

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025, 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, Staudt, Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Cardenas, City Manager
Danielle Mahoney, Assistant City Manager
Tom Schultz, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 25-07-88 Moved by Casey, seconded by Thomas; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

To approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 25-07-88	Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith, Staudt, Thomas, Fischer Nays: None
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PRESENTATIONS:

2014 Michigan Jaguars Pre-MLS Team Premier SuperCopa National Tournament Champions

Mayor Fischer said the Novi City Council is thrilled to welcome members of the 2014 Michigan Jaguars Pre-MLS team. He said they recently triumphed in the premier SuperCopa national tournament in Salt Lake City. The premier SuperCopa is an invitation only youth soccer tournament that provides the highest level of competition in the United States for competitive U-9 to U-12 teams. Mayor Fisher said this Jaguars victory marks the first time a team from the entire Midwest, let alone Michigan, has won this tournament at any age level. He said that these young athletes defeated several of the nation's top ranked teams, including those from California, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio, and Utah to claim this national title. He said that Michigan Jaguars are an organization based in Novi and they have become a longstanding community partner. On behalf of the Novi City Council the Mayor extended a heartfelt congratulations to the young men and their amazing accomplishment.

Anthony Ibrahim, Coach of the Jaguars, said he wanted to share some insight into how the event went. He said it is a national event that only the highest teams in each state are invited to. He said this was his first year coaching this group of players and what an experience it has become. He said as parents and as coaches he believes kids get put into sports and they learn a lot about life through any sport that they play. He said throughout the ups and downs in the course of the year they had a lot of development and grew as people. He said the thing that makes him most proud of the boys was not only that they are wonderful soccer players and are very talented, but they are really

great human beings. He said that a lot of the national top-ranking teams sometimes are funded or recruited and get a lot of talent, but the boys sit here today with the trophy. He said they had to overcome a lot of adversity and other things throughout the season and in the tournament. He said every time they thought it was over, there was a comeback that only happens when you have a group of players with a strong bond. He said the boys have bonded as brothers throughout the course of the season. He said in the finals game playing against a team from LA, with about 20 seconds left, they thought their dreams were broken. He said the score was 1-1, and with the remaining time, the boys scored and won the game 2-1. He said that this victory is something the boys will cherish forever. He said they try to remind the kids that they are only there because of other coaches, parents, grandparents, and everyone who commits to the effort. He said that this is a big moment that none of them or the boys will forget for the rest of their lives. He said that they have set a really high bar, and thinks one of the things he tries to do as a coach is to prepare the younger generation of kids below them to look up and see the tone of what it means to be a Jaguars player, compete on the highest level, and do it with respect and hard work. He says what they don't realize is they can enjoy this a little bit now, but the real challenge comes when they reach the top, and then there are more challenges. He said he believes that is true for life as well, and he thinks they have experienced a little bit through that. He said he hopes they carry that lesson with them for the rest of their lives and understands that there are a lot of things you can learn about life through sports. He said he really appreciates the Council having the team there. He said it is truly an amazing accomplishment from being a small club in Novi to compete and win on national scale, and then to be recognized by the City Council.

At this time awards were presented from the Novi City Council to all members of the 2014 Michigan Jaguars Pre-MLS Premier SuperCopa National Tournament Champions, and their staff.

Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks - 2025 Clerk of the Year Award - Awarded to City Clerk, Cortney Hanson

Mayor Fischer said the Council would like to offer congratulations to the Novi City Clerk, Cortney Hanson, who in June was awarded the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk's 2025 Clerk of The Year award at the 25th annual Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk's summer conference. He said City Clerk, Cortney Hanson, began her career with the City of Novi in high school, working part time in 2003. In 2006, she moved to a full-time position in the City Clerk's office. He said in 2010, she was promoted to Deputy City Clerk, and in 2016, took over the full appointed City Clerk position. Mayor Fischer said Cortney's tireless efforts in ensuring transparency, efficiency, innovation, and accessibility in our local government have not only earned her this prestigious award, but also the respect and admiration of her peers, fellow employees, the residents of Novi, as well as the elected leaders. He said in these times when election law is constantly changing and unfortunately often becomes politicized, having Cortney's steady hand leading elections in Novi is truly invaluable. He said her leadership ensures that our elections are conducted with the utmost fairness and integrity, providing confidence and trust to all of our residents. He said not to forget that the duties of the City Clerk extend way beyond just

elections. He said once again congratulations to the City Clerk, Cortney Hanson, on behalf of the City on this well-deserved achievement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

CITY MANAGER REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 25-07-89 Moved by Casey, seconded by Thomas; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
 - 1. June 2, 2025 - Regular Meeting - As Amended
 - 2. June 23, 2025 - Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of amendments to the contracts for the City Manager and City Assessor as prepared and approved as to form by the City Attorney.
- C. Authorization to complete closing to purchase vacant parcels located on Venture Drive, Parcel ID. Nos. 22-26-401-021, -022, and -023.
- D. Approval of Recommendation from Council Rules Committee to amend Council Organization and Order of Business.
- E. Approval to purchase a replacement compressor for the chiller at the Public Safety Building through our currently contracted HVAC company, Systemp, in the amount of \$48,562.62.
- F. Approval to purchase Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS) and Fire Records Management System (FRMS) fees and services from Oakland County for the 2025-26 fiscal year in the amount of \$66,815.
- G. Approval to award engineering design services to OHM Advisors for the Cedar Springs Subdivision Water Main Lining project, in the amount of \$74,000.
- H. Approval of two Warranty Deeds to dedicate 60 feet half-width right-of-way along the east side of Taft Road and to dedicate 60 feet half-width right-of-way along the south side of Ten Mile Road from the Novi Community School District (parcel 50-22-27-100-009).

- I. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement and Sidewalk Easement for the Sakura Novi Development located on the north side of Grand River Avenue east of Town Center Drive (parcels: 50-22-23-127-001, 50-22-23-127-002, 50-22-23-127-003, 50-22-23-127-004, 50-22-23-127-005, 50-22-23-126-019 and 50-22-23-126-020).
- J. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1183

Roll call vote on CM 25-07-89

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

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

- 1. **Approval of Resolution authorizing the purchase of a tax foreclosed property, parcel number 50-22-10-400-048, from Oakland County under Act 123 of 1999, as amended, for the amount of \$1,555,540 and to amend the budget.**

City Manager Cardenas said the County receives foreclosure statements from property owners that have not been able to pay their taxes. He said this initiative has been brought to the Council on a couple of different occasions and in the past the City has purchased different properties. He said the law was amended and now the purchasers don't pay the back taxes but actually pay the value of the property. He said the property is located in the northwest corner of 12 Mile Road and Novi Road, with frontage on 12 Mile.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she is very glad that the City was fortunate enough to be able to purchase this property. She said it gives Novi an opportunity off of 12 Mile to keep and maintain the area. She said she would hope to keep it as wooded as it is and see if they can add more trees to it. She said she is also eager to see if they can use some of the space to become a wetland mitigation bank within the city, as required by City ordinance.

Member Smith said this is how we preserve land in Novi. He said this is how we can make sure we keep green space, wetlands, and woodlands. He said every time they get a piece of land that they can afford to buy, he will be in favor of it.

CM 25-07-90 Moved by Smith, seconded by Casey: MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Approval of Resolution authorizing the purchase of a tax foreclosed property, parcel number 50-22-10-400-048, from Oakland County under Act 123 of 1999, as amended, for the amount of \$1,555,540 and to amend the budget.

Roll call vote on CM 25-07-90

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

2. **Consideration of awarding a contract to D&D Water & Sewer, Inc., the lone bidder, for an estimated annual amount of \$200,000.**

CM 25-07-91 Moved by Thomas, seconded by Casey: MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Approval to award a unit price Water Service Connections Contract to D&D Water & Sewer, Inc., the lone bidder, for a term of one year with three 1-year renewal options for an estimated annual amount of \$200,000.

Roll call vote on CM 25-07-91

**Yeas: Smith, Staudt, Thomas, Fischer, Casey,
Gurumurthy, Heintz**

Nays: None

3. **Consideration of awarding the Pathway Reconstruction and Parking Lot Rehabilitation project for Ella Mae Power Park to T&M Asphalt Paving, Inc, in the amount of \$405,597.**

CM 25-07-92 Moved by Thomas, seconded by Smith: MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Approval to award the Ella Mae Power Park Pathway Reconstruction and Parking Lot Rehabilitation project contract to T&M Asphalt Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$405,597.

Roll call vote on CM 25-07-92

**Yeas: Staudt, Thomas, Fischer, Casey,
Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith**

Nays: None

4. **Consideration of First Reading of Ordinance Amendment 25-42.05 to amend Chapter 24, Article II, "Permit for Outdoor Gatherings".**

City Manager Cardenas said this item comes as a recommendation from the Ordinance Review Committee. He said there is a lot of procedural fixing that is being proposed. He said this ordinance handles a lot of public gatherings that take place, for example at Fountain Walk and Suburban Collection Showplace. He said the proposal is cleaning up the regulations and making them more streamlined.

Member Smith said while reading through the proposed amendment he noticed inconsistency with the words of "He/She ", "His/Hers", or "they". He said he would like to see more consistency with the language so that the verbiage is gender neutral.

Member Gurumurthy said when she reads that the permit is for 'outdoor assembly with an attendance of over 200 persons' she would like clarification on if that applies to

residents, if they wanted to conduct or host a party in their backyard with that amount of people. City Manager Cardenas said that would be a private event, so they would not need a permit. He said this is more for public events that are inviting members of the public to attend. Member Gurumurthy said she noticed there was a section that was struck out in terms of decibel limits and asked how we are making sure that there is no noise disturbance for other residents surrounding the gathering area. City Manager Cardenas said that that was a part of streamlining and taking out inconsistencies. He said there was another reference in the ordinance elsewhere, 5.14.10, where the decibel was lower. He said removal of that specific verbiage was to abide by the lower threshold that was in 5.14.10.

CM 25-07-93 Moved by Casey, seconded by Thomas: MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Approval of First Reading of Ordinance Amendment 25-42.05 to amend Chapter 24, "Outdoor Gatherings and Filming Permits", Article II, "Permit for Outdoor Gatherings".

Roll call vote on CM 25-07-93

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

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Mobility Committee - Councilmember Smith

Member Smith said the Mobility Committee met on the 26th of last month. He said the main part of the meeting, OHM, presented an update on the Novi Safe Streets and Roads for All Program that is part of the Federal Highways Administration, Safe Streets and Roads. He said the update included identifying problem areas and priority locations for making our streets safer. He said they identified six priority locations, and nine high risk locations. He said in future meetings coming up this fall, they are going to select projects to address those issues. He said they discussed the car and bicycle clearance laws. He said Michigan currently has a law that requires three-foot clearance when passing a cyclist on the road. He said some cities have increased this to five feet, and they have had discussion about possibly doing the same and also how they enforce the current laws and provide public education to make people aware that those laws even exist. He said the next meeting will be on August 8th, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

2. Finance and Administration Committee - Mayor Fischer

Mayor Fischer said the committee met that evening and had two topics of discussion. He said the Merrill Lynch advisor came to give an update on their ability and actual

implementation of the Aon report, changing the allocations. He said they were able to swiftly move to de-risk that portfolio as recommended in the report. He said that was good news for the team to accomplish. He said the second topic was the Novi Ice Arena, which was referred to the Finance Committee by himself. He said they gave staff about 115 different questions with about 14 subparts each, to look at the overall spectrum of what we can do with the ice arena to make sure that it's a well utilized and valued asset in the City's portfolio.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

Justin Fischer, Mayor

Transcribed by Alyssa Craigie,
Administrative Assistant

Date approved: July 28, 2025