

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Cardenas, Interim City Manager
Elizabeth Saarela, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 23-03-034 Moved by **Crawford**, seconded by **Smith**; **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

To approve the Agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 23-03-034 Yeas: **Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt**
Nays: **None**

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Foreclosure Prevention - Oakland County Treasurer Robert Wittenberg

Mr. Wittenberg thanked Mayor and Council for having him there that evening. He stated he has been in this position since July 1, 2021. He said the reason he was there that evening was because March 31 is the foreclosure deadline. He stated that it was a full court press getting out here and talking at council meetings and they are in the press trying to prevent foreclosure in the community, and all throughout Oakland County. He explained if anyone owes 2020 or prior year's property taxes, you are subject to foreclosure this March 31. He stated their goal is to get in touch with you to either pay those property taxes off in full if you are able to. He said if you are not able, they want you to reach out to their office, there are resources available, we can try to get you on a repayment agreement. He said more than anything, they wanted to let people know that they are there to help, and this is why they are trying to get out to as many communities as possible to let people know to contact their office at (248) 858-0611 or you can go to their website www.oakgov.com/treasurers. He stated they do what is called Taxpayer Assistance meetings (TAMS), they are one on one meetings and they are confidential. He mentioned they can do it over the phone, they can do it via Zoom, whatever is most convenient for you. He explained they will talk to you about their unique situation and how they can be helpful. He encouraged those that need help to go onto their website to schedule that meeting or call their office to schedule that meeting. He said that within their office they have a Financial Empowerment Center headed by Rita, and she is like a financial coach. He stated she will work with people on budgeting, seeing if there are other resources available to them, such as grants that are out there.

He said they want you to call their office for that help as well. He mentioned a nonprofit not affiliated with them, but they refer a lot of people to Lakeshore Legal Aid, they do a lot of great work in the community. He noted Lakeshore Legal Aid is a free legal clinic for low income families and senior and they do everything but criminal law. He said one of the things that they are really trying to let people know about a grant from the State, there are federal dollars that were spent, federal COVID Relief dollars that came to the State. He said there is a program that is called MI Half, the Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund and this is a grant program that is administered by MSHDA, the Housing Development Authority here at the State and it is up to \$25,000 per household for delinquent taxes, if you are behind on your mortgage, your utility bills, condo fees, there are quite a few things that are covered up to \$25,000. He noted there is an income threshold, he believed it is up to 150% of AML. He said you can go on their website to see what number is based on how many family members and then you also have to show some kind of COVID hardship, but they are really lenient on this. He said any kind of loss of income due to COVID, increased expenses, health issues, family members, anyone that has been impacted by COVID. He believed they have had around 400 Oakland County residents who have applied for this program, and over three and a half million dollars has been given to Oakland County residents on this, you know for this program that might have programs specifically so it is money that is helping Oakland County residents so we have been really pushing people to apply for this program as well. He mentioned there is another program along those lines that started this year, it is similar to the one that is through MSHDA, and it is to help homeowners, called MY HOPE. He said you can look up that one, but it is also \$25,000 to households for energy efficient home repairs and that includes roof repairs, window upgrades and any kind of modifications to your heating and cooling systems. He wanted people to be aware of that as well. He wanted to reiterate, that they are there to help, but we do not know you need help unless you tell us you need help. Please reach out to their office at (248)858-0611 or go to our website at www.oakgov.com/treasurer. He stated that foreclosure is the last case scenario, it can impact the family, but their neighbors and a whole community and that is not something that they want to do. He said they want to work with all of you. We are really trying to spread this message that they are there to help. He appreciated Council having him there that evening and taking the time. He said he was there to answer any questions.

Mayor Gatt thanked him for a very comprehensive presentation that had a lot of information he did not know about. He said he was sure that people are watching. He said if there is anybody that is in trouble and needs help it is great to know that the Oakland County Treasurer's Office is there to help. He said he has been up here for 20 years and he did remember a local county treasurer coming to talk to us like that, it was very much appreciated. He asked that he repeat the phone number again. Mr. Wittenberg said the number is (248)858-0611, he said this is our busiest time of the year, because we are out here trying to do this. He mentioned if there is ever another issue that you want me to come, he would be happy to come by and say hello. He enjoyed getting out and about and getting to meet some new people and talk about the importance of the work that they are doing. He said it boils down to the fact that they are there to help, that is what government does, they are there to serve the public. They

are here to solve their problems and help them and he was happy to do that. Mayor Gatt thanked him again for the information and all that he does.

PRESENTATIONS FOR APPLICANTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Gatt announced there were eight people that signed up to be candidates for the Library Board, the procedure that we will have in place tonight, keeping in mind that every Councilmember has seen your application and resumes, if they were attached. He said they hope to know pretty much all there is to know about you and why you want to be a member of the Library Board. He explained that they will be given two minutes, and he will keep time so it is fair to everybody, at the end of two minutes he will stop the presentation. He stated they will be given two minutes to tell Council in their own words why they want to be selected to be part of the Library Board. He said there will be no announcements or decision that evening, that will happen at our next regular scheduled Novi City Council meeting.

1. Adrienne Breznau – Library

Adrienne Breznau said she has lived in Novi since 2017. She said she was there to talk about her interest in serving as a Library Board Trustee. She said she recently retired from the Royal Oak Public Library where she worked as the head of Access Services for the last five years. She mentioned in total, she has spent the past 15 years as a professional librarian in multiple states, she had a passion for public service. She stated now that she had a lot of free time, she would like to be able to use her skills and experience to give back to the city of Novi and her neighbors. She stated back in January, she met with Library Director Julie Farkus to discuss the needs and direction of the library and see if her abilities would be able to help the Library and see if her abilities would be able to help the Library achieve its mission. She noted many of the things she had done in her professional career align with the Library's current goals, especially planning and implementation. She also had experience supervising staff, creating, and reviewing policies, crafting, and implementing budgets, fundraising for her time spent serving as the Interim Director in Royal Oak. She believed the Library Board should be an advocate for the Library within the community and ensure the Library is able to meet the needs of its diverse patrons. She believed Trustees should be ambassadors for all the amazing and helpful resources the Library has to offer. She stated because she is a librarian, she already knows what is available and she was in a good position to be that representative for the Novi Public Library. She said unfortunately, libraries are coming under attack by censorship groups, so it is more important now than ever before for the Library Board to uphold the First Amendment and everyone's freedom to read. She believed the Trustees must defend the frontline staff through solid policies that empower and support them to do their jobs as professionals. She said if she was selected for the Library Board, she would make it a priority to continue to protect these values; support Library staff, promote the Library within the community, and be a good steward of taxpayer dollars to ensure the Novi Public Library has a financially stable future.

2. Ajeeta Gawalapu – Library

Ajeeta Gawalapu said she was a Novi resident for the past 24 years. She stated she is currently working as a senior manager at Cognizant in the IT Department for the past 24 years. She was interested in being considered for the position of Library Board Member. She mentioned she was a mother of two kids who have grown up spending a lot of time in our Library, and she believed she would be an excellent asset to the Library Board. She mentioned that over the years, she has witnessed firsthand the incredible impact the library has not only to her community, not only to her household, to all the community members also. She thought the Novi Public Library is more than just a place to borrow books. She said it is a community center that fosters creative thinking and imagination that serves not only specific group of people, but people for all ages, from children attending story time to seniors in high school, working on projects with their peers. She said as a member of the Library Board she would bring a unique perspective as a parent who has seen the benefits of library for many families and she understood the importance of early literacy programs such as story times, summer reading programs, STEM programs, and the impact they have on the child's academic successes. Furthermore, she stated she had a passion for promoting lifelong learning and would like to ensure the library continues to offer diverse programs that meets the needs of the community. She advocated for increased funding and resources to expand the library's collection and services. She added that due to the growing reliance on technology, she had a technology background. She felt our kids in Novi will put on a pedestal if they are exposed to AI technology, artificial intelligence from an early age as they go into the real world.

3. Jared Oluoch – Library

Jared Oluoch thanked the Mayor, City Councilmember's, and the audience attending the meeting that evening for listening to his presentation. He said he was an associate professor of computer science at the University of Toledo. He said he was happily married to his beloved wife and they have a son who turns five on April 14. He said whenever he looks at his son, as they go to the library, and he teaches him, it intrigues him to see that he is enjoying learning. He wanted to ensure that even our young citizens of Novi and even our senior adults have a widespread access to the library. He said his research focuses on information security, artificial intelligence, and machine learning and he had a passion for teaching and mentoring. He has mentored students from all walks of life. He hoped to bring to the Board his perspective from higher education. He commented on what he has learned every day from his son, as he spent time with him, to make sure that the success we have the books, the infrastructure, are publicly available to members of the public, but not only that, he felt like the culture of reading is almost getting away with young people these days, they are stacked with their devices, their phones, and so on. He said he would like us to try and change that perspective to encourage our city residents to spend time reading a book, get away from the phone a little bit, and just read books from the library. He hoped to learn a lot from the library and from the community. He thought what he would add to the library to the Board of Trustees if he got the opportunity which was his passion for teaching. He said he had a passion for learning and his passion for research and mentoring, to help bring this together to a city

resident so that we have a city that is full of people who are learning, because learning is lifelong. He said it does not stop when you finish high school or college, it is a lifelong career, statement and this he hoped to bring to the Board of Trustees if he got the opportunity.

4. Padmalehka Ramani – Library (absent)

5. Adam Stevenson – Library

Adam Stevenson thanked the Mayor and City Council; he said it was a humbling experience to be in front of this group of people who are applying for the Library Board. He said it reaffirms that he is in the right spot, as far as Novi, that explains why he was there. He stated he had a degree in Master of Library Information Science, he chose the tech route going in, he assists the Associate Director of Behavioral Health for experienced design, which is to say professionally, he observed things, how people use information and find ways to make them better. That is what he does. He said he grew up in a library in White Lake, it was a small community, but it did teach him the value of community service. He commented that was what all of you are doing, that service to the community and knowing that there are people who have just spoken about why they want to serve on the Library Board and how important they are, he echoed all of those things. He mentioned that he does embody public service, he has been a coach, a mentor, for the park district tee ball, he coached a couple of robotics teams and putting yourself out there, as any of these people are capable of doing is so important to allowing the community to be as strong as it is. He said you have seen what he can bring to the table and equally with these people can, it is so important that we are able to be here and give our time to the Board. He said as far as the Board's perspective, yes, the idea of the Library Board is to provide an excellent library, we want to make sure that it continues to be excellent. He believed as far as the policies and procedures, protecting the First Amendment, we do have a diverse community and making sure that we can ensure that the library does serve all of those people in their individuality, but as well as bringing the whole together forward. He thought the library is the kind of the paradigm of public information and making sure that it is available to everyone is so important. He loved the fact that Novi has brought together people who shared that value.

6. Ashleigh Taylor – Library

Ashleigh Taylor thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity. She said she has been a resident of Novi for the last five years. She was a former senior admissions officer for the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where is where she obtained her bachelor's degree. She said she had a master's in higher education with a focus on educational leadership and student affairs from Eastern Michigan University. She stated that after leaving the University of Michigan back in 2020, she began working for herself as an independent educational consultant, where she worked with students and families who are navigating the complex college admissions process. She said she typically worked with those students who are applying to the most selective institutions and in doing that, they end up having to write a lot of college essays. She stated that since she applied to

college and she was sure many of you, the process has changed just so much. She knew how important early literacy is for the students who are now applying to school. She said the difference between the students that she is working with who are just going through the process on the regular basis, not really motivated or inspired, looks a lot different from those that she worked with who are really inspired and intellectually curious. She believed that really starts early, and it starts by being in the right environments. She commented that in just seeing that it has inspired her to want to put her own children in an environment that engages them intellectually. She said she has a son that recently turned 10 years old, he is a student at Parkview Elementary, and a four year old daughter who is at the Early Childhood Education Center. She said during the pandemic, as many of you know, you were all stuck at home, and she was so happy when the Library opened up, because it gave her an opportunity to get back out into the community and do something that was fun. She thought that over the past two years, they have come to recognize that the library can be that fun and inviting space for them. She stated that was the reason that she applied for this role because she wanted to continue to engage the young people, not just her own children, but also those students that she worked with in Novi and the surrounding communities.

7. Rachel Yamakura – Library

Rachel Yamakura said she has been a resident of the city of Novi since 2015 and she was there that evening as a mom of a six year old who loves the library. She said her commitment to equity has always been at the forefront of her work. She stated as a leader in public policy at SEMCOG and at the Detroit Public Schools Community District, she championed equitable school funding, holding our policymakers and legislators accountable to Michigan's public-school children. She said with the support of SEMCOG's executive leadership, she pioneered development and implementation of DEI initiatives within the organization ranging from internal HR practices to public policy. She was humbled to say that she led initiatives that have directly impacted the lives of 4.8 million of us living in Southeast Michigan. She said her philosophy is simple, results are achieved through people when perspectives are diverse everyone is celebrated, Institutions are intentionally inclusive, and opportunities are equitable, everyone wins. She explained that with that philosophy she has proven organizational success that have yielded her sustainable, inclusive and equitable outcomes for individuals in Southeast Michigan and beyond. She said at Lansing Community College where she served as the Director of Equity and Inclusion, she employed a data driven project management framework to lead institutional change through strategic collaboration and successfully embed DEI across campus. She said her commitment to institutionalizing and operationalizing equity and education and the world around her has been recognized by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights where she served on the Council for Government and Education on Equity and Inclusion. She lent her DEI expertise to Wayne State University Alumni Association and the University of Michigan Alumni Association. She noted that she served on the FBI Multicultural Engagement Council and she previously served on the ACLU of Michigan's Bail Reform and Legislative Advocacy.

8. Mike McGee – Library

Mike McGee understood Council had received his application for Library Board and said he would be happy to answer any questions they had. He said he was going to sound a lot like Rachel, and he wanted to spend a couple of minutes talking about what subject that is important to him personally and professionally, and that was DEI. He stated from his perspective, that has been a topic that has always been a challenge, frankly, for law firms. He said when he became a managing partner of our firm, and with the support of our board of directors, they embarked on a program which has been offered the law firms nationally called the Mansfield Program and they were not sure what they were going to get. He said he liked the Mansfield Program because it was very specific, it was hardheaded, it was practical in terms of its advice, so they kept at it now for about six years and they were very proud of the results. He said they have been able to reach a point in our organization where they are considered among for Mansfield purposes, the top 50 firms in the country and they were the only firm like that in Michigan, so they were happy about it. He said at the same time when he looked back at the business performance of the business over the same period they have had five of the best years they have ever had, this is a 170-year-old business. He stated what he took from that was, you do well, you are happy to do well, you can do well, by doing good. He explained that meant is that when management makes a serious and sustained commitment, as Rachel was saying, to the principles of diversity, which really means making sure people are seen making sure people are listened to and to have them believe that they are going to compete on an equal playing field, but everybody else you get good results. He said that was the perspective he would bring to the Board.

Mayor Gatt thanked everyone and noted that was a display of seven very passionate, educated, learned people who are trying for one opening on the Library Board. He said at our next regular scheduled meeting April 3, 2023 is when they will make their decision. He thanked everyone for coming and said they were welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting if they so desired.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:

Interim City Manager Cardenas has two quick things he wanted to let Council know per your directive. He mentioned they are currently fielding in servicing 2400 requests for limb pickup throughout the City. He said our crews that we have contracted are working overtime until 7:00 p.m. each night and working on some Saturdays, so we asked for the community's patience as we make their way through the community and picking up all these downed trees and limbs that have littered our residences lawn. He said construction season has begun and all of the on ramps to I-96 from Wixom Road, Beck Road, and Novi Road are now closed heading eastbound for the season. He said this is to help facilitate the construction of the flex lane on I-96. The eastbound lanes are closed this year, the westbound lanes will be closed next year. He said don't go east, stay right here in Novi, our businesses, and restaurants need your help, so please visit them as much as possible. Mayor Gatt asked about Ten Mile and Novi, what is going on there. Mr. Cardenas believed they are down to the last culvert in terms of making necessary repairs to the culvert replacing that before they will do the reconstruction project for Ten Mile,

so that will start eastbound he thought in the next couple of weeks. He said eastbound only we are hoping that the intersection of Haggerty and Ten Mile will be able to still access that and maybe start one way a little bit further west. He said there is a lot of construction going on , tactile start up here after this school year ends. He said Grand River west of the City is going to be pushed out to 2024 and Novi Road is under construction right now.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Joe Bertera 130 Rexton, Novi said he was there regarding the Lake Wall Subdivision, he said there were here a few weeks ago discussing regarding the ordinance trying to remove their dock from the neighborhood. He wanted to make sure the City Council is aware of what is going on in our neighborhood. He wanted to point something out on the overhead projector. Mayor Gatt informed him that he would have to have it approved before the meeting by City staff to use the overhead projector. Mr. Bertera said he would do that the next meeting. He said he had an advertisement from 1919 and it said their subdivision states every lot as lakefront privileges, and that was from 1919. He said we will fast forward 70 years when the city of Novi wrote an ordinance, about lakefront protection, development, that type of thing. He said the ordinance it talks all about cluster of condos, mobile home park developments, site plan approval, all these things that are obviously this ordinance was written to prevent future development of having a mas condo development on the lake with everyone having lake access. He said this ordinance was not intended to affect our 100-year-old subdivision. He noted in the ordinance, it says multiple housing, mobile home parks, granting access abutting the lake again, talking about developer site plan, a site plan approval. He stated that was all in May of 1986 In July of 1986, the previous owner of his house wrote that a grandfather clause should be included in this ordinance to protect the existing subdivision. He said if you go back to the ordinance it talks about a parcel of land contiguous to the lake shall be subdivided for a single family detached home. He said his neighborhood was existing for 70 plus years before this ordinance was written, the City Council at the time, was asked to put a grandfather clause in for all the backlot owners, and it was never done. He said he did not know, he was not here in 1986. I do not know if it was ignored or not, but he believe it is within this City Councils power to correct that ordinance. He asked that they give them a grandfather clause. He said he was a realtor, but the value of their homes are going to drop so significantly, by forcing this dock to come out, having less boats or whatever it is, they were not asking to have a 200 boat dock, like Mr. Staudt suggested at the beginning of the last meeting. He said it is not 200 boats, it is about 15 boats. He said while the Walled Lake side they have docks that are three times the size of theirs. He asked City Council to reconsider and amend the ordinance from 1986 for the existing homeowners of Lake Wall Subdivision.

Allen Scott, 115 N. Haven wanted to read of couple of affidavits from neighbors in their subdivision that do not have a boat on the dock, but very much care about it and voiced their opinion in these letters. One of the neighbors, his name is John Harvey, at 1321 W.

Lake Drive said his home is built on Lots 7 and 8 of Lake Wall Subdivision. He purchased the property in 1996 and moved in in 1998, it is a year-round residence. He knew that lot nine was the lake access for the residents of Lake Wall Subdivision. He stated that before he bought his property and built his home and ever since he lived there, the neighbors have put their dock in the water in the spring, moored boats and during the summer and then removed all of this and the fall. He stated living on the lake means, you are closer to your neighbors that in most subdivisions. He said the lots are narrower, and they all share the same backyard, the lake, it is easy to get in each other's way to be too loud, or to take up the road, etc. Having said that, he loved his neighbors. He enjoyed saying hello to them hearing them laugh watching the kids play and enjoy the water. He said the neighbors are respectful of his property and look out for him, as he looked out for them. He stated the people who live in the Lake Wall Subdivision live here because of the lake, we have a common interest that connects them. He was confident that ever since the subdivision was first planned, the original intent was that the lake be the center of the community. He said how people use the lake has changed over the years, but the basic intent is still present. He said today, boating is part of using the lake and the neighbors have been able to create an environment where people can enjoy boating, swimming, fishing, without infringing on his property or creating hardship for him. He said he was saddened to hear the City was putting so much time and energy into trying to change something that has been around for basically 100 years, he could not see how anyone is harmed by the current situation and he personally believed this is a waste of taxpayer money. Surely there are some more constructive activities that could take place with our time and money. Mr. Scott said again, that was from a neighbor to the right of the opposite of the person who is doing all the complaining who lives on the left side of the lawn. He said the next person, there is a church who doesn't pay taxes to the City, mind you, so maybe they are on the hit list also. He said her name was Catherine Gross and she said she was a member and clerk at the Beulah Missionary Baptist Church located at 139 N. Haven, their church was established at this location in the mid 1970's and they have used Lot 9 for baptisms, and the dock has been there all this time, they would come at between ourselves, how appreciative we were the respect of those who were quite impatient during their baptisms, and they wished the best for those who were not. They did not have cell phones back then so they don't have photographic evidence of this, and many of older members have passed or left town so otherwise they have more stories to share. She said in her affidavit that she would beg the City to drop this frivolous lawsuit against its taxpaying residents.

Jennifer Cooper, 131 Rexton said she was there regarding the Lake Wall Subdivision also. She wanted to tell her unique story and how this case is impacting their life. She said she has wanted to live on Walled Lake since she was 17 years old, that was 20 years ago. She stated after college and focusing on their careers they finally made the dream come true. She said they do not come from rich families; they work very hard for everything they have. They are a typical middle-class couple who cannot afford a million-dollar home on Walled Lake. She said in 2016 they purchased their home for two reasons, the location, and lake access with a dock. She commented that they put their blood, sweat, and tears into this property. She stated literally, her husband, her day, herself, the three of them tore down the existing 800 square foot cottage, dug their own foundation, started their house

built , the front porch, installed the drywall, floors, trim, plumbing, kitchen, the list goes on. She personally laid every piece of flooring by herself in their 2600 square foot home. She spent every weekend for years working to get this house done. She said they worked after their day job until midnight for months also in freezing cold winters with no heat to get the house done. She said they sacrificed seven years of sanity going insane, living at her parent's house, all to build the house and lake life that they always dreamed of. She said they spent years blowing up friends and family to get the house done all in hopes to one day invite them out on their boat that they planned on having docked all summer long. She stated their light at the end of the tunnel during blood, sweat, and tears was the thought of one day walking down to the dock and being able to jump out on their boat. She said now, after seven years of building their forever home and finally being able to buy the boat they always dreamed of as of this year and being able to dock it, that dream is being ripped away from them. She said they have always known that there is limited space on their dock, they knew that they would have to wait their turn. She said they passed up two spots already and are happily waiting patiently for another to open when someone leaves, there is no expectation to make space for them, they have never asked to extend the dock for further. She said to be hones if the dock is taken from their neighborhood they will probably sell their dram home an move out of Novi. She said it is very emotional for them. She said if that happens, you will have wasted eight young youthful years of her and her husband's lives. She said they worked so hard for so long. She asked that after hearing all our stories, please think about the emotional distress you would be putting us all through by taking the dock away from them.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 23-03-035 Moved by Casey, seconded by Thomas; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
March 6, 2023 - Regular Meeting
- B. Adoption of Resolutions requesting the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) include the existing bridges on 9 Mile Road over Thornton Creek and on Ashbury Drive over the Middle Rouge River in the State Local Bridge Program List for Replacement. If MDOT selects one or both bridges, the City of Novi will accept 100% of the design engineering costs and 5% of the total construction cost.
- C. Approval of the Zoning Map Amendment 18.739 request of Paradise Park to rezone the south part of the property at 45799 Grand River Avenue, located on the south side of Grand River Avenue and west of Taft Road, from OST, Office Service Technology to I-1, Light Industrial. The area to be rezoned is approximately 4.14 acres of the 8.03-acre site. **SECOND READING**
- D. Approval of Pawnbroker License renewal requested by Joseph Haddad, owner of Gold Buy and Jewelry, 41490 Grand River Avenue.

- E. Approval to renew Dispatch Agreement with the City of South Lyon beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.
- F. Approval for the dissolution of the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee and for its responsibilities to be reassigned to the City of Novi Beautification Advisory Committee.
- G. Approval of request for Pyrotechnics Display Permit by Brightmoor Christian Church to be operated by James Herr, on Wednesday, March 29 through Sunday, April 2, 2023 for their daily Easter programs.
- H. Approve the recommendation from the Consulting Review Committee (CRC) to proceed with advertising for Emergency Medical Transport Services.
- I. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1128

Roll call vote on CM 23-03-035

Yeas: Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt, Staudt

Nays: None

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

- 1. Consideration to approve Purchase Agreement for property at the southwest corner of Eleven Mile Road and Beck Road, approximately 3.93 acres, 25901 Beck Road, Parcel No. 22-20-200-021 and amend the budget.**

Interim City Manager Cardenas commented that this is the last piece of the Bosco puzzle and is contiguous to the future home of the Jessica Star Splash Pad. He thought it was timely and everything is set and ready to go. He believed we have all the paperwork with our city attorney's office, and it is just awaiting your decision.

Member Smith moved to approve this item. He said it is an expensive piece of land, but the problem with buying a public land is that if we let it go once, it is gone, we will never get it back as a park. He believed the position is ideal to add on to the existing basketball field and he felt it was important that we get this land and turn it into a park.

Mayor Gatt put his two cents on the record. He echoed Member Smith and agreed 100%. He stated this is a valuable piece of property for the puzzle that we have put together and that puzzle was not an puzzle. He said as a result of that evenings action, if it passed, they were going to build a splash pad and they were going to have every bit of that property unencumbered with any commercial endeavor.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said this may be the last time they get to talk about Bosco. He mentioned back when the Signature Park failed more than 12 years ago, he did not think any of us ever envisioned having that property as part of our park system. He said Signature Park did not include the Bosco homestead at the time, which was purchased by the Griffin family, which they then took down the buildings, cleaned up the lot and

we are in a position now with this. He said the finalization of the Bosco exchange agreement with the Novi School District of having one of the most prime pieces of real estate in the middle of our city preserved for parks forever. He said this is what the residents would want, and he was excited to see it finalized, and thank you for making this property available to us.

CM 23-03-036 Moved by Smith, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of the Purchase Agreement for property at the southwest corner of Eleven Mile Road and Beck Road, approximately 3.93 acres, 25901 Beck Road, Parcel No. 22-20-200-021, and amend the budget.

Roll call vote on CM 23-03-036

**Yeas: Crawford, Fischer Smith, Thomas, Gatt,
Staudt, Casey**

Nays: None

2. Approval of Introduction of Ordinance 23-64.04, an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Administration, Article V, Boards and Commissions, Division 2, Beautification Advisory Commission, Section 2-172., Composition. FIRST READING.

CM 23-03-037 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Introduction of Ordinance 23-64.04, an ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Administration, Article V, Boards and Commissions, Division 2, Beautification Advisory Commission, Section 2-172., Composition. FIRST READING.

Roll call vote on CM 23-03-037

**Yeas: Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt, Staudt,
Casey, Crawford**

Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT:

Joe Bertera, 130 Rexton said he wanted to add to what his neighbor was talking about. He said he read an affidavit for one neighbor who lives on one side of their access lot. He was in full support of them keeping the dock, he had no problems with it. He said his neighbor wrote the affidavit and that was exactly what his neighbor wrote. He said the issue is on the other side where a woman lives that hates everybody, she stares out of her window at them. He said she has private meetings with Maureen Underhill at her house, they have coffee. He said she tells them she owns the lake, not just the bottom lands, she owns the lake, the view and everything. He said he was trying to figure out why the City Council or the City is listening to this one woman over everybody else. He said the one

neighbor on the one side does not have a problem with it. He stated his previous owner wrote a letter in 1986 that was ignored by the City Council. He said he was trying to get the facts out there instead of just the summary of what normally happens during a court proceeding. He pointed out from the city attorney in 1986, it said while we believe such regulation is permissible, we note that the attorney general has issued a contrary opinion, so this ordinance was passed, even though the Attorney General of the State at the time, who was Frank Kelly, had a contrary opinion to it. He wondered if the ordinance passed to segregate or discriminate against backlot owners, or was it for a future development, or to punish the people who have lived there for so many years. He stated earlier the way the subdivision was advertised was that it had lake access for all lots, and that is why he bought his house. That is why Jen bought her house. He said the City let this happen. He mentioned since 1986 multiple homes have been bought and sold in this neighborhood based on lake access and he can guarantee you as a realtor, his house is going to lose over \$100,000 worth of value. He said his neighbors house is going to lose \$150,000 where the value because the City let this go on for all the years while they attacked every subdivision around the lake. He said you are trying to take away the access, trying to put sewer lines down these accesses all the build their infrastructure without considering. He said their road was just paved 15 years ago, they might be the last non paved dirt road subdivision in Novi, they didn't pave the road, it was chip sealed, it was not asphalt. He said they are way up there in Novi, next to Walled Lake, they do not want to be ignored, they just want to be heard.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Robert J. Gatt, Mayor

Transcribed by Deborah S. Aubry

Date approved: April 3, 2023