

**WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
FIRE STATION #4 – 49375 TEN MILE ROAD**

Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Breen (late, excused), Casey, Mutch, Poupard, (late, excused) Verma

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 19-07-133 Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 19-07-133 **Yeas: Gatt, Staudt, Casey, Mutch, Verma,**
Nays: None
Late: Breen, Poupard

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Karl Migrin 49450 W. 9 Mile Road, Novi said that he thought that we needed the Taft Road bridge. He thought we should call it the Brooksey Bridge after L. Brooks Patterson. It should be an exit only bridge at Taft Road off of I-96. He believed it would help carry traffic to service the Suburban Collection Showplace. He felt it would help the traffic congestion along Novi Road and Beck Road. He said Beck Road also needs improvement. Instead of widening Beck, if we do a cost sharing option with Wayne County to pave Napier between 7 Mile and 8 Mile that would take a load off of Beck Road so that we might not need to widen Beck Road. He said even though it is dirt Napier between 7 Mile and 8 Mile gets a lot of traffic. That would help traffic flow. He stated the Department of Public Works did an excellent job with the budget that we have. He said Garfield is an excellent road. If a developer wants to make improvements to Garfield Road, let them at their own expense because it benefits his tenants. Thank you for all that you do.

Mike Duchesneau 1191 South Lake Drive, Novi thanked Council for this meeting. He said at the Budget Session every Council member expressed concern about the traffic. He thanked the City for expediting of the Ring Road. That will help that intersection. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) tends to push out the road expansion into the last years which mean they are probably not funded or planned up front. He stated that the items in CIP including Taft Road extension, Beck Road widening those are all good topics. He felt that one of the items that should be included on the list is the 10 Mile and 12 Mile railroad track crossings. He has seen during rush hour at 12 Mile Road back up in both directions from West Park Road to Cabaret. He said we should make sure 12 Mile and 10 Mile get widened that there are bridges built over them. He believed it was a

safety issue, not just traffic and convenience. Thank you for having this session. He applauded anything the City could do in working with the County and the State.

Colleen Crossey, 22279 Brockshire St., Novi said the roads are getting dangerous. Her daughter is taking drivers ed and can be scary to learn how to drive with this traffic.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

1. Road Presentation

DPW Director Herczeg highlighted the Power Point Road Presentation. He presented a map of road construction since the passage of the Municipal Street Millage. Per this year's City Council goals and objectives, City Manager Auger has mentioned projects are being completed to improve traffic flow in major corridors throughout the City. Before the municipal street millage, on average the City was spending \$3.2 million per year on road fixes; due to additional funding from the voter approved millage, since 2014 we have been able to spend on average \$6.2 million per year on the city road network. In 2016, City Council had the foresight to approve an additional \$1 million annually for a multi-year concrete panel replacement program. Starting in 2017, the City is now spending on average \$7.2 million per year on road construction and maintenance.

As you can see we have made significant progress on road improvements since 2014. In the Fall of 2019, staff will have a five-year Asset Management Plan to present to City Council, which will assist in prioritizing the next steps in the City's road network

Currently, under construction are the northwest and southwest Ring Roads, which addresses traffic congestion at the Grand River Avenue and Novi Road intersection. These road segments have been a priority of City Council's for several years. Recently, staff brought forward an additional Ring Road project, which connects the northeast Ring Road, Crescent Boulevard to Lee BeGole Drive. This project provides traffic mitigation for Novi Road, with an additional potential connection to Grand River Avenue. This project became a priority as Lee BeGole Drive has deteriorated to a PASER 2 and the culvert across Bishop Creek is failing. He stated that this will provide local traffic relief and capture economies of scale; staff recommends completing the proposed connection.

In early 2019, staff prioritized the road projects in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) by considering the discussions around the prospective mega-projects on Beck Road and Taft Road. The recently submitted Beck Road Scoping Study provided a realistic plan to widen Beck Road to a four-lane boulevard from 8 Mile Road to Grand River Avenue. There has also been interest in connecting Taft Road over I-96 and including a pedestrian pathway. Both projects would improve traffic flow considerably. The estimated project costs of \$30 million for Beck and \$14 million for Taft would likely required a voter-approved bond to fund construction. City Manager Auger is currently

working with the cities of Wixom and Northville to pursue Federal Grant Funding for Beck Road.

Since City Council has identified 12 Mile Road as a priority, staff wanted to provide an update on Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) widening of 12 Mile Road from Cabaret to Beck Road. Currently, there are two design alternatives being considered: a four-lane boulevard and five-lane section. At the spring meeting with staff and the Road Commission of Oakland County, the following schedule was presented: Hold a public meeting in fall of 2019 to solidify the best design option; then initiate an Environmental Assessment on the preferred option. The findings and report from Environmental Assessment are expected to be delivered in 2020 or 2021. Right now, there is no funding identified in Road Commission of Oakland County's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the right-of-way acquisition and design costs are estimated at \$5 million to \$6 million. He explained that staff will make a formal request to the Road Commission of Oakland County this fall to prioritize funding in their Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for this project later this year.

Member Poupard arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Mayor Gatt asked Mr. Herczeg what it will cost to do 12 Mile Road. Mr. Herczeg replied it was between \$25 million and \$30 million. That was from Beck Road to Cabaret.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt stated the \$5 million to \$6 million in right-of-way costs, he wondered if there is an economic development incentive for the developers to provide us that right-of-way because that property that they have is vastly undervalued without the right-a-way and that road. Why would we have to pay for all of it. City Manager Auger said usually when we have a project come through we request and they have been giving us the right-of-way to increase the road. Due to some federal laws we do have to offer to purchase the right-of-way especially when we are using federal funds and we cannot just ask for a donation although during the project in the process we often do gain that. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked how accurate the \$5 million to \$6 million is, most of that road along there is development property that these folks are going to vastly benefit from 12 Mile Road being in there. Without that the property is pretty much unsellable. He said it was a rhetorical question; the \$5 million to \$6 million estimate is probably on the high end of it. Mr. Auger said that people do strange things when their properties are valuable. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said they have to actually think outside the box because frankly the amount of money we are going to be talking about tonight is so far off the charts than anybody has ever talked about here that we need to look at some different options. City Attorney Schultz commented that the last section of 12 Mile Road that the City widened just east of there, he didn't think there were any more than a handful of donations of the property. People wanted their compensation.

Mayor Gatt asked how much the Crescent Boulevard project was estimated to cost. Mr. Herczeg said Phase 1 and Phase 2 road funds only \$2.8 million. Phase 3 was \$1.5 million, and there is an additional \$1 million dollars in drainage work on Phase 1 and

Phase 2. Mayor Gatt estimated about \$5.5 million dollars for Crescent Boulevard. He said about \$87 million would take care of all the projects he presented.

Member Verma asked about the road funds, does that include the design and the total road project? Mr. Herczeg replied yes.

Member Casey thanked him for pulling the presentation together. She said that we went through the Thoroughfare Master Plan from 2016 and compared what was in that plan. It looks like we covered the major items on the list of projects. What she didn't see was any of the intersection work that we talked about through the Novi Road Corridor Study. Novi Road and Grand River Avenue, Novi Road and 10 Mile, Grand River Avenue at Meadowbrook Road. She wondered where we stand in doing some investigation on what it would take to make some of those changes at intersections. She said they talked about dual turn lanes and wanted to know where we were in that process. Mr. Herczeg explained that the Corridor Study made some recommendations for improvements there, they are scoped and can be explored, but it is a jurisdictional thing. We have to make a decision, make a goal to pursue, and then we can do that.

2. Community Center Presentation

City Manager Auger explained how we fund these things. A bond issue on the November ballot would have to be to the County Clerk's office by August 13th. He said the next City Council meeting is on July 22nd. He stated that we would have to work with bond counsel and we could possibly pass something by August 12th. He said it is not impossible, but it would be a real rush. He stated that the timeline would be really quick if you want it on this November. He gave some examples of communities that just went through this process or recently built a community center. He noted that there is a wide variance in what people see as a community center with different amenities. He stated that in Sterling Heights, their community center is less than 100,000 square feet and it cost \$22 million to build. It has a couple gyms, and a large area for gathering of 400 people. It also has walking track upstairs and empty rooms for future recreation programs. He said the estimated operational cost with part-time staff only for \$81,000 a year, and a half a million dollars on maintenance and utilities. He mentioned when they visited Westerville, Ohio they said their community center cost \$3.5 million a year to operate the facility. He said that Westerville funds their operation off of sales tax mostly. We go off our real estate tax and that would be about 1 mill about \$3.5 million for operation of a full time center. Sterling Heights started this project before 2016, the architect in 2016, March of 2018 to go out to bids, started construction June 2018 and they just opened December of 2018.

Mr. Auger said Grand Rapids building was older and had a lot of interesting amenities. People are familiar with YMCA so they pulled this one up from Grand Rapids. It was built in 2005, but they took the construction costs up to today's date. It is 160,000 square feet, cost \$47 million dollars. He said the activities are closer to a private sector with all the weight machines. They have an upstairs walking track and different types of pools. He mentioned Farmington Hills who took a different approached and they

actually purchased Harrison High School for \$500,000. They are estimating \$20 million to refurbish 245,000 square feet. They are planning a lot of recreation programmable areas. They will have a lazy river and some things. They have three gymnasiums. The second floor will be for open programming space. They also will provide childcare services. There are some things that we would need to discuss. He said we would have to decide how many of these activities are we going to take on. We could go from very basic to completing with private sector. Everyone is familiar with Lifetime fitness so we used their numbers for a building range between \$40 million and \$55 million; the average size is 116,000 square feet. They base it off 7,500 to 11,000 members. If you take a look at the inside of those facilities they have multiple pools, daycare, gyms and weight rooms. He said to close out, they looked at about 10 to 12 facilities, broke it down per cost per square feet. He said it broke down to about \$336.00 per square foot that is just a general number. The cost going forward, the \$40 million would be the price of the building, and then you need the money to operate it. Then in 20 years you will be looking at updating it to keep it fresh like the citizens want it.

Member Breen arrived at 6:27 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he asked that question in Westerville, which he replied that 75 percent of the costs are through user fees, and 25 percent are tax. It is not 100 percent. They get 75 percent to run that building. It isn't \$3.5 million of tax dollars. Mr. Auger said their goal is 75 percent, they are not quite there at 75 percent, but for that cost recovery they are charging user fees. He said he used the millage as an example because it was close to what 1 mill brings in.

Member Mutch mentioned the timeline to get something on the ballot, he didn't think they have done enough work to have that conversation in terms of things like space analysis, needs analysis and community interest. He asked where City administration feel they are at in terms of having a conversation about community recreation center. Mr. Auger said it is in the very beginning. He said staff pulled this information together that was just shared. This creates more questions than answers as far as amenities, and what Council would like to see. He mentioned the daycare option; maybe we want to stay away from that. How many pools, and what type of pool. Everything would have to be worked through. He said they need to hear what Council wants to explore. Member Mutch understood it as administration was looking for direction from City Council proceeding down this path to explore the recreation center beyond what they have already expressed in their council goals. Mr. Auger said that was correct. He stated that we have not discussed location. That could make a difference in some people's minds of where it will be located and how it will fit in the community, will it be centrally located, north, or south.

Mayor Gatt said that this was a special meeting on very limited topics. He pointed out this was not a goal session. He said they were there to talk about two things, roads and community center, and how to pay for them if we decide to move forward. He thought it was much too late to hit the November ballot. He thought it would be grossly rushed. We wouldn't be able to fully vet these projects. We have to slow down the process.

When we come back to voters, if they decide to do that, we will have all the answers to all of their questions. He explained that they will conduct this special meeting like they do for the goal setting session. First, we heard from administration, next each Council member will have opportunity to speak about those two topics. There will be no motions in first round. Then we will open it up for discussion and/or motions. He hoped that at the end is that someone will make a motion to form a committee to better and fully study these two issues, the who, what, where, why, when, how much questions and get the answers. The committee should consist of the mayor, and two council members. He thought that the City administration should appoint people who are pertinent to the discussion. Perhaps someone from the public should be involved. He said the Committee would report back to Council with recommendation. He said if we would decide to go further with a bonding issue on the ballot he hoped by next spring, assuming that's what is decided by the majority of Council. He knew that there was an election in November of this year and this dynamic could change. He said for now he believed this is the way we should go.

Member Casey said she asked to have this conversation. She appreciated all of her colleagues and the City staff for making this happen. She believed the first priority is the major road improvements and getting them done. She agreed November is too soon. She didn't want to be rushed. She thought we should set the target for the spring ballot. We can't wait until a year from now to have these conversations. She said DPW Director Herczeg mentioned Crescent Boulevard and that is lower on her list. She said Beck Road, Taft Road, 12 Mile and 10 Mile; they need to be top priority to figure out how we are going to get them done. We need to make sure we are doing due diligence on intersections recommended in Novi Road Corridor Study and to incorporate all of that into the next round of analysis. She believed Beck Road and Taft Road should be done. Everyone was impressed by the Westerville community center. It was amazing. She would support a study committee like the Mayor suggested. She said the City has done well to create facilities that become self-sustaining and have their own fund balance to manage the facility. Any recommendation should have that lens on it to recoup cost. She said we do not want to be counting on a mill, or additional tax revenue to fund a community center. She wouldn't be in favor of not recouping the cost through user fees.

Member Verma agreed that Beck Road, Ring Road, Taft Road should be taken care of. He complimented administration. When he comes down 10 Mile and Haggerty Road the roads are done. There are no potholes, it is a smooth drive. So far what was discussed in past, that's why roads were constructed. In the future we should continue working on those other roads as discussed. He like the idea of a Committee for the community center and including someone from the public on it also. He wanted to know where the location would be for a community center. He thought it should be close to the Civic Center, but he wanted to know if anyone has an idea.

Member Breen apologized for her delay. Traffic is bad. We are working with Oakland County to finish the 12 Mile intersection. She wanted to see the City continue to be very aggressive with partners in other jurisdictions. We have local, state, and county roads.

We have trouble maintaining what we already have. She felt that we should continue to update heavily traveled roads. They are using innovative procedures to build more sustainable roads in other countries. She hoped staff will look at innovative ways to keep roads in decent shape. She loved that they were talking about a community center. She said Member Casey had mentioned wanting to see it be sustainable. She wanted to make sure that we incorporate sustainability and more environmentally friendly aspects. It should also be adaptable to the growing needs of the City. She also agreed with her colleague on the Committee idea. She believed if we have any citizens involved, we should incorporate parents and seniors who represent a large portion of the community. We should reach out to the community at large in the form of some type of survey to see what the citizens want and try to incorporate those things.

Member Poupard said she was on Council four years ago talking about roads. She said she came on this year and we are talking roads; how we will pay for them and what priorities they are, what is the sustainability in building them. She commended the Mayor's idea of a working group that will explore thoroughly and pick up various issues on cost. She said Beck Road still remains the same. We've done enough talking. The citizens want action. She said we will not do action until we thoroughly look at it from all angles as far as how we are going to pay for it. What quality of roads, are we looking at sustainability, so we can have long term results and not having to replace them in 20-years. She said we should look into working with partnerships, but don't expect money. She loved the concept of a community center, but she didn't know. Do you want emphasis on the roads or a community center. One is immediate and one is futuristic. At Fox Run they push for physical activity. It is very expensive to keep up, but is needed. She said we should get serious and have a Committee. One is immediate and one is futuristic. At Fox Run, they push for physical activity. It's very expensive to keep up, but needed. These are major issues. Let's get serious and have Committee to explore all the fascists. She said there should be publicity so people know what we are talking about with this and what we're doing.

Member Mutch thought that the community center was a great idea conceptually. He has visited peer cities and they each had high quality, state of the art community recreation centers. They provide a range of activities and amenities. He didn't think that we need a large meeting space, that's covered with private sector, schools, and public sector. In terms of timeline, his perspective was that this will take a lot of work. He agreed with what Mr. Auger said previously, we are at stage one in the process. Yes, we want to do this. We need to flush out what this would be beyond a concept and turn it into something to bring to voters. He believed that this was not something to rush. A center like this would really benefit from a lot of community input. We need to hear from the whole range of the community. Parents, singles, middle age, and seniors; they all have different needs. We also need to have a conversation about location to best serve as many residents as possible. He said he was fully in support of forming a committee to start this process. He didn't think we would see the final product and requests of residents by spring. He thought it would be too much to put these proposals together by spring because of the numbers. He stated that the Novi School District is asking for \$185 million. These two topics together might be in that ballpark. The Novi

School District has had a lot of success with their mileages and bond proposals over the years. For a variety of reasons the City has been fairly successful, but some failed badly. We have to be mindful this isn't going to be a small dunk. Even for a road proposal. As badly as it was needed, that didn't pass with overwhelming numbers. Yes, let's start the process on a community center. Let's give it the time that it needs. When that work is completed we can have a discussion about going to voters with a proposal. Member Mutch said one of his concerns regarding the conversations that we have had on the roads, where we are focusing in terms of projects that we want to do and dollars spent. He stated that he had real issues with the Ring Road projects that we passed. Not that they weren't needed. He thought they could be justified because of economic development projects associated with those roads. We have a finite amount of money. That is becoming clearer when we talk about the scope and size of these numbers and the need to go to the residents. We want to build new things which is nice, but the reality is the problem on current roads. It's Beck Road, 10 Mile Road, 8 Mile Road and Haggerty Road. Those are pain points. Not all those locations are our responsibility, but for the most part our residents don't care about those distinctions. What they care about is us, as a City, addressing those roads. When we move forward with this as a discussion, we really need to keep that in mind. We are focusing dollars where they are going to have the impact. Some projects talked about, like the Crescent Boulevard extension won't do much for most residents. It will not address the congestion in other areas. If the proposals that come forward don't address the big problem areas, he will have hard time supporting. He has a hard time going to the residents and saying that we need to spend \$150 million on roads and when we get done we haven't hit most of the important locations in the City. He hoped the conversation is broad in terms of looking at road capacity, but also intersection improvements. He said it was not necessarily the number of lanes; it is the need for turning capacity. We have to look at all locations where we have issues with capacity and congestion. That's where residents are more frustrated. They make it back from another town, get to Novi, and it takes forever to get home. That's just crazy. That is not a functioning road system. He hoped it's a comprehensive look. He hoped that it focuses on putting dollars where they have the biggest impact if we go to voters. The other missing piece was the maintenance of the road system here in Novi. We have increased the amount of spending we've done. We are seeing it in the neighborhoods, but he questioned if it was enough. If we have to borrow for the daily maintenance then that says to him that we have a problem with funding capacity. Maybe we need to ask the residents to bump up the road millage to give us funds to do all of the neighborhood streets. Every subdivision that we approve is adding to the long term liability to the City. The reality is that those new homes don't pay enough in system to cover cost of repaving those over time. It may need to be part of the conversation.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt started with the community center. He said he was one of the representatives on the Signature Park Committee with Mayor Landry. He said he learned a lot about the process of building coalitions to get things done. Making decisions based on the groups who really support things, like a theatre, but disappear at election time. He felt it was important we have a vibrant group for lots of discussion and lots of opinions. Having a separate committee to look at the different options. He

said they have no idea on the location right now. They have some ideas, but you can't talk about specifics until you own property. He said operations were a big push back during the Signature Park time. They didn't provide a clear picture to voters at that point as far as he was concerned. He said we better be prepared. One option that we have is to reach out to communities around us. He was approached by Lyon Township who had heard we were talking about a community center and asked how they could participate. They wondered if they could buy membership. We need to be open minded to be successful to fund operations well after paying for construction of a building. He was in support, whether it's spring or August, it's important to look at this closely. This is one of the big missing parts of Novi. We have a lot of great amenities, a lot of park land. He said that we don't have a place to go where you can go at a reasonable cost to do things like work out or go to a pool. As the School District gets more cramped, it's more difficult for us to have gym space. We need the gym space. We are working hard on to get the Bosco Fields done so we have field space. Next is gym space. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt had a different perspective on the roads than everyone else. His number one priority is neighborhood roads. He said that we need to put a lot more money into our neighborhoods. A few years ago we were doing 200 panels and bumped that up to 1,000 by City Council. He said currently we have 3,000, we should be doing 10,000. It is just not possible, the bandwidth isn't there and the money is not there. We are way behind. He lives in a subdivision that is 45 years old. He has walked into the street and had six inch deep potholes. The subdivision roads are crumbling. We need to address those. Nothing we do will affect property values more than the roads in front of houses. He said number one on the list is taking care of our neighborhood roads. That is where are focus needs to be first and foremost. Secondly we need to look at roads with positive economic return. Grand River, Novi Road from 8 Mile to 10 Mile, and 12 Mile Road. These are roads that have businesses that are opportunities to allow residents and businesses to benefit greatly. To build a road that has no value other than that it speeds up the trip a few minutes is not a priority. Third would be traffic mitigation at certain locations. We have bigger issues such as the flex lane on I-96. If we can get traffic coming through Novi to Milford because they can bypass I-96 which is a parking lot then we really need to push those issues. This isn't a Novi effort. This is a county, regional, state, and federal issue. We need to rethink how to move traffic around our City. He believed there was nothing we could do short of building overpass over the City with exits to move traffic quicker. He said if we go to four lanes they will fill up and still be a parking lot between five o'clock and six o'clock. This is not going to be the issue. The issue is trying to figure out how to get the entire region moving traffic better. Think outside the box. Do something with Napier Road. He used to work at Beck and 5 Mile Road, he would use Napier Road. He liked the Mayor's proposal that we have a committee made up of several Council Members, staff, but we need to let them make the contacts with all the partners, we can't get in their way. Give them direction and get out of their way. He thought we should include corporate partners such as; SEMCOG, RCOC, and surrounding communities. The whole region needs help. First and foremost is about neighborhood roads. We need to rebuild what we have. The concrete ones that need to be done. He thought that DPW Director Herczeg did a fine job identifying larger areas instead of spots of concrete panels. If we don't do neighborhood roads first, how do you get residents to care about a bond issue

if we can't fix the roads in front of their house. He said his priorities are neighborhood roads, roads with an investment return, and traffic mitigation.

Mayor Gatt said Council was talking about some very important issues. It sounds like they are on the same page. The idea of a Committee will work well. We need a focus group. We need to get together and put ideas on paper. He agreed that we need to let staff run with this, it's what you do for a living. He said that we want input and ideas. He thought that a community center is important. All great Cities have one at a reasonable cost. We need to figure in the cost of all this. The Committee will focus on that. He said he was also part of a group that Mayor Landry led and the ideas were great, but unfortunately the times were not good. Economically it was the worst time to go to voters and ask for money for a recreation center. Fortunately it's not the same today. He said it is not ready to go on the November ballot. He thought that the recreation center should be the primary interest of the residents. He said he would be surprised once we start polling if that wasn't the case. Mayor Gatt said that we have to focus on more important roads. The roads that would give a bang for the buck such as 12 Mile Road. There is so much potential for economic development that will bring money in, but the road is abysmal. He mentioned that the Road Commission for Oakland County doesn't have plans to address it. They work hard and have a large county to deal with. We have to focus on the roads that will make it better for all of us. He agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Staudt. The neighborhood roads have to come first. He stated that Crescent Boulevard isn't high on the priority list. It will not help most people. He understood that we need a lot of work on Beck Road, that is years away. He said there is so much right-of-way and things to accomplish before we talk about it. He said that he and City Manager Auger did meet with a congressman a few years ago. They made attempts to get the federal government involved. Unless we get neighboring communities involved, it will still be bottleneck. He agreed that Beck Road is a priority, but not the top priority. It will not solve the problems. We are years away from getting all of the things done that we need to get done before we start that. He said that 12 Mile Road was his priority. The bridge over Taft Road. He said he was surprised it was only \$14 million dollars. He thought it would have been twice that much. He will have to have more figures on how that will help the average Novi resident. No one mentioned widening 10 Mile Road No matter what we do; we are not going to stop that traffic. Novi is so desirable.

3. City Council Member Discussion

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he was going to make a motion to create a committee, the "Roads Committee" that will work with staff. It will be made up of staff, and will allow them to tell us who they think should be on the committee and how it would work. Staff will come back to City Council with a proposal. City staff will have an understanding it will have visioning sessions, and public hearings. City staff will put together a detailed plan on what the committee is comprised of, their role, and how long.

CM 19-07-134

Moved by Staudt, seconded by Gatt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To have City Administration create a proposal on the makeup and scope of a Roads Committee, to be brought in front of City Council for review.

Mayor Gatt confirmed with Mayor Pro Tem Staudt that his motion is to have City administration determine who the committee members will consist of and what the scope of their study will be. This committee is for the roads only. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said they will bring that back to City Council for debate and any tweaks they might have. At that point City Council can approve it and City Council will appoint the members. Mayor Gatt said he would support the motion.

Member Casey appreciated the motion. She thought it was wise for the administration to use their expertise. We have a lot of data. She would like it to suggest as a friendly amendment that we have a target of one month for City administration to come back so we can establish the committee. She believed we needed a due date. She didn't want to lose momentum. Mayor Gatt suggested the August 26th meeting, which is the second meeting in August. Mayor Pro Tem asked City Manager Auger if he thought they could get it done in that time period. Mr. Auger replied yes.

Amended Motion

CM 19-07-134 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Gatt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To have City Administration create a proposal on the makeup and scope of a Roads Committee, to be brought in front of City Council for review by August 26, 2019.

Roll call vote on CM 19-07-134

**Yeas: Staudt, Breen, Casey, Mutch, Poupard,
Verma,
Nays: None**

Member Breen mentioned regional transit. Mayor Gatt said transit was not on the Agenda. Member Breen said any committee that is formed will be working with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), SMART, and to make sure we account for regional transit and a potential transporting system in Novi. She said that we previously voted to ask the County Commissioner to put the RTA on the ballot and that stalled. She said she is hearing from constituents that they want to have affordable regional transit in this area. That is part of the roads plan. It does incorporate getting cars off the road, and incorporates special lanes for busing. We need to assure that everything we are doing for roads accounts for regional transit. Mayor Gatt felt that was a separate issue. He said whatever committee is appointed will talk about roads, who gets on the roads or how they get on the roads may be part of it. Transit is a separate issue to roads.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he would like to make a second motion almost identical as the first motion. To create a committee that will do very much like Signature Park. We can pull out all those pieces and put together with two Council Members instead of the normal three. We have a regular Walkable Novi Committee Meeting and have five or six staff members there. This is only tiny part of the things we are talking about doing. Have staff come back with recommendation of who should be on the committee, how many members, how are we going to handle public involvement. What would the scope be, what the outcome will be. That committee, if we make a bond proposal, we will need to have a consultant involved in that committee. That would be something the Parks and Recreation Director or City Manager recommend a consultant be part of the process.

CM 19-07-135 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Gatt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To have City Administration create a proposal on the makeup and scope of a Community Center Committee, to be brought in front of City Council for review by August 26, 2019.

Member Mutch said he was in support of the motion and the creation of the committee. He said he would add related to the community center is the fact that the Novi School District as part of their bond proposal has a component that they refer to as their activity center based on the information that has been shared with the public it looks essentially like an indoor football practice facility. He hoped that folks aren't seeing some of those terms coming from the school district and think that the school district is going to build this type of center. What they have contemplated is nothing like the community center. We do have four school districts in Novi. Three of those have buildings in Novi. He didn't think we needed school district members on the committee, but he felt it was important to involve them in conversation. As much as we love to have more of that sharing going on they may have information that they can share with us in terms of student demographics and their usage through community education programs. They may be able to give us a better sense of demand in certain areas. He thought we should have a working partnership with everybody.

Member Breen encouraged staff to think outside the box in terms of placement and the possibility of renovating something already there. There are properties in Novi that are totally vacant. There are properties that already have something on there that aren't getting a lot of use and the owners would be interested in selling. She would like them to avoid the issue of finding an ideal situation and having to clear cut woodlands. She encouraged staff to consider those areas to see if we can save something in existence or target an area in the middle of City.

Member Verma asked if we are asking administration to suggest who should be on the committee for the community center. Member Verma mentioned that a colleague is talking about the specific location which isn't part of what this committee will do. Mayor Gatt agreed with Member Verma and said that part comes later.

Mayor Pro Tem pointed out that he looked at some notes and Westerville Aquatic Center which is separate than there community and their pool. It is operating at 125 percent of operating costs. The Westerville Aquatic Center is a money making activity there. He said his sub has a pool and they are breaking record of non-resident pool passes for their pool. The demand for aquatics and pools in Novi is off the charts. The \$185 million might have included from the school district might involve some aquatics, but it is really to improve and expand what they currently have. Other than Lifetime and other private places there are no other community type of aquatics.

Roll call vote on CM 19-07-135

**Yeas: Casey, Mutch, Poupard, Verma, Gatt
Staudt**

Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 P.M.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: August 12, 2019