen that our communication methods could be improved.

Member Casey said she did not have any questions; she said Ms. Breen had already answered her question regarding getting the younger residents involved.

Member Burke thanked Ms. Breen for wanting to get involved. He said he appreciated that she was willing to go anywhere needed.

Mayor Gatt thanked her for coming out and willingness to volunteer her time.

8. Lisa Hill – Planning Commission

Lisa Hill said she was so inspired by everyone who spoke about volunteering and participating. She doesn't have a history of volunteerism. She said she is a longtime Novi resident, basically her whole entire adult life. Her children went through Novi schools. She mentioned she has been a longtime observer of the City and watched what has been going on and felt it was time to participate. She said she thought about being involved over the years and a few weeks ago she attended the Planning Commission meeting. She said she attended college after her children were born and received a degree in Retail Design. She worked with a company that did retail planning design for stores, restaurants, and mall developments. She believed this type of background would be helpful on the Planning Commission. She has now branched out and is currently a Brand Strategist. She said a Brand Strategist is all about the experience of "whatever" brand.

Member Casey thanked Ms. Hill for stepping forward. She also thanked her for explaining how she got here. Member Casey wondered what her opinion was on Novi's brand. Ms. Hill said it is all about how Novi wants to be known. She said Novi is known for so many things, but often when you are jack of all trades, you are master of none. She said she would pose the question back to the City. She asked how does Novi want to be known. First of all Novi is known for its schools, sports, but not as much for the broader part of the community.

Member Burke appreciated her willingness to come forward. He wondered if she would be interested in something else, if not the Planning Commission. She said she did look at the Beautification Committee, but the meetings didn't work with her schedule.

Member Markham thanked Ms. Hill for coming out. She wondered, in a nutshell, what her thoughts were about Novi's traffic. Ms. Hill said she attended a meeting regarding Beck Road/10 Mile corridor. She said 25 years ago when they moved here her husband was able to take Beck Road to work in Canton which was a straight shot. He could be there in 20 minutes. Now he has had to find other ways because of the busy traffic. She mentioned the residents are concerned about the roads and the intimacy of the community and neighborhoods. She also mentioned that moving around a city easily is an important consideration in the planning of the city.

Mayor Gatt thanked Ms. Hill for coming out and said we will try to find a spot for her to serve.

REPORTS:

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

AUDIENCE COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 16-12-157 Moved by Burke, seconded by Markham; UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED:

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
 1. November 28, 2016 – Regular meeting
- B. Enter Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting of December 5, 2016 in the Council Annex for the purpose of discussing settlement of litigation and privileged correspondence from legal counsel.
- C. Approval of the Novi Fire Department Automatic Mutual Aid Agreements between the City of Novi, the City of Northville, and Northville Township.
- D. Approval of bid award to administer the 2016 Program Year for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Minor Home Repair Program to Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA) in the amount of \$14,825.

- E. Approve the Program Year 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application in the approximate amount of \$98,481 and authorize the Mayor to sign the Application and Sub-recipient Agreement.
- F. Acceptance of a boardwalk on the west side of Beck Road within the Right-of-Way for public use and maintenance from Interphase Land Development for the Casa Loma project located on the West side of Beck Road (south of Bellagio) between Eight Mile and Nine Mile Roads.
- G. Approval of the First Amendment to the Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement with HCP Land, LLC and ET Novi Seating, LLC for the Magna Seating of America project located at 30020 Cabot Drive on the east side of Cabot Drive, north of Thirteen Mile Road (parcel 22-01-400-037).
- H. Acceptance of the Valencia Estates subdivision street, Valencia Circle, and adoption of Act 51 New Street Resolution accepting it as public, adding 0.44 miles of roadway to the City's street system.
- I. Approval of Traffic Control Orders 16-33 through 16-49 for Valencia Circle located within Valencia Estates.
- J. Approval of Claims and Accounts – Warrant No. 977

Roll call vote on CM 16-12-157

Yeas: Casey, Markham, Gatt, Burke
Nays: None
Absent: Staudt, Mutch, Wrobel

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION - None

AUDIENCE COMMENT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES - None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: December 19, 2016