REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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 (arrived at 7:06 P.M.), Smith, Staudt

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 26-09-110 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Gurumurthy; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

To approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 26-09-110
Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer
Nays: None
Absent: Martinez

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS: **None**

CITY MANAGER REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Scott Gifford said he has been a resident of Novi for 13 years. He said he learned earlier this year that in 2023, Novi acquired 10 Flock camera to monitor the comings and goings of residents and visitors to Novi. Learning about these cameras perked his ears up to stories he was hearing in the national news about them and what he learned made him concerned for the privacy of his family and fellow residents. He learned about other officers in other communities who would use these cameras to stalk romantic partners. He learned about agencies throughout the country using these cameras to conduct surveillance on protests and activists exercising their First Amendment rights. He learned about data from these cameras unintentionally shared with federal immigration agencies, camera feeds that were fully exposed to the internet and errors with these readers leading to wrongful stops and detentions. Learning about what was happening elsewhere in the country made him start to wonder about how they protect the privacy of the residents of Novi. He began by looking for Flock-related policies on the city's website. When he was unable to find them, he obtained a copy of Novi's Flock contract under the Freedom of Information Act. He said it is a short document agreeing just to the

Flock terms of service from their website which state that Novi "grants Flock a limited, irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide license to use and disclose customer data to provide the Flock services and that Flock's liability for any misuse of their data, no matter how large, is limited to a partial refund." He searched the Novi website for ordinances that protect resident privacy from this technology, similar to those passed recently by Detroit, but he was not able to find any such ordinances. He watched the "Now You Novi" episode on Flock cameras which talked in general terms about privacy, and he emailed Chief Zinser to inquire about policies which he graciously shared with Mr. Gifford. He said while he appreciates that they have a Flock policy in place, and he appreciated Chief Zinser's openness, he is not convinced the policies that he shared with him are adequate to protect against the abuses they've seen elsewhere in the country. They honor license plate inquiries from agencies outside of Novi, including ICE. They do not require proactive audits of proper use, and they do not require IT security audits. Chief Zinser mentioned to Mr. Gifford that they are in the process of revising their policies to address some of these issues which Mr. Gifford welcomes. He knows City Council did not intend to compromise residents' privacy when purchasing these cameras, and from his interview in "Now You Novi," he knows Police Chief Zinser cares about residents' privacy. What he is asking for is that these good intentions be codified. As part of a planned update to Novi's Flock policies, they should include public input, in particular from groups at heightened risks of privacy violations such as immigrants, domestic violence survivors, and activists. Other communities have used town halls to elicit input like this, and he thinks that would be appropriate here. For accountability, the city should publish a privacy audit showing how their privacy is being safeguarded, similar to how they publish financial audits showing how their money is safeguarded. Finally, they should put enforceable protections into ordinance. There are model ordinances they can follow, including Detroit's, that show how they can require public review, etc.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 26-09-111 Moved by Casey, seconded by Gurumurthy; MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. Approve Minutes of:
August 31, 2026 - Regular Meeting

B. Approval to amend Council Organization Rules and Order of Business.

C. Approval of a Resolution amending the membership of the City Council Cultural Arts Committee.

D. Approval of the request of Sri Venkateswara Temple for an Addendum to the Basilian Fathers PRO Agreement, for property located near 11 Mile and Taft Roads.

E. Consideration to Approve a Purchase Agreement to Sell a Portion of Parcel 22-23-151-029 to Novi Industrial, LLC for $68,000 for Placement of a Storage Tower.

F. Approval of a Resolution to close the intersection of Ten Mile and Taft Roads for the 2026 Novi High School Homecoming Parade from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM on Friday, October 9, 2026.

G. Approval of a request from Gratus, LLC for a variance from Section 5.6.4 (B)(7) of the Engineering Design Manual to have a pumped stormwater outlet for their underground detention system.

H. Approval of temporary Traffic Control Order 26-11(T) to establish no parking on Olde Orchard St. and one-way southbound traffic from Grand River Avenue to Ten Mile Road throughout the duration of the road maintenance project.

I. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement for Orsa Credit Union as part of the Orsa Credit Union site plan, located on the north side of Grand River Avenue east of Crescent Boulevard (parcel 50-22-15-476-061).

J. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement for Novi Holding, LLC as part of the Sheetz site plan, located on the south side of 12 Mile Road west of Haggerty Road (parcel 50-22-13-200-016).

K. Approval of a sidewalk easement from Novi Holding, LLC as part of the Sheetz site plan, located on the south side of 12 Mile Road west of Haggerty Road (parcel 50-22-13-200-016).

L. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1209

Roll call vote on CM 26-09-111 **Yeas: Gurumurthy, Heintz, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey**
Nays: None
Absent: Martinez

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Approval of resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2027-2.

City Manager Cardenas said both the resolution and the detail for the rollover for this budget amendment should reflect a use of fund balance of $224,628, bringing the ending fund balance to $14.4 million. That's due to the rollover dollars that are coming in, so that's increasing expenditures, so that's decreasing the amount in the fund balance. He apologized for that mistake.

Mayor Fischer said overall, it's timing and eventually, this will be put back into fund balance. For right now, they need to show it as a reduction. City Manager Cardenas said that is correct because they are not using any dollars they didn't have budgeted, they're just adding to the budget and that's bringing the expenditures up. Fund balance is a percent of their expenditures. He said because they're adding to it, that's why it's going down a little bit.

Member Martinez arrived at 7:06 p.m.

CM 26-09-112 Moved by Casey, seconded by Martinez: MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Approval of resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2027-2.

Roll call vote on CM 26-09-112 Yeas: Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy
Nays: None

2. Consideration of approval of assessment payment to Oakland County for the Caddell Drain Rehabilitation project at the intersection of 9 Mile and Drake Roads, in the amount of $220,134.

CM 26-09-113 Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith: MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Approval of assessment payment to Oakland County for the Caddell Drain Rehabilitation project at the intersection of 9 Mile and Drake Roads, in the amount of $220,134.

Roll call vote on CM 26-09-113 Yeas: Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz
Nays: None

3. Consideration of approval to award the Southwest Water Main Loop project contract to Bidigare Contractors, Inc., the qualified low bidder, in the amount of $4,039,390.

City Manager Cardenas said the scope includes 15,200 feet of 14" high-density main and 12" duct iron water main along portions of Eight Mile, Napier and Beck. The water main will be installed through the ITC Sports Park, providing public water access to parks facilities as they make these improvements. This has been on the part of their water sewer master plan for quite some time, and he applauded the teams for bringing this in under budget.

CM 26-09-114 Moved by Smith, seconded by Casey: MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Approval to award the Southwest Water Main Loop project contract to Bidigare Contractors, Inc., the qualified low bidder in the amount of $4,039,390.

Roll call vote on CM 26-09-114 Yeas: Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez
Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

S//
_____
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

S//
_____
Justin Fischer, Mayor

S//
_____
Transcribed by Diana Charles
Customer Service Representative

Date approved: September 28, 2026