

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 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:

Mayor Fischer recommended the addition of Item 4 under Matters For Council Action:
Discussion about January 21st Council Meeting.

CM 25-01-01 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Thomas; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

To approve the agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 25-01-01	Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith, Staudt, Thomas, Fischer Nays: None
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PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS:

Applicants for the Novi Library Board:

1. Brian Bartlett – He is reapplying for the Board where he has already served four years; three years as the secretary and last year as the treasurer. He's been on various committees including the Strategic Direction Committee which hired an outside firm, and they did an exhaustive study with various members of the community from all walks. They are in the first year of implementation of that plan. He also served four years on the Finance Committee and is currently Chair. He was also Chair of the Bylaws Committee where they updated the bylaws that hadn't been updated with about six years of board action.
2. Caren Fifer – She is a 37-year resident of Novi. She is currently a crossing guard with the police department. She worked the election in November. For 17 plus year, she was the executive director of the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission. This was a multi-jurisdictional agreement between Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills. She reported to a board that consisted of two members from each city, an elected official and the city manager or representative of that office. She has had a lot of experience working with boards. She also worked as a manager and has experience in finance and planning, particularly in building, development and financing the \$1.5 million studio that they built at that time. She has experience working with volunteers, the Cable Access committee and developing the policies for public, government and educational access. She is very interested in working with the library. She is passionate about books and the special events that the library has to offer. It's

a wonderful treasure for our city. She also wanted to express her interest should any opportunities come up for other boards or commissions.

3. Fred Lebowitz – He is retired and has spent his entire life working with young adults. He's had a lot of training and experience in being an active listener and resolving issues of people's concerns. He's very curious as to how the library board works. He is interested in seeing if there can be more communication with the schools and the public library.
4. Mark Sturing – He is a 30-year plus resident of Novi. He's been retired now for two years but he used to be general counsel for the best tech companies, real estate and development company that has done several apartments, subdivisions in Novi as well as the country. He is currently the president of the library and is seeking reappointment. Prior to this term, he was on the Library Board for about 15 years. He has a lot of experience with the library. He is proud of the diverse and cohesive board they have right now. He is proud of what the library has accomplished. This last year they had almost 850,000 item checked out from the library. They have about 400,000 visits per year, which is back up to pre-covid attendance records. He would like to continue to serve on the library as there are some financial challenges, not immediately but in the long term, that he would like to be there and help address some of those issues.
5. Kanchana Sundaram – Not present.
6. Frank Svehota – Not present.
7. Dawn Whitehead – Not present.
8. Janice Krupic – Information to be shared with Council tomorrow.

Quarter Goals Update:

City Manager Cardenas said these are the goals that City Council created a year ago. Instead of having a reconfiguration or re-imagination of the goals, they'll be presenting an update on goal statuses. Unlike years past where they created new ones, this allows City Council to dig deeper into these goals and make changes or updates as these will carry Council on to the next election when then that time City Council will reconvene and have another goal setting session. There'll be a meeting on January 21st which is completely different and that's about the transformative goals. These are just the goals that Council came up with last year.

Assistant City Manager Danielle Mahoney reminded Council these are goals that they came together and set last year during an early input budget session. These goals were approved last February and rather than getting together again and coming up with brand new goals, for the sake of continuity and being able to make progress on what's already been done, that's not going to be done this year. They're going to come back to Council every quarter with updates so Council can see where we stand and make adjustments if needed, pivot based on priorities and other influences that may be impacting decisions as it relates to these goals. These goals fit under operate, build and invest. Those broad strokes will guide the conversation and the goals that fall within. This update is for the second quarter that ended at the end of the year. There was an update at the end of the first quarter and to recap, all the information is the packet. This will be more high level but at the end of the first quarter of their 23 goals, we were underway with just under half of them, so we were making good progress. All of the goals in invest were under way.