REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026, 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, Martinez, Smith, Staudt

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Member Staudt added a Mayor/Council issue: City of Novi Property Maintenance Program.

CM 26-08-103 Moved by Martinez, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

To approve the agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 26-08-103 **Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer**
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS: **None**

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Cardenas said as one of Council's goals, they brought back the community survey. He said invitations to about 4,000 random households were sent out today. They'll get more information on the website about that. They're moving forward with that project and looking forward to having that all wrapped up later this fall.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Venkata Reddy Thalla said in pursuit of making all of their village people, native village people in Jannalagadda, Guntur Rural Mandalum, to work together without fighting for silly things like where they host their chief guest for the grand opening of a high school. That was in 1995 while they were trying to celebrate his firstborn son's second birthday. They were dedicating their first earnings that they had saved here in Michigan to a high school building. They didn't have a high school, so they got it upgraded from 7th to 10th grade. He used to walk or go for four miles or maybe less than that every day for five years. He said in the pursuit of finding the perfect village charter, after 40 years or so,

suddenly, he realized it's already there. He said he had been living in that for 27+ years. He said there are eight bullet points. Sometime back, he shared seven suggestions with the City to make little improvements. He told Council they are authorized to do that. He said there is no need to go for big proposals or anything. He said it says what he's just not and what he is trying to be and help and then make them all more perfect in planning and more perfect in execution. He said they are all very perfect in his eyes, a perfect charter. The closest to the dreams that he had for his village.

Gerry Bissi, 23415 Duchess Court, said he came to speak about the Flock mass surveillance camera system. He said this is becoming a big thing around the country, and he thinks that the City of Novi should be aware that they could be canceling the contract like Westland and 100 other cities have done. They've covered up the cameras and told Flock to remove them. He said it very simply violates the citizens' Fourth Amendment right to privacy. There are senators and congressmen in Washington that are introducing legislation to put reins in on it. He just can't believe that people in City Council and the police department don't understand how much of a violation this is of the citizens' right to privacy. He said if the police wanted to put a tracker on his car, they'd have to go to a judge and get a warrant, and the judge would have to say there was good reason for doing it. He said that is not true with the Flock mass surveillance system. They just have to enter vehicle investigation, and they can check any car anywhere in the country. By the way, he said Flock is a private company, and all of their data is stored with them. They can keep it as long as they want. There is no guidance, no guardrails. He said he'd give them a couple of examples. A woman in Texas crossed the state line to get an abortion. When she got back to Texas, they arrested her. A US congressman last month was followed to his driveway because he had an expired license plate. A guy in Wisconsin crossed the border into the Upper Peninsula into Menominee, Michigan to get medical marijuana gummies for his back pain. When he crossed back into Wisconsin, he was arrested due to the license plate reading system. He thinks these are stupid, frivolous things that are going on and they need to stop that. He's just amazed that the City of Novi would spend $100,000 and have 10 cameras around the city following everything that they do. He thinks it's wrong. He asked Council what audits have been done. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is conducting audits now and they've already arrested several policemen for following their exes, their girlfriends, and their enemies. Thousands of times, they have abused the system. Individual policemen. He said it's the basic principle of their country that they have the right to privacy. He said right now, they don't have the right to privacy. He said every time he passes by the camera by Best Buy on Eight Mile and Haggerty Road, it takes a picture of his car and tells somebody where he is. He asked if people think hackers will get into the Flock system sometime because he believes they will.

Michelle Duprey said she was there to talk about the proliferation of e-bikes, e-scooters and e-motos. She said some of them might recall her letter to Council as of August 18, 2026, with her concerns of the use of these motorized vehicles. She said she should note that currently, e-bikes are treated as bicycles under Michigan law and that e-bikes have a speed range of 2 - 28 mph for a Class 3 e-bike. She said she is aware that City Council is working to address this dangerous situation. Her goal was to encourage City Council to expedite these conversations with the goal of implementing laws that keep both the

vulnerable pedestrians and the operators of these motorized vehicles safe on their trails, sidewalks, parks and streets. Almost every day, she reads about severe injuries, even deaths, attributed to the use of e-bikes or e-scooters. Her own experience has been frightening. As she walks, she has experienced many near misses with these machines. Her neighbors have related similar stories of their experiences as well. The simple etiquette of bicyclists warning, "On your left" is no longer announced. She said the drivers of these electronic devices, many of them appear to be youthful, do not understand the gravity of their actions. They are not yet eligible to drive a car, but they operate an e-bike without a care in the world. Many do not understand fundamental physics which is simply mass times speed or velocity equals momentum. Imagine getting hit from behind by a bike traveling 20 mph. It is a very scary and dangerous situation. She said she has noticed that the operators of the motorized bikes have trouble stopping on short notice. For example, if she is in front of them, they have trouble stopping. The operators of e-machines don't seem to care or have a concern about the vulnerable pedestrians that they share a walkway with. What used to be an enjoyment of the trails and sidewalks has her on high alert for e-bikes, e-scooters and pedal-driven bicycles. The hospitals in Michigan are recording a record number of accidents and injuries related to the proliferation of e-bikes and e-scooters. Berkeley City Council acted a few weeks ago, banning e-bikes and scooters on their sidewalks and in the parks. Under the new rule, e-bike riders must use the streets designated by bike riders. She said she'd like to offer a few suggestions for City Council when they're considering laws for the operation of e-bikes and e-scooters and e-motos. Require helmets for specified age groups, primarily to the youth. She said they should have repercussions for leaving the scene of an accident. They could require parental culpability and an education class. Require that e-bikes and e-scooters be registered by the City. Require licensing for operators of e-bikes, especially Classes 2 and 3. Require a minimum age for operators. Enforce a speed limit on e-bike usage. Lastly, how will these things be enforced? She said they are all affected by e-bikes and e-scooters whether on the sidewalks, on the trails, in the parks, or even on our roadways. She said we should get an ordinance in place sooner rather than later to ensure a safe place for walkers as well as for the operators of these e-machines.

Mary Campbell said she was applying to become a member of the Novi Arts Council. She said she has been a resident of Novi for 35 years and a member of the Holy Family Church for 30 years. She has also been a member of the Novi Choralaires since 2009. She was a Girl Scout leader for seven years. She has been a member of the Sports Club of Novi or Novi Athletic Club for 28 years. Both of her children attended Novi schools from community preschool all the way through high school. Her daughter, Sarah, graduated with Amber. She volunteered in the classroom as they were growing up. Her son was part of the Novi Youth Council. Her daughter was very active in the children's youth theater that used to be held at the Novi Civic Center. She said she hoped Council would consider her application.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 26-08-104 Moved by Casey, seconded by Gurumurthy; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. Approve Minutes of:
August 10, 2026 - Regular Meeting

B. Approval of the 2026 MERS Delegate Certification Form appointing Kamry Smith as the Employee Delegate and Katie McConnachie as the Officer Delegate to attend the 2026 Annual Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) Conference.

C. Acceptance of a Conservation Easement associated with Michigan CAT, for property located east of Novi Road, north of Catherine Drive.

D. Acceptance of a Pedestrian Plaza Easement associated with Michigan CAT, for property located east of Novi Road, north of Ten Mile Road.

E. Approval of a Maintenance and Access Agreement from UPH Novi Property LLC as part of Culver's site plan, located on the west side of Novi Road north of West Oaks Drive (parcel 50-22-15-200-115).

F. Approval of proposed park shelter rental rate increase to begin on January 1, 2027.

G. Consideration of the 2027 City Council Meeting Calendar.

H. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1208

Roll call vote on CM 26-08-104 **Yeas: Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey**
Nays: None

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Approval of request for Pyrotechnics Display Permit by Brightmoor Christian Church to be operated by James Herr on September 19, 2026.

CM 26-08-105 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Martinez: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval of request for Pyrotechnics Display Permit by Brightmoor Christian Church to be operated by James Herr on September 19, 2026.

Roll call vote on CM 26-08-105 **Yeas: Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy**
Nays: None

2. Consideration of approval to pay Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner for emergency sanitary sewer repairs completed, in the amount of $155,324.

CM 26-08-106 **Moved by Smith, seconded by Heintz: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval to pay Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner for emergency sanitary sewer repairs completed, in the amount of $155,324.13.

Roll call vote on CM 26-08-106 **Yeas: Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz**
Nays: None

3. Consideration of approval to award condition assessment services to Xylem for PCCP water main condition assessment and Acoustic Fiber Optic installation in the amount of $1,091,368.

City Manager Cardenas said the City has about 5.8 miles of this pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe, AKA PCCP, which has been known to fail in some GLWA pipes around the area. They're looking at some additional monitoring capabilities with a pipe diver and some fiber optic cables to help them detect any issues with these pipes if they start deteriorating faster than they should.

CM 26-08-107 **Moved by Smith, seconded by Casey: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval to award condition assessment services to Xylem for inspection of PCCP water main and installation of the Acoustic Fiber Optic system, including the first year of monitoring, in the amount of $1,091,368.00, with final lease agreement to be approved by City Attorney.

Member Heintz asked if this is laid out to be a 10-year plan with just monitoring each year. He was wondering if there's monitoring effort in three years or whatever the length would be, will there be the opportunity to assess if it's needed to be done every year or is it simply if there's no sign of deterioration after three years in a row, is there the opportunity to say they could skip a year or is it the consensus 10 years straight in a row without skipping a year in between. City Manager Cardenas said he believes in most of their contracts, they have the ability to end that at any time or with some kind of notice. If they feel at some point that everything is going smoothly and there have been no issues, he believes they can cancel it with notice to the company, whether it be six months or what period of time outlined in the contract. Member Heintz clarified that it may not be a request for a cancellation of the contract, but maybe just simply pausing the membership, like skipping a year and then continuing the following year or something like that. City Attorney Schultz said that's not how the contract is set up. He doesn't know if they could negotiate that in the future with the contractor, but it is every year the way it is written now. Member Heintz said it's fine to approve this now, but his request is to look into that sometime between now and 10 years from now to see if there would be a benefit to having a little bit of cost savings to the City if there's not a need to do that monitoring every year. City Attorney Schultz said that conversation would not be prohibited, but it would take some agreement by the contractor.

Member Martinez said in the memo that they received from the City Attorney's Office, there were a few item changes that were being proposed. He asked if those changes had been integrated into the contract yet. City Attorney Schultz said yes. Member Martinez asked if they were being asked to vote to subject to approval or anything of that nature. City Attorney Schultz said no.

Member Smith said he thinks this is a great use of technology for something that really has been a problem for the City. Anybody who lives up in the north end where the similar pipe that Great Lakes Water owns has failed repeatedly, it's expensive to fix on an emergency basis. He said it's inconvenient. Apparently what you can do is when you start noticing that the steel bands in the pipe are pinging and starting to break, you can reduce pressure. You can plan your replacement and fix it without tearing up everything and leaving people without water for longer than they need to be. He is totally in support of this, and he wouldn't consider canceling it. It's a year-on-year thing that the failure starts to build up over years and you may cancel it in a year where it spikes and you'd be in trouble at that point. He was in support of this.

Member Gurumurthy said she is happy to see the proactive measure. In terms of the whole cancellation and penalties idea, she said the penalties are around $1.6 million and it goes over $1 million every year. They don't have anything in terms of the termination or anything performance-related. She said she doesn't think they will cancel. She said she thinks they'll all move forward with this, but she thinks there should be some kind of a clause in terms of regarding performance. She said she would look into if they can add something like that or say any misses in terms of wire breaks or something, some kind of performance-related measure. Say there is an issue, even though maybe it doesn't get detected or there is no uptime, then there is no way they can get out of the 10-year term, right? The other thing is technology. She knows they will be using the same technology for 10 years. She asked what happens if other technologies come in. Will they be stuck with this technology for 10 years or it's $1.5 million in penalties if they cancel? She would like to look into putting in a protective clause, if possible. City Attorney Schultz said there are the general requirements of any contract that the performance has to be satisfactory or they'd have an issue with a potential breach of contract. He's not sure they need to add more to that. The penalty provision is substantial. He said he understands that, but in part, he thinks that's because there is so much investment upfront by the contractor. He said, generally, what you have is a contract that is enforceable and requires professional and competent performance on their part. So, if they miss performance, then the City has their usual contractual authority to say, "You've breached the contract and here's the remedy we want for that." He said he doesn't know that they need to add more to it. Member Gurumurthy asked if there is a performance issue, the City can terminate without a penalty? City Attorney Schultz said it's not so much termination as it is addressing the breach of contract. He said the long duration and the difficulty of getting out of it is so that they will spend the money to put the infrastructure in place. They need to be compensated and they need to know that the contract will be there for the amount of time they're expected to upgrade and update and do what they need to do to perform. He said he believes they're very intentionally making it difficult to just terminate. That's the proposal that has been made. Member Gurumurthy said as long as

the City can address the performance issues and somewhere it is listed in the contract, maybe it's not the penalty cancellation or something, but she just wants to make sure that's listed somewhere and that there's a consequence as well. She asked what the consequence is if they miss the performance. City Attorney Schultz said the whole concept of the breach of contract generally, one of the main remedies may be termination that's not in the contract but may be part of contract law. There's not going to be an early right of termination. They're not going to negotiate. This is the proposal that they've given Council, but they have all the remedies that they normally have for a failure to perform on their part.

Roll call vote on CM 26-08-107 **Yeas: Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez**
Nays: None

4. Consideration to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Prepayment to the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner (WRC) for Capital Improvements at the Walled Lake-Novi Wastewater Treatment Plant.

CM 26-08-108 **Moved by Martinez, seconded by Smith: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing Prepayment to the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner (WRC) for Capital Improvements at the Walled Lake-Novi Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Roll call vote on CM 26-08-108 **Yeas: Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith**
Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Public Utilities & Technology Committee - Councilmember Gurumurthy

Member Gurumurthy said they have four pillars they always go through. They talked a lot about the DTE power outages that happened in the last few months to understand the root cause. They approached DTE for responses, but they were not very satisfied with the responses. They are going to send exact information about which particular outages were not weather-related and ask for more specific information in terms of the root cause and what the plan is. Regarding Priority Waste, it's so good to see that there have been no delayed pickups and they've been reporting it. They are still monitoring the dashboard when they meet. Regarding GLWA, she said they heard about the investment, so they talked about it. They want GLWA to come back and talk about what the plan with the investment is. The last item was fiber. The map is getting really colorful now thanks to Rob Petty and his team. They're updating the map in terms of all the

providers across Novi so they could see all the gaps now. Their next step is literally, they are looking at the map and finding out if a particular provider is in one area. Then, they're trying to find out the closest area where there is still a gap so they can reach out and have a one-on-one discussion with different providers taking that proposal to them. That's the next step they want to take with the fiber discussions.

2. Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee - Mayor Pro Tem Casey

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said they are getting to the home stretch of this project. She said they held their third and final public workshop a couple of weeks ago. They got some great input from residents about what they've identified as their six themes and some of the ideas and strategies for how they're going to be able to work to address some of the issues identified in the themes. She said Assistant City Manager Mahoney gave them a presentation, so they understood what the themes are and they saw some of the ideas of what the strategies are. In their final public workshop was a couple of weeks ago, so they are starting to build out the plan. Their schedule is starting to look like later this fall, probably towards the end of October perhaps, they'll come back to Council for a first reading and then they'll give Council a chance to digest. Then they'll come back for final approval. They'll get a little tighter with those dates as they continue to draft out the plan.

3. Finance & Administration Committee - Mayor Fischer

Mayor Fischer said the Finance and Administration Committee had met that evening to review another draft of the facilities use policy which has undergone some clean-up with some legal items and consistency in all the different parks and facilities in the use policy. That has been recommended to come before City Council at their next meeting.

4. Corridor Improvement Authority - Mayor Fischer

Mayor Fischer said they met last week to continue their discussion on Main Street, and get an update from the City Manager there, where a Special Assessment District is continuing to be pursued with the stakeholders in that area. He said they've given the City the direction to continue the work that they're doing to update the lights and the streetscapes and also RFP the roads. He said they're still trying to figure out if the CIA or if they should push back and have the road funds fund some of the improvements there. A lot of good work is being done. They also reviewed a draft version of the budget from the city manager. In general, they were all fine with the direction and how the numbers were shaking out. They just asked for a little change in formatting to make it a little clearer and transparent for everyone who sees it.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:

Member Staudt said the Property Maintenance Program was launched in its current form in roughly 2022 to work with the community to improve the appearance and safety of Novi's residential and business properties. The pilot programs back then were very successful and well received by the community. They use citations in the legal system as

a very last recourse for compliance and enforcement. In recent years, there has been a marked escalation in using the threat of court action and citations in the event of non-compliance. They're also receiving a significant amount of community pushback from that. He said he was asking his colleagues to consider pausing their current program the way it is and bringing it back to Council for review. That way, they can take a good look at whether what they are currently offering is something that matches the initial intent of that program.

Mayor Fischer said he thinks they've all received a couple of different emails. He thinks it's a good idea to bring this forward. He said what he'd like to see is the Finance and Administration Committee take a quick look at this, have some data presented from the city manager on how this program has evolved over time. He'd encourage his colleagues to go back and look at the 2022-2023 budget when they approved the additional position to bring this program back. He thinks Member Staudt hit the nail on the head that the intent was always to be a very community-oriented program, helping people to make sure their properties were taken care of and protect all of our property values in doing so. He said he thinks they have strayed away from that, so he would push for a motion to refer this to the Finance and Administration Committee before next year's program is kicked off.

CM 26-08-109 **Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

To refer the Property Maintenance Program to the Finance and Administration Committee for review.

Roll call vote on CM 26-08-109 **Yeas: Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt**
Nays: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

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Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

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Transcribed by Diana Charles
Customer Service Representative

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Justin Fischer, Mayor

Date approved: September 14, 2026