

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Fischer, Mayor Pro Tem Casey, Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith (Absent/Excused), Staudt, Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Cardenas, City Manager
Tom Schultz, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 24-08-113 Moved by Casey, seconded by Thomas; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

To approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 24-08-113 **Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Staudt, Thomas, Fischer**
Nays: None
Absent: Smith

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Novi Youth Assistance

Greg Cocke, NYA Executive Committee Chair was present with Sabrina Matsel, the NYA caseworker, and Jay Dooley who will lead the effort as they try to improve the community relations and the relationship with the City of Novi. Many of the nonprofits suffered through covid as this committee had a lot of rebuilding to do but Mr. Cocke is proud that they have made a lot of progress. There are 26 school districts in Oakland County. Each has their own youth assistance organization and are structured with a caseworker, administrative assistant, executive board committee chairs and task workers. Youth Assistance was started in the late 1950's and Novi was one of the first. It is federally funded and is sponsored by the Family Division of the Oakland County Court System, the Novi Community School District and the City of Novi. Their mission is to strengthen youth and families through reducing the incidents of delinquency, abuse and neglect through community involvement. Some of the examples of the programs they manage are Silver Linings Menor Program K-6, a program that went dormant during covid and it's been resurrected with a great chair, Rob Friedenber. He is happy to say there are 10 mentors and nearly 20 mentees for the coming year. They have community sponsorship at Kohl's and recently did some back to school shopping there with some underprivileged children. The NYA provides scholarships for students and families that are in financial need to do things like pay play for sports, driver's training and various programs that are offered in the summer for children. There are two field trips that are offered, an overnight stay at Walled Lake and the eighth-grade visit to Washington D.C. They support as many

students as possible with the funds they have. They are federally funded but there's some restrictions on the money and the families have to meet the criteria. As mentioned, there has been a lot to do, and they have a new board and new committee chairs. They launched a new website today and he asked Katherine Oppermann to email that to the Council members so hopefully that will give them an understanding of what the NYA is trying to accomplish. They've increased their funding because outside of the federally funded programs, there is still a lot of need, and they want to touch as many people in the community as they can. Their goal this year is to strengthen the relationship in the community and Jay Dooley is going to lead that. They are looking for a good year in fundraising, community involvement, school district involvement, and touching as many families in a positive manner.

Sabrina Matsel is the caseworker at Youth Assistance. She works five days a week which is a shift from the past couple of years when it used to be three days a week. They are really focused on being more involved, so she is around a bit more. They love to make connections and be present. Casework services with youth assistance varies, dependent on the family, so they are focused on provided support in whatever way they can to the family. Referrals come from court, community families can self-refer and the school district. A lot of referrals are truancy related. They are seeing a large influx of vaping related referrals. The goal of casework is not therapy. It is to provide service referrals and assessing what needs are. They can provide short-term interventions, if education related. For parent education or education tools related to substance abuse, domestic violence, et cetera, they can provide referrals for the community. The services are aimed for short-term, three to six months, but could be longer or shorter. The services can be voluntary so families can choose to self-terminate or they ask them to stay on as an option as well. The services are confidential which is important as it allows the families to be open and talk about what their needs really are, and the school or courts will not find out. The only information the referring source gets is whether or not the family participates. The services provided are tailored to the needs of each family. She is located inside the high school and the referral form is available on the website.

Mayor Fischer stated that the work the NYA does is amazing and appreciates all the efforts to reach out to every single family they can. He feels that as far as doing some community outreach, Jay Dooley is the right person for that and is impressed with the team.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey is happy to see the NYA come and explain what the organization is and explain some of the work they do for the community. The Novi Youth Assistance has a long history of helping and service the community and she is glad for people to have the chance to hear about them. For those who haven't a chance to engage with the organization, they are top notch. She has had the privilege of being able to participate with some of their programs and looks forward to seeing them out and about engaging the community.

Mr. Cocke concluded by saying that during the pandemic, most 501c's struggled. They couldn't hold meetings, couldn't meet face-to-face and fundraising waned. They were fortunate to put a good team together.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Autumn Boggues, 42263 Joyce Lane, wanted to talk about apartment communities not granting reasonable accommodations for the disabled community. She lives in the Brownstones community and since 2018, has been ignored in her requests for either a private parking spot or a disabled handicap spot. They only have one in the community and that is for future residences. It can only be used from 6:00 p.m. and then the car has to be moved by 7:00 a.m. It appears as if it's a handicapped friendly community, but it doesn't really have the function. She had her car towed from the community in February. This has been going on for a long time. She is a heart patient and has several other medical conditions. This has been a constant situation with her asking for the parking spots. She also has a husband who is blind. They are both physically disabled, and anyone can see that so she's not sure why her request keeps getting denied. She recently had a stroke which makes getting around more difficult. She doesn't know why this community has such a hard time getting simple things. If you want to live somewhere, it's said that you have to make three times the rent but if you are on a fixed income, you get social security disability and you can't get a job, how is someone supposed to make three times the rent? Those types of discrimination pieces are what she is talking about and being denied park spaces. When her car was towed, she was asking for reasonable accommodations again. The general counsel emailed her and went through her file and told her she didn't deserve the ones she got in the past. It was a humiliating and heartbreaking experience. She wants to bring attention to these types of issues withing the disabled community.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 24-08-114 Moved by Casey, seconded by Thomas; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
August 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of resolution recognizing LCG iCare Foundation as a nonprofit organization operating in the City of Novi for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license from the State of Michigan.
- C. Approval of the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Novi and Lyon Township.

- D. Approval of the 2025 City Council Meeting Calendar
- E. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1162

Roll call vote on CM 24-08-114

**Yeas: Gurumurthy, Heintz, Staudt, Thomas,
Fischer, Casey
Nays: None
Absent: Smith**

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Approval of a Resolution to set a public hearing for September 30, 2024, on the issue of vacating North Karevich Drive between West Oaks Drive and West Oaks Access Road, west of Novi Road and south of Twelve Mile Road.

City Manager Victor Cardenas commented that this came before the Planning Commission in June and in order to vacate or consider the vacation of a road, a public hearing must be held. This can be noticed in time for the 30th hearing if it's approved tonight and then it will continue on with the site plan and then the vacation can be considered as a later date.

CM 24-08-115 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey: MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Approval of a Resolution to set a public hearing for September 30, 2024, on the issue of vacating North Karevich Drive between West Oaks Drive and West Oaks Access Road, west of Novi Road and south of Twelve Mile Road.

Roll call vote on CM 24-08-115

**Yeas: Heintz, Staudt, Thomas, Fischer, Casey,
Gurumurthy
Nays: None
Absent: Smith**

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Environmental Sustainability Committee

Member Gurumurthy said the Committee had its fourth meeting on August 19. It's been great to have expert individuals from different organizations come to the meeting. They were able to present their sustainability journey, the initiatives that they did and the lessons they learned. The committee had the SSLI 4-H Club, City of Royal Oak Sustainability Manager, and Novi High School share their knowledge and then they had a public participation, during those meetings, to share opportunities with the City. They are currently working on a framework for the environmental action plan that is part of the

Committee's goal, including a mission statement, pillars, and the various platforms that can be created in order to get community input.

2. Public Utilities and Technology Committee

Member Thomas said the met last Tuesday, the 20th and they discussed some of the issues that citizens are experiencing with DTE and ways that the Committee might be able to advocate for the community and to also share awareness of things that can be done as far as emergency preparedness and other alternatives to supply oneself with power. The Committee is trying to narrow down what they think might be places to affect change. Everyone is welcome to attend the next meeting. The Committee will be going through the previous municipal broadband report and reviewing all the work that has been done on broadband up until this point.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

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

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Justin Fischer, Mayor

Transcribed by Becky Dockery,
Account Clerk

Date approved: September 9, 2024