

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 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:**

**CM 21-04-057 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Agenda as presented.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-04-057**                      **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt**  
**Nays: None**

**PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING – 2021-2022 CITY OF NOVI BUDGET**

Mayor Gatt said the purpose of our special meeting and that is the discussion of the 2021-2022 City of Novi Budget. He stated that City Manager Auger would present an overview of that budget to highlight.

**1. Overview**

**2021-2022 Budget Overview – Highlights  
Multi-Year Budget**

City Manager Auger said he would be quick in his introduction as City Council has seen versions of this budget. He said Novi continues to set standard in many areas budgeting and financial position is one of those key areas. He said they would notice some different titles and labels, and categories from previous year's budgets. He explained these are all done to keep up with the changing standards and recommendations of the GFOA.

He stated that innovative might be an understatement for coming through this last fiscal year. This year again, we will have some challenges, but we will continue to keep City Council up to speed as the ground shifts underneath our feet. He was confident in our team's ability to be able to adjust, improvise and get ready to challenges that rise.

He highlighted the slide presentation on Budget Revenues. Property taxes are still the main revenue driver for local governments in Michigan, approximately 55% of our funding is received through this area. The second highest revenue would be others, various state sources are about 19%. He said on the expenditure side, personnel services are still highest cost driver at 45%. The other expenditures would be about 27% is the highest and an example of those would be insurances and contracted services. He said the next slide highlights revenue versus expenditures. We are presenting a balanced budget, and at first glance when you look at this you would say how do you present a balanced budget when the numbers do not equal out. He explained that is project funding that starts in one year and spans over the time of the next year. It is multiple fiscal years. He highlighted the next slide that shows our Capital Improvement Plan, not the Capital Improvement Fund. The Capital Improvement Plan shows about 47% of Capital expenditures are spent on roads and streets, and about 28% on our water and sewer projects. He said over the next five years, we plan on investing about \$65 million on Capital projects that just reiterate how much focus City Council has had on investing in infrastructure. He stated a few of these projects that everyone is aware of is Cranbrook Drive and 12 Mile Road working with the county to get that done. He said the 10 Mile Road rehab we are working with the Oakland County Road Commission on that. He said those are just some of the projects coming forward. He said as mentioned before, our fiscal position is strong. Our Fund Balance levels have been above 29% of expenditures for 11 consecutive years. He said this helps show the businesses and residents strong emphasis on fiscal stability as a priority in our community. He said the next slide shows a snapshot of the three year budgets show consistency to the budgeting. He said we just did our survey of residents and we learned that over 70% of the people are satisfied with the City's direction and confident in our local form of government. He stated that puts us in the top 5% in the country which is impressive. He knew City Council is aware, but some of the public may not be aware of the time it takes to put a well-crafted prioritized budget together. He said this is our working timeline. We are in April near the end of this year's process. He thanked our Finance team and our department directors for their efforts again this year. He said they are all standing by in case you have specific questions for them in their disciplines. He said Assistant City Manager Cardenas has been working on something that looks just like this Novi budgeted timeline and he is going to drop the actual documents into those sections. He said residents can go right to this section on our web page and would be able to pull up things like this presentation that we just walked through in case they wanted to follow along and learn our budgeting process. Our staff is standing by to answer any questions or concerns.

Mayor Gatt thanked Mr. Auger and City staff very much for the introduction. He said as in years past, this is what we are going to do to proceed. He would call on Councilmembers and give them the opportunity to speak in general terms about the budget, how they see things, what they like and what they do not like. Everyone will be given the opportunity and on the first go around, there will be no motions made to add or subtract

anything from the proposed budget. After everyone has had the opportunity to speak, then he will call on Members to speak and make any motions. They can add or subtract. He reminded them it takes four Councilmembers to add or subtract or change anything from the budget as presented. He said however, in May, when we vote on a finished budget, it takes five votes to pass the budget. He said with that he would call on Member Casey.

## **2. City Council discussion and decisions regarding the plan priorities**

Member Casey thanked the City staff and Administration for another thoughtful and well-crafted budget. She said the work that you all do to pull this together for both us and the public is truly appreciated. She thought we made some wise decisions last year in the face of the pandemic. She thought that we are stronger for those decisions that we made and was pleased that we are maintaining a prudent approach to our budget. She said focusing on what is necessary and important for us to do to keep our city vibrant and holding off on the things that we can safely delight. She stated that we are continuing to invest in our infrastructure, Public Safety, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and Older Adult Services. She mentioned she had two items that she was going to bring up for consideration in the next round of conversation, the first being the Non-Motorized Master Plan. She said the second, was that she was looking forward to some robust conversation about the information we learned from the Roads Committee. She said when we presented the Road Committee information to Council, we all said we did not have a good conversation at budget time. She was looking forward to hearing from her colleagues on that. With that she ended her remarks.

Member Fischer thanked staff; he was sure all the Councilmembers will do that. He stated that City Manager Auger flashed up that slide that shows all the different steps that go into this, we spend a couple hours talking about it, we spend a couple of days reviewing it, but it really is the culmination of weeks. He said it is not just the Finance Department, it is every department throughout the City. He thanked everybody. He said he really considers and the reason he spends so much time on the budget is probably compared to anything else we do. He felt that it is the most important thing that we do. It is really the only real control that we have over City Manager Auger, and really pushing him and pulling him as far as the priorities that we have. He said if we want to do things, or we don't want to do things, this is where we can either give him the money or take the money away. He stated that he is happy with the majority of what he sees in this budget. He noticed the \$8 million in roads, new fire trucks every year. He thought we have a well-run city here. He said this is evidenced by the bottom line, 32% Fund Balance in the General Fund or \$11.5 million dollars. He stated that is a little above our minimums and maximums. He said he was comfortable with that because he still thought there is some uncertainty. He thought we have had plenty of opportunities to discuss this. He has had a lot of tough time to already make comments in the Capital Improvement Program or early budget comments. He thought a lot of that was considered here. He too will have to wait to consider minor items to make motions on, but other than that he was relatively pleased. He thanked Mr. Auger and Mr. Cardenas, and Mr. Johnson and then all the City staff who put this together.

Member Maday thanked the staff and said it was well organized and put together plan that made it a lot easier for her to read being that she was new on Council. She said she did study last year's budget back in January when she was privileged to get a copy of it. She appreciated the time that was put into it making it easier for her. She was happy with the Fund Balance being as high as it is. She had a lot of people know she was happy with that. She has been told that people are thrilled to see that we are continuing to put effort into our roads which is a concern with our citizens. She mentioned there is a lot of money being spent on our safety, so those are the big things she was happy about. She brought up a concern that there was no money for the Holiday Market that she brought up previously to help bring the community together. She spoke with City Manager Auger and he said it was still a possibility. He stated that we are not sure what is going on with COVID. He said even if it is feasible this year, he assured her that he would work as hard as he could to make it happen if it is possible. She said she will not be making a motion.

Member Mutch said this was his 16th budget and believed it would probably be his final budget. He said going through the budget process over the years, one of the things that stood out for him, is this concept that what we value as a city council, and what we value as a city organization, is in now we fund or not fund things in our budget. He said when we talk about the importance of police and fire services, or we talk about the importance of services to seniors, parks, playgrounds, pathways, the value of those to our community or properly taking care of our roads. If we are really living up to those words, then we see those dollars allocated through the budget process. He said to the degree that we do that, he thought we best serve our Novi community. He stated it has been a unique 14 months now with the pandemic that landed on us here in Michigan, just as we were starting our budget process. He echoed Member Casey and said he thought they have made some smart choices last spring, trying to anticipate something that none of us could have foreseen and had no idea how it was going to unfold. He said thankfully, today, he thought we were in a much better place than we thought we might be for a variety of reasons. He thought that was reflected in the bottom-line numbers at same time, as Member Fischer said, he thought we still must be mindful that we probably have not felt the full impact of this yet. He said looking at our commercial, and office spaces across the City, some unfortunately, which have gone vacant, and may stay vacant for some time. He said that will catch up to us at some point. He thought we needed to talk about, not necessarily during this budget discussion, but going forward, as the City Council is ensuring that we are providing the resources to the folks who are doing economic development in the City, our Economic Development Director that we brought into kind of jumpstart that. He thought there is a need at every level, they need to be talking to those large businesses that pay a lot of taxes. He said they also need to have the resources to assist local businesses, business owners, many who are residents, struggling, they have struggled to stay afloat through this pandemic. He felt they are going to need a lot of help. He said we are also seeing some big shifts in our country and the world in terms of things like working from home, shopping from home to a degree that has not happened in the past, and things that we took for granted even just a couple of years ago. He said we are going to have to continue to adjust to that, but he thought as an organization, we have shown we have been able to do that. He thought the budget does reflect that. He stated that one other area he thought would be valuable for the City Council to have some discussion around this budget is our Capital

Improvement Millage Fund, and the projects that we are funding with that we have been able to do some pretty significant projects out of that fund, the DPW renovations and expansions and that has had a huge impact on services that we are able to provide from that facility, along with the Gun Range. He said the new improvements at Lakeshore Park, he strongly encouraged residents to get up there and see those, and hopefully we will be able to fully open that building soon and they can experience that. He mentioned the ITC Trail, all those are big important projects that we have been able to do, but we still were about halfway through that 10-year millage. He said we still have some promises that we made to the residents when we were out, campaigning and promoting this millage, among them, addressing our needs in the Fire Department, not only with trucks, but facilities, specifically Fire Station #1 was called out. He said there is a limited amount of money still left. He stated that some of those projects ended up costing us more than we probably anticipated. He thought we have got a little bit more revenue than we anticipated as well. He said we must talk about how we best utilize the funds that are remaining before we get to the end of that because it is a very short time. He said whoever is sitting up here at City Council level needs to have a conversation about asking the residents to renew that millage. He said if we ask the residents and taxpayers or voters to renew that millage, first and foremost, they are going to ask us, did you do everything you said you were going to do. Did we spend those dollars wisely, and what are the needs that are still outstanding? He thought we must be able to show them that. He said, yes, we did, we did address everything they needed to do. Related to that, they need to see that, so you go to Lakeshore Park, you can see those improvements, but some of the other improvements are not as obvious to folks, most people are not going to see our DPW facility. He thought as we discuss how to allocate those remaining funds, one of the things he has talked about over the past couple years is more visible projects that are in the neighborhoods. He said parks related at the neighborhood level where residents can touch and feel their tax dollars at work. He would strongly encourage us to look at that. He said the last thing he wanted to touch on in his comments is one of the items we have in the budget is a Master Plan review for the City. He said our City of Novi Master Plan for Land Use that happens every five or six years, he would like to hear more from City Administration about what that will involve because he thought in some areas of the City when we are talking about the 12 Oaks Mall, when we are talking about the Grand River Corridor, we are at a critical point in the City's future. He said understanding how those places will continue to develop and redevelop is very important. He wanted to make sure that those dollars, significant amount of dollars being put to that effort are going to be targeted where they can have the best impact for the City. He said with that he looked forward to hearing from the rest of the Council and looked forward to a good discussion. Thank you.

Member Crawford said at this time he did not have any questions, concerns, or comments. He looked forward to our discussion later. Thank you.

Member Pro Tem Staudt said this was his 14th budget with hopefully a few more left to go. He wanted to share a couple thoughts that evening. He said he was going to be very brief in this section, but there were a few things that he thought are important. He said one is that we really do need to remain very vigilant to the threats posed by the COVID pandemic, as other speakers have said, we do not fully believe that we have

reached the end of the effects. He thought even though we are coming to the end possibly of the multiple surges, we have had a lot of things that are coming that we have not anticipated. He said that leads into his second point, and that is we must be more fiscally conservative that we have ever been which means maintaining a strong Fund Balance, keeping our eye on operating costs, providing ourselves with the flexibility in our Capital Improvement Programs to pull off things and put things on dependent on what really happens in the economy coming forward. He agreed with Member Mutch regarding the Capital Improvement Millage. He proposed that evening that we remove the \$4 million that was allocated to the ITC Park improvements, not because they do not need it, but we need to have maximum flexibility for the next two or three years, as we go through the final expenditures, and decide what it is that is most important to use those funds for. He said that could include land acquisition, improvement to local parks, and a lot of other things. He said he would strongly encourage whoever is on Council in the future and he would doubt they are going to be reading these or listening to this, but this is something that will need to be renewed. We have some big projects left, starting with ITC Park, and other large parks that we have in the City that need major improvements. That was all he had to say at this point. Thank you.

Mayor Gatt said he is the senior person this this body. This is his 18th straight year of talking about and eventually approving a budget for our great City of Novi. He said for the last 16 of those years it has been a ride. He stated there have been times when we had so much money, we argued about how to spend it all. Other times where we had so little money that we painstakingly decided how to make the cuts that had to be done. It is a surprise, no one, that he once again applauded the efforts of our City Manager, City staff, and of course our City Council for putting together this budget that is fair and balanced, it provides for the needs of so many, and still allows us to put money away in case of any emergencies. He agreed with the previous speakers when they say this COVID thing is not over, and the vacancies in our retail. He stated that Novi has always been know as the retail capital of this part of the State. We have been and we have benefited from that greatly. He stated that just as greatly as we benefited, we may suffer because of this COVID in the results. He did not know what will happen. He did not think anybody does, but he did not think it was over. He said in this budget, and in the last several budgets, we have been able to put away enough money into our Reserve Fund that should cover us in case of any emergency. He reminded everyone that several years ago, our bridge on Meadowbrook Road suffered a catastrophic event that had to be replaced and we had to come up with \$1.5 million, or some cash money that was not budgeted for. He said luckily, because of Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, whom he gave credit to, was his desire years ago to have a Budget Emergency Fund that was larger than what was being proposed, we had enough money to do that. He said now we have grown that fund. He said we have grown that thinking where we all believe in that now. He believed that we are the envy of this region, perhaps the entire state, our budget is so healthy right now. He thanked everyone who had a hand in putting this together. He said it is not just the managers or directors, but the line staff who he knew from personal experience so many years ago now he said were tasked with many different jobs, to get the numbers together for the managers to look at and for us to eventually have those budget books delivered to our home. We have a giant task tonight to have looked at this document over, let things that we do not think we need, and or add things that we

think we might have been overlooked. We have had several weeks to look at and study the book, the books, and he hoped that we are all ready to proceed. He said it should come to no one's surprise on the Council or anyone who was watching from home. He stated if you have seen me over the last 18 years, he has said at this table that his number one concern was and always will be Public Safety. He explained this is not to take away from the importance or the needs of every other program in the City. Everything we do here in Novi, and everything we do at the Council table is important and benefit the 1000's of residents, and many more 1000's of visitors and travelers through Novi. However, he did say from the day he was elected to City council in 2003, that if the City is not safe if we do not have the proper number of trained professionals, and dedicated men and women who are part of our Police and Fire teams, then nothing else will thrive. He has said that for 18 years and will say it for the next 18 years. He stated that was the end of his introduction remarks. He began the second round.

He said he was going to be the first to make the motion and he wrote it down, so he did not mess it up. He stated that our Police and Fire Departments are made up of outstanding people, people who put their lives on the line each and everyday so that we know if we need them, they are going to be there quickly. He said it is so comforting to know that we have the finest Police and Fire Departments anywhere in the State, anywhere in the Country. He challenged anybody to tell him that is not true. He said of course, they are led by the finest Director of Public Safety, the Chief of Police, David Molloy, and our Fire Chief, Jeff Jonson. He wanted to say on behalf of the Novi City Council, and every resident in this entire City, thank you, to the brave men and women of the Police and Fire Departments for all that you do for all of us every day of the year. He said it is our job as elected officials to ensure that both the Police and Fire Departments are staffed properly. He said several years ago, a promotion occurred in the Fire Department that elevated the fire protection officer to the administrative role, that individual is doing great in the new role. He stated however, the promotion left a hole in the fire protection officer ranks that should have been, and he believed must be filled. He made the motion that we add to this budget presented to them that evening, one full time Fire Protection Officer. He said furthermore, he moved that this new officer be hired as quickly as possible so that he or she may begin their career protecting this great city of Novi s near to July 1st, beginning of our new fiscal year as possible. He said the manager should transfer the money from the appropriate accounts to cover the costs of this new additional fire protection officer.

**CM 21-04-058            Moved by Gatt, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To add one (1) full-time Fire Protection Officer to the proposed budget.**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he was fortunate to start on City Council with the prior Mayor Dave Landry, who always stressed public safety, infrastructure, sewer, roads, as our primary concern during the next four elections that I went through the next three, public safety has always been his number one, number two and number three priority. He was pleased that the Mayor has always led the way whether it was additional police officers. He said one of the first things that we did when we recovered from the difficult times from

2008 through 2010 was replaced those police officers that were displaced because of those economic difficult times. He was happy to hear that we are fully staffing the Fire Department and he thanked the Mayor for that resolution.

Member Mutch wanted to make sure he was clear on the numbers for City Administration. He said currently in the budget, we have 17 Fire Protection Officers' positions in that budget, the Mayor's proposal would shift that to 18 Fire Protection Officers, which he fully supported. He thought that the Mayor identified the gap there, which is that we had a position shift a few years ago and it just has not been filled. He said so that City Council is confident that we are going to get out of this process, but we want to ask the questions about current staffing. He stated that currently we have 17 Fire Protection Officers', and we are down one Lieutenant, is that correct? City Manager Auger said that was correct. We had one Lieutenant retire. He said we are in the process currently of putting candidates through the internal process, if one meets all criteria, will be promoted. He said if not, then we will go outside to fill that position. He said from what he understood the Mayor's position with this motion is the C18 Fire Protection Officers and the Lieutenant position as will still being filled. Member Mutch said that was exactly what he wanted to hear, he was just clarifying, sometimes in the past, we have added positions, then folks get promoted, and those positions do not get backfill promptly. He said there are various reason for that, but he was fully in support of this.

**Roll call vote on CM 21-04-058**

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

**Nays: None**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he would like to talk about the only issue that he had that evening and that is removing \$4 million form the Capital Improvement Program Millage Fund, not off the Capital Improvement Program itself. He wanted to be very clear of this. He said we all know that the Community Sport park ITC park needs considerable renovations and updating. He said this is not a reflection of that, this reflects the fact that we have limited dollars in the capital and proven millage account that we need to have flexibility on during the next three years. He said the only thing that is definitely allocated towards it is the purchase of several fire engines, which are close to a million dollars each. He stated that we have some projects coming down the pike and hopefully some things it will become clear soon that these funds are probably more appropriate for. He thought the ITC Park improvements are probably closer in the range of \$10 to \$20 million. He said \$4 million just is not going to go far enough, but it would take some of these other projects that are being considered now and allow us to do them. He said without these funds, we are pretty much limited.

**CM 21-04-059**

**Moved by Staudt, seconded by Gatt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To move \$4 million from the Capital Improvement Program Millage Fund to the General Fund for the ITC Park Project.**

Member Fischer thought either Finance Director Johnson, or City Manager Auger, or the maker of the motion, is what he would understand that motion to would be that we



would fully remove that from the page whatever it is in the budget here from the Capital Improvement Program. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt clarified that this is that the Capital Improvement Program Millage. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said they are two different things. There is the millage allocation, and there is the Capital Improvement Program. He said he was not removing it from the Capital Improvement Program, only the millage portion. Member Fischer said his comment being that the Capital Improvement Program is funded by all the different General Funds including the Capital Improvement Program. He said the Capital Improvement Millage Fund could not be removed from the Capital Improvement Program which is a budget document. He thought if you removed it from there you would have to find a new funding source. Finance Director Johnson said what he thought Mayor Pro Tem Staudt was referring to was Item 57, which is the ITC Park, which totals a little over \$4 million dollars. He explained that currently it is scheduled for year three of our three-year budget in our Capital Improvement Fund. Member Fischer said, so we are in year four. Finance Director Johnson said yes. He believed what he was proposing is to remove it out of the Capital Improvement Fund and make it a General Fund obligation, or was Mayor Pro Tem Staudt suggesting that we push it back further? Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said at this point, he was not suggesting that we do anything on the Capital Improvement Program. He was only talking about the Capital Improvement Millage Fund. He was not suggesting we push it back. He said it is four-years from now, it is a big deal on the millage. He said it is not a big deal in the Capital Improvement Program. Member Fischer said his point was that to leave it in the Capital Improvement Program we must find a new fund, we cannot just leave it with no funding sources. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said the Fund Balance was fine. Member Fischer asked for clarification that the motion would be to use the General Fund as the as the GL Fund to fund that in the Capital Improvement Program, you want it off the plan, like what we approved the last weekend. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said that was correct. Member Fischer said he could see where he was going, he said he was in support of that. He echoed what Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said earlier, if you look at line Item 57, \$2 million of the \$4.5 million is for parking lot and road improvements. He said that leaves only \$2.5 million of the \$4.5 million going to actual field improvements. He thought there is a lot of work to be done on how exactly we want to proceed with that. He thought that was a smart move, to go ahead and remove it from the Capital Improvement Program Millage Plan going forward, that does not indicate whatsoever that he was not in full support of doing something on a grand scale to ITC. He said that was a commitment of his and he thought a commitment of the City. He thought everyone sitting up there recognized that something needed to be done. He believed more discussion, more investigation, and good proposal needs to be put together, a good plan. He said he would support the motion with those comments on the record.

City Manager Auger suggested what he thought City Council was looking for so that everyone was on the same page with what they wanted. He asked if staff should continue to work and figure out a plan for ITC Park. He said we are going to have to come back to Council with the greater plan because by the time we get out to year four, it may be a larger project or different in scope. He said right now we are just going to focus on doing the background and investigating. He said they learned a lot about Bosco when we did Bosco Field, some changes, and some facts. He said we are going to continue to work on things like that with City Council as we move forward over the

next couple of years and tighten it up ever year the budget gets closer. He wondered is his assumption was correct. Member Fischer said yes, he thought that was correct. He thought that having it on the Capital Improvement Program in the budget as a General Fund item keeps it on our radar. He believed that was Mayor Pro Tem Staudt's point, taking it out of the Capital Improvement Millage Plan allows us to utilize those funds appropriately as we see fit and to go forward, that is where he was coming from. He said obviously he did not want to speak for him.

Member Mutch supported the motion. He thought it was consistent with what he shared earlier, which is that he thought we as a City Council need to have a conversation about how to expand the remainder of the funds. He just wanted to be clear. He said looking at the financial schedule for the Capital Improvement Program Funds that is in the budget, he believed on Page 66, he said this motion did not impact that because that only looks out a couple of years. He said it is not within the scope of the current budget, proposed budget, or the two-year plan, is that correct? Finance Director Johnson replied, yes, that is correct. Member Mutch stated we recently approved a deficit of \$1 million and deficit elimination plan which kind of triggered this discussion. He thought that it is just some bit of formality we have to do with the state of Michigan. He said the outstanding things that you had shown on there that we approved, were the loan repayments, the three fire truck purchases, and ITC Sports Park. He said looking at that, and there is at the end of the 10 years, we still have another \$6 million plus in balance. He said this would essentially pull that \$4 million back out and leave Council with about \$10.5 million dollars of unallocated funds to discuss if we wanted to have a conversation about the remainder of the Millage Funds, but where we would be. Finance Director Johnson said yes, as we sit here today, that is the estimate of the remaining funds available through the life of the Millage. He stated we would be updating the plan with the State after June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, and it would reflect the removal of this project. Member Mutch said that was all he had. He wanted to make sure he was clear on that. He thought this is the first step to having that conversation about what we do with the remainder of those funds and what projects we fund with them. Thank you.

Member Casey appreciated the clarifications that we have had throughout this conversation, she supported changing the funding mechanism for the work at ITC Park. She said she would not be supporting any change to the timing, that work needs to get done. She said we have got teams and residents that use that park on a frequent basis, so the work needs to get done. If we do not fund it out of the millage, she will support that motion going forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he wanted to make clear that part of the reason for proposing this as if we let that \$4 million in the budget, our hands would be completely tied relative to any additional expenditures in the Capital Improvement Program Millage, we would have nothing to spend. He said unless we went out and borrowed funds internally or something, which he did not think they were intending to do. He said this is giving us the flexibility, we can always allocate a portion of those dollars to the ITC work. He thought it would give us flexibility to do some other things with those funds without trying it up in one big lump sum of cash. He thought it would give us the flexibility we need for some of the projects that are clearly coming down the road. He stated that we have a lot of Park

projects, we have a lot of other things going on that are going to need these funding and he did not want our hands tied. He said this is the best time to remove that item from our budget. Thank you.

**Roll call vote on CM 21-04-059**

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

**Nays: None**

Member Fischer said in his opening remarks he had two small items that he wanted to bring to Council's attention. He said the first had to do with the Sidewalk Repair Program. He stated he has been working hard on this for over a year, and he knew that you guys have started this torch carry before he was even on Council. He said there were several memos passed back and forth in the last year, we had the Capital Improvement Program Committee and the Walkable Novi Committee have a lot of discussion on this. He said at one of our opening, input comments discussion, he made the comment that he wanted to see that funded this year to the tune of \$400,000, which was kind of the recommended level by the City. There was some discussion half of its coming from the Municipal Street Fund and half was proposed to come the Tree Fund. He said it was his understanding of how the discussion was that the Tree Fund was not necessarily appropriate right now, and we would like to reflect it in the General Fund. He noted it maybe just communication or whatever else, but how it is reflected in the Capital Improvement Program, on Line 26 because we have \$400,00 for the upcoming year, but only in the future years, it declines to \$200,00 only funded by Municipal Street Funds. He said it was his intention to show this as \$400,00 throughout the entire budget and forecast plan period. He thought that was Council's intention as well, but he wanted to bring it to everyone's attention.

**CM 21-04-060**

**Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To add \$200,000 to the CIP Line 26 in future budget years from the General Fund.**

Member Fischer said it should be reflected appropriately to show a commitment of this City Council to not only investing in new sidewalks and sidewalk programs, but this is really about maintenance, and keeping people safe. He mentioned that young kids riding their bike and older generations walking and tripping on these things, he thought it was imperative that we do this and hence, that is why he made that motion.

City Manager Auger asked for clarification. He stated it was always our intention to review this first year and to see how much of the \$200,000 or so would be taken out of a Tree Fund if we use the Tree Fund as a source. He understood the plan is that the DPW monitor that so we can come back next year and possibly take that additional \$200,000 out of the Tree Fund, if that is the appropriate amount of money or whatever is appropriate that we can say this is about an estimate that we see out of the Tree Fund. He was not sure he was clear on that. Member Fischer replied that he remembered having this discussion and we did talk about the fact that in the future, again, the commitment here is the \$400,000. He said we can always talk about how to split the pie

in the future years. He wanted to show \$400,000, in General Fund, and \$200,000 in the Municipal Street Fund. He said we are a very data driven Administration. We are a very data driven Council. He felt the data would be helpful to see, he was not going to commit to how we will fund it in the future. He just thought that we have the obligation to show that full \$400,000. He said with that understanding, we can always revisit, it may come from many of the different funds. He said you can propose that we will have that discussion at the time.

**Roll call vote on CM 21-04-060**

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

**Nays: None**

Member Fischer said the second item he had, and he always hated to do this to City Administration because it is late breaking, but he was made aware recently of the School District and some changes they made back in the middle of March. He stated they have gone through and at certain schools, like Parkview, the Middle School, Deerfield, and Village Oaks, they have expanded the walkable zone. He said they have always had a policy as he understood it, that they would have people walking to school from around one mile radius of the school. He said they have never enforced it, but because of some other time changes and start changes, they are now needing to enforce this. He said that means to us, as a Council, is that we are going to have more little children walking to several of these schools crossing roads like 11 Mile Road, or even with the subdivisions of Village Oaks, Simmons Orchard, Roma Ridge, etc. He said he tasked the City Manager earlier this week, with reaching out to the School District, and he would propose any amendments to the budget that are necessary to go ahead and especially on the roads like Wixom Road and 11 Mile, to look at the flashing beacon type of signs, something that calls attention to people and the school speed zones. He said that we also are responsible, he understood for crossing guards. He said if there are additional requirements or recommendations from our Public Safety Department from their perspective, he would like to see those sorts of things funded tonight. He was not looking for all the answers that evening since he just sent this to City Manager Auger on Monday, and the School District just made most of the parents aware last week, unfortunately, but he thought that we have a responsibility as a Council to plan and put the dollars aside that City Manager Auger suggests ensuring that this is funded and is done quickly and accomplished before the next school season starts. He asked City Manager Auger if he had any comments back to what he sent him in those regards and if he had any recommendations to the change the budget to meet those needs.

City Manager Auger said Member Fischer did bring this to our attention and we did confirm with the school and the DPW has already been working with the School District. He understood that they are committing to have the speed radar signs and school zones to purchase, and we would install them and maintain them. He said until we learn more, he did not think we need to add funding to the budget. He said that now it has been brought to our attention, we will look at it. He noted that if we need to add funding to the budget in one way or another, the signs are rather a minor expense in the big picture, crossing guards and things of that nature, he will have to really dig down a little deeper and see what that would entail if we were going to add those. He did not have a

problem, just like any of the other public safety issues. He said once we have learned about those coming back, it is on our radar and it might even be before the final budget vote. He did not think it is going to be a large number to offset the budget that you have before you.

Member Fischer said he would not make a motion at this point on that case, but he would request if you wanted me to, Mr. Auger. He did request that maybe when we do make our final budget recommendation that prior to that you do provide a little more context and information to the City Council, what those negotiations with the School District have yielded and what plan you have in place to address this need that the School District has created for us. It is obviously very serious. He said we all take public safety seriously, especially as it relates to the school kids. He said that would be his request of you. City Manager Auger replied that he felt the staff had enough direction to move forward and will report back. Member Fischer said those were the two items he wanted to address and with that he yielded the floor.

Member Casey mentioned in her opening remarks she had two items that she wanted to bring to her colleagues for consideration. She said the first, is the Non-Motorized Master Plan, on page three of a little stapled handout, we had initially pushed this project out from 2020 to 2023-2024. She thought that was too long for us to wait. She stated the plan we have right now is a 10-year-old plan. We have made many changes both, you know, through the walkable, no bike committee and DPW as well as just our community has changed in a decade. She understood the Walkable Novi Committee is now doing their prioritization on a biannual basis. She said every two years, and the next round would be in calendar year 2022. She wanted to bring forward the Non-Motorized Master Plan into the 2022 budget, get the committee and that team prepared to have the conversations that they are going to have about prioritization. She said with that, she made a motion to move the updated Non-Motorized Master Plan at a cost of \$38,640 out of the FY 2023-2024 budget and into the FY 2021-2022 budget.

**CM 21-04-061            Moved by Casey, seconded by Mutch; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To move the Non-Motorized Master Plan at a cost of \$38,640 out of the FY 2023-2024 budget and into the FY 2021-2022 budget.**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he could not agree more. He remembered 10-years ago sitting in a meeting with Councilmember Mutch while we got some Obama dollars, for God only knows what at the time and we had a presentation on a Non-Motorized Master Plan. He said we looked at each other and said that it really is a good idea for Novi. He stated it has turned out to be a tremendous benefit in so many ways. He said we are one of the few cities at the time who had one. He was happy to see that we are going to get it updated. He noted that 10-years ago, when we sat there and thought about the ITC Trail and some of the other sidewalks and trails that we could not even fathom paying for that are all done now. He thought that was impressive. He agreed we should give a roadmap to the next Council and future Councils for the next 10-years to reach out and get those types of things done. He thanked Member Casey for bringing that up. He said he really would like to see that done.

Member Mutch said he was fully in support. He wanted to add a lot of the planning studies that we do in the city of Novi, unfortunately, go up on a shelf somewhere and collect dust and 20-years later somebody say, oh, that is an interesting artifact. He said this plan has generated millions of dollars in grants, and other funding to allow us to complete projects across the City. He thought it is probably one of the most successful planning documents we have done as a city in terms of outcomes and getting stuff done. He appreciated Member Casey bringing this forward, he thought she was right. He felt there are things about that plan that do need to be updated, not just in the fact that we have been very successful and getting a lot of things done. He said there are concepts that made sense 10-years ago that maybe we want to revisit, and either change or move away from and look at some new ideas. He thought this timeline as she presented in between the prioritization yours makes perfect sense. He thought that will allow whoever is on the Walkable Novi Committee will know a couple of years from now, they have not only had input into the Master Plan, but then utilize that Master Plan to set the next round of prioritization. He thought it would be just as successful as the current planning document. Thank you.

Member Fischer wanted to clarify that the motion was to move it to the FY 2021-2022 year, is that correct. He asked either City Planner McBeth or City Manager Auger to answer his questions. He said he is one of the newer people on the Walkable Novi Committee, he knew that comes from Member Mutch and Mayor Pro Tem Staudt where the king and king of it for so long and would not let anyone else on it, but he is newer on it. He wanted to make sure that this fits in with the appropriate timeline as far as the prioritization goes, and he fully supported bring it ahead. He just wanted to make sure that staff says yes, that is the right year, or maybe it is the following year, he did not want to push it out to 2024. He asked for confirmation that this is a good year to do it. City Planner McBeth she thought it was a good year to do this. She noted that a couple years ago and it makes sense to update a plan every five or 10 years or some nice round number like that. She said a lot of projects have been implemented. She thought once they look at it again, there will be many more projects that could be included. She agreed with Member Mutch, some things could drop off and other things could be added. She thought that it seems like a good time to do that. Member Fischer said he was not questioning Member Casey by any sense of the imagination. He just wanted to make sure that staff agreed that the cadence works out perfectly. He thanked Member Casey for bring this forward and said he would support it as well.

**Roll call vote on CM 21-04-061**

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

**Nays: None**

Member Casey said the other issue that she wanted to raise was the information that came from the Roads Committee. She noted that the previous speaker alluded to strategic plans that collect dust, and she refused to let the beginning work of our Roads Committee collect any dust. She said when we presented the findings to Council, we had all kind of said, yep, great, thank you, and said let us have this conversation at budget time. She said one of the things that came out of the report is that today we

spend between \$7 million and \$9 million annually on our local roads. That is a lot of money, she completely understood that. She stated at the way that costs are going, investment to keep the condition of our roads, that amount of spending, either flat, or maybe we will see a tiny slight increase. She said when you think about how costs have increased in asphalt alone has increased 30% in the last two years from 2018 to 2020. She believed we would continue to see these kinds of cost increase come up and the amount of money that we have in our budgets has not been able to keep up to help us keep the roads in the conditions that our we and our residents expect. She thought in the not-too-distant future that we are going to need to be thinking about increasing our spending from \$1.5 million to \$2 million annually just to try to keep it at the road conditions that we are at. She said she did not have a specific motion Mr. Mayor, because she did not see trying to bring that into this year's budget, even year two, but she would like to gauge from Council and just maybe have some dialogue with your concurrence about what we think about these numbers going forward and where we might want to start thinking about if we want to use this from the General Fund or what other options we may have. She said she did not want to lose the opportunity to have the conversation.

Mayor Gatt said he understood, but he was not sure this is the appropriate time to add the conversation, if we are not going to add or subtract from the budget, because that is what his meeting is about. He thought they all got the point. He said the Roads Committee did a lot of great work and we do not want that just to be tabled. He echoed Member Mutch when he said some plans are started and they go up on the shelf. He did not think we were ready to start allocating money yet. He explained that we do not know what is going to happen with COVID, we do not know a lot of things. He said everyone got her message and she believed this is probably a discussion that we can have in the future once we are a little bit more on level ground. He asked her if she agreed. Member Casey said she was great with that. She thanked Mayor Gatt for giving her the chance to remind everyone what the Roads Committee had found out and trust her, she will bring it up again.

Member Mutch said he had a couple of questions for staff. He wanted to follow up on Member Casey's point, and directed a question for Finance Director Johnson. He said one of the things that Member Casey touched on was the need to find some additional funding for local roads, and he thought there is a hesitancy right now to jump in any direction or any amount. He said one of the things that Member Casey had shared with him was that she was going to bring this forward. He said in the context of the budget, he was looking at the Municipal Street Fund, and the Fund Balance for that looking out over the next three years, because we are very wise, doing three-year budgeting. He said seeing that it looks like we are going to continue to grow that Fund Balance out over the next three years. He wondered if that was the logical place. He said if we get to a comfort level where we feel like, yes, we do need to spend more money, and we need to find a place to do it, is the Municipal Street Fund a potential source. He asked if there is something that he did not see that would be beyond this budget document that is going to affect that Fund Balance. Finance Director Johnson said yes, the Municipal Street Fund, the purpose of the Municipal Street Fund, that is our dedicated property tax levy that is only for streets and sidewalks. He said it is primarily used to subsidize our major local roads right now, along with the sidewalks. He said the State requires us to tract our major

roads in the Major Road Fund, the local roads in the Local Road Fund. He said all those projects that relate to that are in there, and then everything else goes in the Municipal Street Fund. He said if you look at the three-year budget, basically the Major Local Street Funds end up each year at their fund balance minimum, the 10%, so any of the excess funds would be in the Municipal Street Fund. He added as you pointed out, the at the end of the third year, there is \$2 million to \$3 million left at the end of year three available in the Municipal Street Fund. He stated as we sit here today, we know there will be significant projects that come up along the way, which is why we have that fund balance out there. He said yes, that is the primary place to look, because major and local themselves always basically get their fund balance down to zero and that is what you have in this three-year budget, as well. Member Mutch thought it would be helpful, obviously, it is not something we are going to sort out that evening, but he thought it would be helpful for City Administration to put for a future conversation some projections, knowing what we know today and an interest from Council at some point to increase additional funds into things like street maintenance, which is to Member Casey's point. He said we have a huge road network we must maintain. He wondered what does that look like? Is that sustainable within the current funding? He said the Roads Committee did offer, we did not make formal recommendations, but we did have conversations about maybe doing a mini bond to get caught up on local roads, he believed they talked about \$10 million. He believed we had to tackle this issue at some point. He thought that we needed to have some numbers that to understand what that looks like, looking at those numbers would be the first place to start. He said obviously, as the Finance Director pointed out, there are some other things floating out there.

He stated that one of the funding changes that came through affects the funding we get through PEG Fees. He said we had to move a position out of one of the accounts because we could no longer use that for personnel services. He said looking at it funded it just grows and grows with new money coming in, and nothing really allocated for that. He asked Finance Director Johnson what the limitation was on the use of that funding. Finance Director Johnson explained what happened last September was that the legislative laws have changed. He noted that we used to be allowed to use the PEG Cable Funds for not only equipment, but for operations of our cable system. He said that included salaries, equipment, purchases, etc. He stated in the PEG Cable Special Revenue Fund is where we used to track that after that law changed in September, we were no longer allowed to use it for production, it could only be used for capital related items. He said we immediately moved the funding to a new fund, it is a Capital Project Fund, can only be used for capital. He said we left the existing funds in the PEG Cable Special Revenue Fund. He stated the change in the personnel that you mentioned was at City Council's recommendation that we used to split the Communications Director salary 50% of the General Fund to 50% of the PEG Fund. He said to maximize the amount of funds available in the PEG Cable Fund, we moved 100% of the salary into the General Fund. He stated that means the PEG Cable Fund with the remaining funds there will last through FY 2020 to 2023 and then run out of money at that point. He said the operations of the PEG Cable Fund will have to be put into the General Fund, the fund you are referring to is the new PEG Cable Fund, which brings in approximately \$300,000 issue a year. He noted the new laws and regulations are that it can only be used for capital related items. He said Communications Director Walsh could go into a little more detail



if you need to, but that is the issue, it can only be used for capital. He said in the next three-years, we do not have any significant capital plan in that Fund, which is why you see an excess of \$300,00 coming in each year with no expenditures. Member Mutch said that intrigued him, he wondered if we have a good handle on what the definition of capital expenditures was. He understood equipment we use for video broadcasting, but how broad is that category. He said if we have had some conversation, some general conversation about municipal broadband and at some point, down the road, if the City has some involvement with municipal broadband, in whatever way could some of this money be used for that purpose? Can we use the cable companies' money to fund municipal broadband services in some way? City Manager Auger replied to the question and he explained that some of those are going to have to be worked out through the attorney's interpretation and off the federal officials of how far that stretches. He currently said the conversation in administration is with those funds for capital. He said our staff did an awesome job of throwing a small studio together upstairs where they produce Emmy Award winning work and purchase equipment at a startup level. He thought that we are going to be ready within those two to three years to upgrade our facility and maybe allow more public access and other capabilities. He stated it was not totally worked out yet and he would like to bring it back to City Council when we get some more of the details worked out. He said it may be a way to offset some of our costs and upgrade our system where we could be doing more with the talented staff that we have. Member Mutch appreciated that background. He was sure City Administration recognizes that anytime City Council sees a million dollars sitting in a fund we are going to try and figure out how to best utilize that if there is an opportunity to do so. Thank you.

Member Mutch said he had a few more questions. One was for Chief Molloy. He referred to a couple of items in the Police Department budget that he wanted to ask him about in terms of how that hits the bottom line. He wondered what the overtime line items that are in there and noticed those are standard for year to year. He was surprised because he figured with the pandemic and some of the extra duties the department had to take on this year that two would see a bump up in that, but it did not look like there was a significant change. He asked for clarification so that he could understand what the situations were that we are typically seeing officers accrue overtime hours. Chief Molloy said that was a good question. He explained that a vast majority of the time, our overtime is going to be expended when the officers are going to court and other related functions where they are testifying, whether it is in District Court, Circuit Court, and Federal Court. He mentioned looking at shift time coverage when we must bring in overtime to cover shifts, whether it is in dispatch, or in our police command group. He stated those are probably the three biggest ones that we are looking at. He said a lot of the overtime that we expended last year, for the protection of the mobile field hospital at the Suburban Collection Showplace, we are expecting that reimbursement through FEMA when that comes, we have no idea when that will take place. Member Mutch said the reason that he asked that is, seeing some of those line items, of course, the first question is, we have been reluctant, but they have always been cognizant of adding personnel to address those, because all the additional, it is to just the salary, it is the benefits, the equipment, and the training. He said what sometimes looks like it is quite a bit more than that. He asked if there are any situations if we added a dispatcher or added a patrol officer, we would be able to see a cost savings? He wondered by the nature of how

overtime falls, there really is not going to be a way to match those up. Chief Molloy explained with respect to the various collective bargaining agreements and their abilities to take their benefit time, there is really no advantage of adding a police officer or a dispatcher to try to reduce that overtime. He stated in the last 10 years we have probably cut that number by at least 60%, we are very diligent in which contract overtime we do. He said they are very selective on the contract overtime. He said if we do not believe that it is in the best interest of our community members, we are not going to engage in that. He did not believe that it is a requirement of additional staff in either dispatch, or our uniform operations divisions that would help reduce those numbers, they are going to vary. They are going to go up and down, depending on the situation, and fluctuates, and we can adjust as we can on the fly. Member Mutch said the last thing he wanted to ask about was about the conversation over the past year about police departments, police procedures and policies, and everything that has gone along with that. He stated the core to that conversation has been what we have seen with body camera technology, utilized by officers, and civilians using their phones, and cameras everywhere. He said we have budgeted body cameras, but that is not budgeted for another two years out in FY 2022-2023. He understood that you have expressed some concerns about this technology, in terms of implementation and utilization in the field, the trade offs in terms of privacy for people that our officers are interacting with, sometimes in their homes, sometimes in a private situation, or somebody is having a really bad day that we do not know, they do not want to see that show up on YouTube the next day. He asked if this timeline was firm. He said Council should know, if residents ask us as Councilmembers about body cameras, or why does the city of Novi not have them, or when could we expect to see them. He wondered if this date we could expect to see this implemented or is this a moving target. Chief Molloy believed it was a moving target. He thought you must look at the implementation of body cameras and context with what we are dealing with. He said if you look at our numbers for use of force, or, as we like to call it response to resistance. He stated that last year, we had five of those, no one of those involved a deadly encounter. They all involved an officer happened to take action to put a suspect into custody. He said that individual may have complained of injury or may have sustained a minor injury. He said we had two citizen complaints and we had over 65,000 contacts with the public last year. We had two people complain about the service, both of which were not sustained. He was not saying that they do everything perfect, because we do not. He said you must look at the historical data. He stated you are looking at less than five citizen complaints a year, you are looking at anywhere from five to maybe seven response to resistance complaints per year. He said do I believe body cameras, and I know he has had officers say they would welcome body cameras, and they would with open arms. He believed there are proposals out with Oakland County is looking at issuing an RFP in the next several months, and he thought it might be valuable for us to wait and to look at it. He said if we were to piggyback upon that, there would be significant cost savings and value, because they would be looking at bidding that out for the 40 plus law enforcement agencies we have. He was confident in the FY 2022-2023 timeline. He said if he thought we needed them any sooner, he would certainly bring it to not only the City Manager's attention, but also to the City Council's attention. Member Mutch said we recently approved some additional equipment and some upgrades to some of the firearms that the officers use directly in response to those requests. He appreciated that.

He told Mayor Gatt, his final comment is that he was going to circle back around to something that was early in the meeting that Member Fischer raised regarding the school walking zone, along Wixom Road, which he knew was a compressed timeline. He said his expectation is that we have something that if we need to insert something into the budget that we can do so before we approve the final budget. He understood that put a tight timeline on City Administration, but as Member Fischer correctly noted, the kids go back to school in the fall. He said he fully expected the kids to be in school in the fall, not anything virtual, knock on wood here. He thought it was important that we move that forward. He mentioned another concerns in the budget regarding the repaving of Wixom Road with engineering work to be done in the upcoming budget and then construction work to be done in the future year. He said it is important that not only that design work, he thought not only about how the best way is to make traffic flow on Wixom Road, but also to do it safely in the context of having multiple schools and the prospect of many more students having to traverse that corridor to get to those schools. He said it is a buy roadway from what he has been told by folks who live over there. We always must be mindful; it is the same conversation we had about Cranbrook Drive. He stated that we need to improve the roads in terms of the surface, but we do not want to create hazards for pedestrians or folks who live along there as we do so. He said we need to do both. That was all he had that evening.

Mayor Gatt said if there was not further discussion on budget, he would close the City Council discussion and decisions regarding the plan priorities and move to audience comments.

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:**

Michael Olando said he was a Fire Protection Officer with the city of Novi, and the president of the Novi Professional Firefighters Union. He said on behalf of their group he wanted to thank the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Member Mutch, and all City Council for voting seven to nothing that evening to give them a much-needed Fire Protection Officer position back. He said his group strives daily to be the best we can for our city, our businesses and for our residents. He stated this one position, while it is only one body is going to help them be better at their job. It will help with staffing and help them with call volume to respond accordingly He said it is only a start, and he hoped future talks can get them to even a higher number of Fire Protection Officers, in 2010 we had 20 Fire Protection Officers on staff. He knew times are different, but we are moving in the right direction. He said again, on behalf of all the Novi Fire Departments, Novi Professional Firefighters Union, and Fire Protection Officers, they are very grateful. We thank Council, City Administration, Fire Administration and Police Administration for everything that they do, we thank you for the support.

Mayor Gatt thanked Michael on behalf of all of Council, behalf of all the citizens, and all the residents. Thank you and thank all your colleagues for what you do for us every day.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked if they needed to cancel the meeting that is scheduled for the second-round discussion in May. Mayor Gatt said after the meeting that evening, he

did not see any reason they would go forward with the next meeting. City Manager Auger said he will see that it gets posted as canceled, although it is reserved if needed.

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

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Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

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Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

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Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: May 10, 2021

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 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:**

**CM 21-04-062 Moved by Casey, seconded by Maday; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Agenda as presented.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-02-062 Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer,  
Maday, Mutch, Gatt  
Nays: None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS: None**

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None**

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

**CM 21-04-063 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Maday; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

- A. Approve Minutes of:
  - 1. April 12, 2021 - Regular Meeting
- B. Approval to award the installation of SealMaster Safe Ride Safety Green Bicycle Lane Coating at Lakeshore Park to Goddard Coatings Sport Surfaces in the amount of \$26,160.
- C. Approval of a Resolution for the extension of a lease of City Property to the US Postal Service for approximately 10,680 square feet of City-owned land on the west side of Novi Road, north of Ten Mile Road, immediately north of the US Post Office Branch, for one term of five years beginning March 1, 2023, until March 1, 2028.
- D. Approval to purchase a single full-time Call Station position for the Novi Police Department Dispatch Center from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$31,817.35.
- E. Approval of request to transfer existing escrowed 2020 Class C and SDM licenses and permits from Sun Valley-MI Limited Partnership to JLZ Spigel Family Holdings, LTD, at the former Taipei 101 restaurant located at 44125 W. 12 Mile Road Ste. E-136 and 44375 W. 12 Mile Road Ste. G-147 in Novi, MI 48377 for escrow purposes.
- F. Approval of the final payment to Toebe Construction, LLC. for the DPW Site Fill project at the Water Tower property (25460 Novi Road), in the amount of \$12,643.14, plus interest earned on retainage.
- G. Adoption of a resolution of support for the ITC Trail to Wildlife Woods Park Pathway Connection project and authorization of participation in the Transportation Alternatives Program grant for non-motorized pathways.
- H. Acceptance of a Warranty Deed to dedicate an additional 13 feet of right-of-way along the east side of Seeley Road as part of the Novi Tech Center Units 6 & 7 development (parcel 50-22-24-251-027).
- I. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement from Ericar Land Holding Company, LLC for Novi Tech Units 6 & 7 located north of Grand River Avenue and east of Seeley Road (parcel 50-22-24-251-027).
- J. Approval of the Beautification Commission's recommendation on the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program to award the requested grant amount for the following neighborhoods upon successful completion of the entryway work depicted in the applications: Summerlin of Novi (\$5,000), Bella Terra of Novi (\$5,000), and Maples of Novi (\$5,000).
- K. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant No. 1082.

**Roll call vote on CM 21-05-063 Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt,**

**Staudt**  
**Nays: None**

**MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

1. **Consideration of approval of Change Order No. 1 to Pro-Line Asphalt Paving Corporation for the 2021 Neighborhood Road Program – Asphalt Streets, in the amount of \$1,070,965.00.**

**CM 21-04-064          Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval of Change Order No. 1 to Pro-Line Asphalt Paving Corporation for the 2021 Neighborhood Road Program – Asphalt Streets, in the amount of \$1,070,965.00.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-04-064          Yeas: Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Casey**  
**Nays: None**

2. **Consideration of approval of Change Order No. 1 to Mattioli Cement Company for the 2021 Neighborhood Road Program – Concrete Streets, in the amount of \$250,486.00.**

**CM 21-04-065          Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval of Change Order No. 1 to Mattioli Cement Company for the 2021 Neighborhood Road Program – Concrete Streets, in the amount of \$250,486.00.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-04-065          Yeas: Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt, Staudt, Casey, Crawford**  
**Nays: None**

3. **Consideration of approval to award a contract to Hydromax USA, the low bidder, for the Valve Exercising, Condition Assessment, and Repair Program, in the amount of \$644,337.00.**

City Manager Auger reminded Council a little while back that we installed a diver into our system to check out some of our major lines and we found some areas to work on as far as what is under the ground. He said a lot of these valves not only need exercising, but we need to inspect them to make sure that we are up on top of it, so our system does not go down.

**CM 21-04-066          Moved by Staudt, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval to award a contract to Hydromax USA, the low bidder, for the Valve Exercising, Condition Assessment, and Repair Program, in the amount of \$644,337.00.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-04-066**

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

**Nays: None**

**4. Consideration of approval of a resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2021-6.**

Member Fischer stated there was what looks to be just a little cleanup on the new DPW building and there is some additional money going to DTE. He wanted to confirm we are all set as far as the budget numbers that we looked at. He said it sounds like the Finance Department has contemplated all the expected DPW billings in the future, so this is just kind of a one-time catch up. He asked if that was correct. City Manager Auger responded to the question and replied yes, that was correct. He said that the Finance Department noticed that our DTE bill for the DPW seemed low after the changeover to the new buildings. Staff inquired several times to DTE and we were told no, it is correct. They later found out the Oakland County was getting our bill. He said we had to make the adjustment and end up paying after all. He said the Finance Department put all those numbers into the budget. He said we should be all set and caught up with those bills. Member Fischer said he wanted to make sure there was nothing impacting the future budget.

**CM 21-04-067**

**Moved by Fischer, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Approval of a resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2021-6.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-04-067**

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

**Nays: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENT: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None**

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.



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Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

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Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

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Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: May 10, 2021