REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 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:

CM 26-06-070 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

To approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-070 **Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer**
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Community Impact Day – Katie Chuba, Novi Chamber of Commerce President**

Ms. Katie Chuba, President and CEO of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, said they had Community Impact Day on May 13th. She said Community Impact Day was not the brainchild of the Novi community or the Novi Chamber of Commerce. This was a project that came out of a leadership program from the West Coast Chamber of Commerce. Their leadership cohort wanted to do a community impact project and Community Impact Day was born. Ms. Chuba described how Community Impact Day works. Groups, organizations, nonprofits, maybe even some businesses that are low on staff or low on resources will submit projects to the Chamber. They collect volunteers throughout the community that would be interested in volunteering at these different projects to help those facilities and businesses and organizations. Then, they organize the projects, send those out to the volunteers that RSVP'd and let them choose whichever project they want to make a meaningful difference in. Businesses came out. They brought their teams. Community people came out. It's one day of work from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on one day throughout the state.

Ms. Chuba said the Novi Chamber had 181 total volunteers participated. They had 15 volunteer locations, but they had about 24-25 different projects within those locations. Then total work hours. She said their partners that hosted the projects, like Novi's Parks and Recreation Department, submitted all this information to them. It equaled 632 hours of completed work. The total cost savings were just over $22,000. Statewide, she said they

could see the data for the statewide statistics and the chambers that participated. She said in four years, the state is estimating that it's going to be $4.5 million of economic impact throughout the state with all these communities doing their work which is wonderful. She had two board members with her and well as a Leadership grad. This was the Leadership Novi's Impact Project. She said they were instrumental with connections and helping implement the day. Next year, it will be held on May 12, 2027.

Mayor Fischer thanked her and told her they really appreciate everything she does, not just on Community Impact Day, but everything she's doing with the Chamber. He said she is a breath of fresh air and an amazing asset to the City of Novi. He said what he loved about the video is not just that everyone was out there contributing to the community, but you could tell everyone was having fun doing it. He said she always finds a way to make people have fun while they're doing hard work. He congratulated her.

2. 2026 Q2 Council Goals Update - Danielle Mahoney, Assistant City Manager

Assistant City Manager Mahoney said this was the mid-year update on goals. She said they did not come to Council in the first quarter, but they will get back on track following this. This is where she gives Council an update on all the goals that Council set in January. This is their opportunity to ask questions if they feel like things are out of alignment, and to give some guidance and direction. She said she was happy to report all the goals are underway. They are making really good progress on just about everything. First up, for the biannual citizen survey, they've identified a company to work with: ETC. They will get under contract with them in the new fiscal year and get the survey tool developed. They are hoping to launch the survey this fall. She said there was a memo shared with them in their April 2nd packet that outlined the process and the work that's been done so far. This isn't something new to them; it's been something the City has undertaken in the past, so this is just kind of getting back on track to do that larger biannual citizen survey. She said they'll provide updates once that is under development and they get that survey launched.

Assistant City Manager Mahoney showed a slide called "Public Art and Placemaking Strategy" and said this is the only goal of the seven that they've identified as being slightly at risk because they've had some membership issues with the committee, as some members of Council know. She was happy to report they are still meeting. In fact, they met again last week. They've had a few meetings already this year and there are likely some appointments coming up which is great news. She said they are really trying to right-size that committee and get the membership it needs. Absent a funding source, the committee is working to hone in on a strategy and she thinks that as the membership grows, that'll be a little bit easier for them to do. In the meantime, the committee has been reviewing existing internal documents, mainly from Community Development, that might help from an ordinance perspective or different procedural and policy things that they have at the City to make it easier for public art to be more of something that they can have throughout the community. There are some risks that they've identified, funding obviously one of them. She said she believes they might have to stretch the timeline a little bit, given the challenges. She said going to McKinney was great. She has shared their public art strategy with the team. There are some good ideas in the hopper. She

believes that once they get some additional members appointed, the strategy is going to move right along. Hopefully, they'll come back to Council with more information next quarter.

Assistant City Manager Mahoney then addressed the topic of collaboration with the schools and community facilities planning. There was a joint meeting with the Finance and Administration Committee and Novi School's Capital Committee in the previous quarter. She said there was an agreement for the pond transfer on their Council agenda for that evening's meeting. Following the meeting on June 22, 2026, there was going to be a public hearing to amend the City's Master Plan. Due to that, there will be a Planning Commission meeting in July and additional conversations will continue to take place, mainly with the schools as it relates to space. She said they've talked a lot about programming space, or the need to have more space for their programs, primarily with their Parks and Rec Department. As the schools continue their construction plans, Novi staff will have continued conversations with the schools on what collaboration can continue to look like. She said they're interested in potentially collaborating with them on the pool. Those conversations continue to happen.

Assistant City Manager Mahoney then spoke about Property Development and Planning. She said there is a great update shared in Council's packet from May 14, 2026, that Director Bullard put together. It is a great list that identifies all the City-owned parcels. She said this is a goal where they could really use Council's direction and guidance, primarily as it relates to funding sources and maybe some guidance on thoughts for redevelopment or development of the existing properties, primarily ITC and Bosco. They could issue RFPs for design for both of those, but construction costs currently aren't funded, so maybe in November, that changes things a little bit. She said they are looking for some further direction on what Council's thoughts are about the current police department headquarters site. She knows some ideas have been tossed out, but she asked how far into discovery they would like staff to go thinking of a community center or something like that for that space without clear direction. They can continue to explore that or alternative opportunities for that space. Current Fire Station 1 has been identified as a potential revitalization space. They've been talking a lot about the Four Corners area, Town Center, and Main Street. That has the opportunity, once it's no longer serving as a fire department, to be a cool community asset. She said there are some thoughts in their packet and some proposed strategies for each of those. She said they would primarily like guidance and direction from Council on what they'd like to see with each of these sites that were identified in the memo. She said then, of course, funding sources.

For economic development, Assistant City Manager Mahoney said she was happy to report that they had hired an Economic Development Manager. Regina Swick has been with the City for the past year as a Management Analyst while she was in grad school. Now, she's with the City full-time and she has been hard at work drafting a SWOT analysis, getting a draft strategy together that she is working closely with the Managers' office and Community Development on. They've had a lot of internal meetings trying to get that ready to come before Council so they can get their eyes on a V1 draft. She said, as they know, staff have completed steps 1-3 for establishing the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority which is going to play into the strategy as well. Currently, regarding that, they're

working on drafting bylaws. They'll continue to meet with key internal stakeholders, get that draft in front of Council by the end of the year for them to give feedback on.

Regarding the CIP millage renewals, Assistant City Manager Mahoney said that is coming up in November on the ballot. Staff have been working on education strategy. There have been HOA meetings already that they have gone to. In fact, she said, there is another one coming up this week. That educational plan has been developed. Efforts on that were shared with Council a couple of months ago. She said they're still developing some outreach, digital and video visual content, but those public meetings are scheduled and ongoing beginning now through the fall.

Assistant City Manager Mahoney showed a slide called "Five-Year Compensation and Benefits Costs Strategy." She said they've been heavy into labor negotiations recently. They were happy to report that two of those contracts were before Council that night for their consideration. They were very happy they were able to get that done with time to spare. The updated project five-year comp was shared with Council in their executive packet with a narrative outlining what staff is seeing, some considerations and drivers and then maybe some strategies for what they're thinking of how to help mitigate some of those costs. Since they last spoke to Council on June 8th in closed session, they don't have any further updates on Command. That contract is still lingering out there, but they hope to have some next steps to inform them about soon.

Regarding upcoming Council touchpoints, Assistant City Manager Mahoney said she mentioned the Command contract. They're going to get back on track with their quarterly updates, so she said Council would see her again in September or October. Continuing to work on the economic development strategy, specifically some of the brownfield steps, appointing members and approving bylaws. That'll come before Council soon. Otherwise, if Council has any feedback or questions or if there is anything Council wanted to unpack from the seven goals they touched on, she was there and staff was there to help.

Mayor Fischer said that they appreciated the update. He had a couple of thoughts he wanted to share. He appreciated that she was there. He appreciated that they have a plan to ensure that these updates are going to be happening quarterly. He suggested that they get in the habit of the last meeting of the quarter, so the last meeting in September, December, March and June. He said they should just plan on those dates and then they'll all know well in advance when their due dates would be. Regarding the survey, he asked if they would be able to retroactively look at their old results in combination with the new results. He asked if the questions and the data fit in together or would they be starting a brand-new baseline that they'll just have to look prospectively. Assistant City Manager Mahoney said she didn't know if they were going to merge the data from an analytical perspective. She asked City Manager Cardenas if he knew anything about that. City Manager Cardenas said he thought most of the themes that will be in the new one will very much align with the old one. He thinks they should be able to draw a lot of comparisons. In terms of the actual data sets, they might not be apples to apples, but he thinks they'll be covering the same themes. He thinks they should be able to look back and draw comparisons between the old ones. Mayor

Fischer clarified that they won't necessarily be able to see the trend compared to when they did this last. City Manager Cardenas said he thinks what they look at with public safety is the question are people happy with public safety. They look at those percentages. He thinks they should be able to draw those comparisons and have some kind of bridge between the two. Mayor Fischer said as they go through this process, he would encourage them to find a way to triangulate some sort of trend compared to the old surveys, maybe not every single question, but the key things like public safety responses and senior services that Council always talks about. He said he'd use the 80/20 rule and pick the top ones. He said he thinks they hit the nail on the head from his perspective as far as property plans. He thinks they're doing everything they need to be doing at this point. A lot of that is going to depend on the CIP which is another goal. He said once that gets done, he thinks they can have more robust discussions on the reality of what they can do. He said he thinks they're well on track there. His next decision point is to start thinking of where he'll be interested in spending some of the money.

Member Gurumurthy thanked Assistant City Manager Mahoney for the update. She said it is really good to see the progress staff is making. With respect to the Public Arts and Placement, she said she was trying to understand the target date. She said when they say Q4, she asked if it means they will have the strategy already done and additional members already added. Assistant City Manager Mahoney said originally, they targeted basically the end of this calendar year to have a strategy in place. I think at the time of this goal being set, that seemed very realistic. But they've just run into some challenges, as she was saying earlier, with the make-up of the committee and just a lot of stops and starts along the way. That's the target. She thinks, depending on the membership, if there are some appointments coming later in the meeting and then maybe at some following meetings, that might move along a little bit quicker. They will still have it targeted for the end of this calendar year. Member Gurumurthy clarified that that meant having a strategy by the end of the year and Assistant City Manager Mahoney said yes, something for Council to react to. Member Gurumurthy said that would be great.

Regarding the community facilities and city collaboration, Member Gurumurthy said it's awesome that Novi is collaborating. When she thinks about the community facility, she thinks the goal said it would be ideal to conduct a survey and have the results by some date, maybe 2027. The thing she is not seeing here that she wanted to see is the approach to the community center. She asked what approach they wanted to take. In one of the previous Council meetings, there was a discussion of asking what everyone's perspective of what a community center is. First, even to understand, does Council have that information, all the things staff is hearing about what people would like in a community center. Next would come the itemized kind of a high-level cost perspective so they all digest that. After that, she thinks there are also options where they have to look at whether they'd require membership. She said having that kind of data that Council can review would be great as they are targeting the end of the year or the first quarter of 2027. She thinks the collaboration is just one piece of the puzzle. She said she would appreciate it if they could start adding that and sharing that information.

With the economic development, Member Gurumurthy said she was wondering when they would have the strategy in place. She asked if it would also be the end of the year.

Assistant City Manager Mahoney said it would not necessarily be in place. She said she'd have to go back and look at the goal language. She wanted to say it was the end of FY 27 or calendar year 2027. She said she'd have to go back and look. Their hope is to have something for Council to get their eyes on, to react to, and give them feedback on, because they want to develop it in concert with Council's feedback, and get it in front of the EDC. She said they want to have more eyes on it than just coming out of their office with the Economic Development Manager. She said they are still working internally, putting a draft together. They're going to get that to Council. She's not sure if it will be fully signed off and ready to be implemented necessarily, but at least Council can get an idea, and they'll be able to go back and forth before they'll put in front of Council for a final consideration. Member Gurumurthy asked if the draft target is more at the end of the year. Assistant City Manager Mahoney said yes.

Member Martinez thanked Assistant City Manager Mahoney for the presentation. He appreciated the work and the updates on this. He wanted to piggyback off of what Member Gurumurthy said on the City and school collaboration. This is something he continues to hear a lot about from people in the community. He said the citizens know they've just passed bonds for the schools and they're wondering what the City is doing exactly. He said he's glad she presented all of this today as it is very timely, given what else is on the agenda for the meeting. He hopes they can see a little bit more as those discussions come up. He said perhaps if they can get updates on that outside of this regular cycle, if there are things, just so they can make sure that the community knows that this is something that they're really working on. It would be really appreciated, from his perspective, if they could get it in their packet, if not at a meeting.

Regarding the Public Art and Placemaking Strategy, he was glad she touched on what they experienced when they were in McKinney, Texas. There was a really robust public-private partnership down there that allowed them to do a lot of really innovative things. He thinks Mayor Pro Tem Casey added that aspect to their goal, which he thought was a great idea, and now, Novi is in this spot financially where they're not sure where this is going to go. He asked if there has been any discussion about whether the City could pursue their own 501(c)(3) owned by the City as a mechanism of getting funding that way. Assistant City Manager Mahoney said she doesn't believe the committee has had that conversation. He said he would love it if they could have that conversation and they could figure out if that's doable, if that's feasible, to give them a route to be able to fundraise in a different, innovative way. It's a thought he's had while they're thinking of that. He said he appreciated the updates and he thanked Assistant City Manager Mahoney.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

City Manager Cardenas introduced Novi's new Finance Director, Maria Farris, who started on June 22nd. He said they're happy to have her. She is mostly recently from the City of Romulus, but she also had experience in Plymouth. She is a resident of Northville, so she's very close and they are looking forward to a long tenure with her, and they look forward to working with her in the future.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Mike Duchesneau, 1191 S Lake Drive, said his topic for the day was Item 11 on the meeting's agenda: Novi Road median drainage improvements. He said he drives on this section of Novi Road on a regular basis, and he has never seen any drainage issues. The current design consists of a shallow ditch on a hilly road with storm drains in the ditch. This results in a more "up north" feel for those sections of the road. He said the proposal includes replacing the ditches with a paved center lane and adding trees and planters. Item 11 is asking City Council to approve an estimated $806,000. This includes the extra inspections, contingencies, and engineering costs. $806,000 is what Council will approve if this goes forward. In his opinion, this is not needed and the money should be spent elsewhere.

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

Mayor Fischer requested Item G be removed for further discussion.

CM 26-06-071 Moved by Martinez, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

To approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

A. Approve Minutes of:
June 8, 2026 - Regular Meeting

B. Approval of a Resolution to close Ten Mile Road from the Civic Center to Taft Road, and Taft Road from 10 Mile to 9 Mile Rd. for the Festival of Chariots from 11:45 AM to 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 19, 2026.

C. Consider awarding the commissioning and building envelope consulting services contract to JMK Engineering, Inc. for the Public Safety Building Project, in the amount of $263,200.

D. Approval of the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) Municipal Credit and Community Credit Interlocal Transfer Agreement for the ongoing transfer of Novi's annual SMART municipal credit allocation to People's Express (PEX) in the amount of $62,149.

E. Approval to award a three-year Site Plan Landscape Review and Inspection Consulting Services Contract to Giffels Webster (with the option for an additional two, one-year renewals) and adoption of the revised fee schedule.

F. Enter Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting of June 22, 2026, in the Council Annex for the purpose of discussing confidential written correspondence from the City Attorney and Appointed Officials Evaluations (City Manager, City Clerk, and Assessor).

G. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1204 **(Removed/later approved)**

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-071 **Yeas: Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey**
Nays: None

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

1. **Approval of Purchase Agreement by and Between the City of Novi and the Novi Community School District Involving a Portion of Property Owned by the City at the Civic Center Complex, in Connection with Planned Improvements to the District's Educational Campus**

City Manager Cardenas said the Novi Community School District is proposing major improvements to the high school campus that will increase stormwater runoff and require additional basin capacity. The school district has requested ownership of the City-owned stormwater basin and proposes expanding it to accommodate both current and future drainage needs. The proposed agreement includes an easement to protect the City's ongoing stormwater use of the basin and requires final review of the related access and utility easements documented, requested by the school district before execution. Superintendent Ben Mainka was in attendance to address any questions Council had. City Manager Cardenas asked Mr. Mainka if he also had a presentation that he wanted to share with Council as he was not sure if Council had seen it before.

Ben Mainka thanked Council for the opportunity to be there. He echoed a lot of the comments he heard from Council in the past three to four years and that is that they want to work together. He said he could certainly tell them that it has been a tremendous partnership with Mayor Fischer, with City Manager Cardenas and all of the Council members. He is very, very grateful for their partnership and he thinks as resources dwindle at the state for municipalities as well as schools, which they've seen the last two years, it's going to be very important for the Novi community to see them trying to leverage resources to support the needs of the community in ways that are a little outside the box. This is one of those opportunities. He said as Council knows, the schools passed a bond in 2025, and part of the bond is going to largely reimagine Novi High School. He said he knew they had heard several of the particulars about this project, but it will have an opportunity for tremendous partnership between the City and the school district. He said they share this site very intimately and they have known that for years. One of the things they've noticed is that they have enough room on their site after the recent land swap a few years ago that allows them to build the activity center and everything that they would like to do at the high school. Unfortunately, it will be at a significantly higher cost. He said if there was something that they could do to mitigate that through having the City help them with some of those costs, that would be better. That's what he wanted to present at the meeting.

Mr. Mainka said there are two primary objectives to help them with this project. The long-term intent, of course, is to have the activity center, which will be right next door, sharing the school's site on the other side of Novi Way. That facility is going to have a new indoor

turf facility as well as a track and field as well as several multi-use court spaces. On the north side right up where their older tennis courts currently sit, will be a facility that has a new pool. They have plans to make provisions for a community space there as well. He thinks the opportunity to allow the City to partner with them and how they would program that is tremendously exciting. However, to build a facility of this magnitude, they have to find a way to get the water away from the site that's impervious. That project is daunting. They could do it on their existing site, but it would cost quite a bit because they'd have to do underground detention and things like that. They noticed an opportunity just south of the City's softball fields and the park. There is a drainage pond that's been there. It's been at capacity for a little while. By the school district taking ownership of that drainage pond, it will allow the district to be able to expand the pond south into the district's existing property. It will also allow the City to be able to have expanded use of it for future construction. He said Council could imagine if there were something they wanted to do, as they heard in Assistant City Manager Mahoney's presentation, if there were something they wanted to do with the police station, that would be an opportunity where they've built in expanded impervious need to be able to drain into that pond. This would help future expansion as well as existing. In addition to that, the school district would take over the maintenance and facilitate any sort of costs associated with that.

The second part after the drainage pond is the area that is a little bit beyond. This is Novi Way. Novi Way is an area that they would need access to be able to get to the south end of their property. Essentially, they're going to be doing a lot of the construction traffic for this facility right through the center of what is the footprint of the building. They're not going to be driving on Novi Way until toward the end of the project once they get the exterior shell up. When that happens, they will be driving equipment and trucks on Novi Way that are heavier than what it's called for. Additionally, he said you could imagine if they were to have a heavy piece of equipment or a bus or something like that drive down Novi Way, they would want to have it built to a higher spec. The agreement is just giving the school district an easement. It's not taking any kind of ownership of Novi Way, but they are going to be rebuilding it at a much higher class than it is right now to be able to have a very long life and they'll be making sure that it's capable of doing what it needs to do. He said these are two things that set the stage for the district constructing this facility. All along, he thinks there is a lot more conversation to come related to traffic and how they're going to be looking at that. He said they did a joint traffic study for this site. They'll continue to look at the recommendations. He and City Manager Cardenas have had conversations quite regularly about how they can get together and pull teams to look at what is the best way to make the safest means of ingress and egress of this facility. They're very appreciative of the partnership and he was appreciative of Council's time and consideration.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said it was good to see Mr. Mainka. She echoed his comments about the partnership. She said she remembers the years before he joined the district. She doesn't think they had the same kind of amicable and trusting relationship that they are both enjoying today. She said it only serves the Novi community when they work together. She appreciates the perspective he has. She didn't have a question for him, but she did have a comment. She said when this last came before them at FAC a couple of months ago, one of the comments she made was that if you look at Novi Way, she's

really supportive of the idea of giving the school district an easement and she appreciates that they're talking about rebuilding the road, so to speak. The open question she had was does the road also include the turnaround for the buses. She said where the turnaround is scheduled right now is through the parking lot that supports Power Park. Putting heavy buses on a road is one thing. Putting heavy buses into that parking lot is another. Her comment was to the City attorney that when they continue to refine the negotiation, the agreement for the easement, she'd like to make sure they are incorporating the additional pavement and roadwork that would need to get done to support that road. It would not be a helpful thing to have that road crumble. She said as much as they supported Novi Way, she wants that parking lot to be covered as well. Mr. Mainka asked if he could respond to that. Mayor Pro Tem Casey said yes. He said it is certainly their intent to make sure that all of that parking lot and that area is rebuilt to the same specification. Another thing that is in the agreement that they discussed extensively since their last meeting, there will be no trees infringed upon or moved that are on the City's property. He said they are not trying to move that road closer or anything like that. They're simply trying to make it so that they can rebuild it, obviously within a few feet, but there will not be any infringement on the existing Power Park facility. Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she appreciated him reiterating the fact about the trees because he didn't get a chance to say that earlier.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said her second comment/question to the City manager was if there were a projection in the documentation to increase the size of the drainage pond to some x factor. Do they know what the x factor is? She wanted to say it was 20,000, but she wasn't 100% sure. City Attorney Schultz confirmed that it is 20,000 cubic feet. He said that number has been reviewed and approved by the engineering department. Mayor Pro Tem Casey said that incorporates the expectation of some kind of building, whatever purpose it may have, replacing the existing police station, changes to parking that may be required, etc. She asked if they are comfortable that that number is going to be, if not just sufficient, *well* sufficient to what the City's needs are going to be. She said she was just double-checking the question. City Attorney Schultz said yes that is what they're told.

CM 26-06-072 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Gurumurthy: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval of Purchase Agreement by and between the City of Novi and the Novi Community School District involving a portion of property owned by the City at the Civic Center Complex, in connection with planned improvements to the District's Educational Campus, subject to final, minor revisions to the language of the Agreement by the City Manager and City Attorney, and also subject to the City Manager and City Attorney approving language of the Stormwater Easement and Driveway Access and Utility Easement referred to in the Purchase Agreement before the Purchase Agreement is signed by the City.

Member Heintz said, like the other Council member who spoke, he thinks it was quite nice how Novi Way was the roadway that was discussed or mentioned. It might not have always been the case that the City and the school district have worked in close

relationship, but he thinks this should be a potential theme as this is the new Novi way of doing things, working closely with the school district.

Mayor Fischer thanked Mr. Mainka and said he had lived in Novi for a long time, and he has seen a lot of superintendents. He doesn't think the collaboration between the school district and the City has ever been better. He thinks that has to do with City Manager Cardenas with the City and Mr. Mainka and his board with the school district. He said it's amazing to see the work, the collaboration and the willingness to do this. He said, frankly, that is what he thinks the residents expect. They want to see this kind of work. He said the district had a potential issue with their site that would cost a lot more money. He said if you think about it, this collaboration between the City and the district is saving the residents money on the district project and the City is getting rid of a retention pond that the district is going to take over and beautify. He asked Mr. Mainka if that is still part of the plan. Mr. Mainka said yes. Mayor Fischer said the City had no plans to make it any better, but the district is going to make it large enough for their facility to be built. He said the City will also be able to do things in the future on the City campus in collaboration with the district. The City gets a new road. The district gets access to their building. He said this is exactly what residents expect from both the school district and the City. He thanked him and the school board for their work on this project. He thanked his colleagues and the City staff as well. Mr. Mainka thanked Mayor Fischer and said it has been an honor. He said the board is honored to work with the City as well.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-072 **Yeas: Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy**
Nays: None

2. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

CM 26-06-073 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Appointment of Glen Stroup to the Cultural Arts Advisory Committee for the term expiring on 12/31/27.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-073 **Yeas: Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz**
Nays: None

CM 26-06-074 **Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey: MOTION CARRIED 5-2**

Appointment of Larry Czekaj to the Library Board for a term expiring 03/01/2027.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-074 **Yeas: Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy**
Nays: Heintz, Martinez

3. Approval of resolution to authorize the final Budget Amendment of Fiscal Year 2025/26; #2026-5.

CM 26-06-075 Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith: MOTION CARRIED 7-0

Approval of resolution to authorize Budget Amendment #2026-5.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-075 Yeas: Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith
Nays: None

4. Consideration of Resolution Acknowledging the Updated Multi-Year Budget Projections for Fiscal Years 2027/28 and 2028/29.

City Manager Cardenas said this is a response to Council's direction back on May 4, 2026 to address the budget deficiencies for those fiscal years the mayor just mentioned, 2027 and 2028. Now, instead of waiting until those budget years are upon them, the proposed projections, as described in the resolution, recognize 10 positions, all currently open, unfilled, as being eliminated from those fiscal years 2026-2027 through 2028-2029. Some of those positions have been open for quite some time as there has been constant attrition and/or retirements. In essence, the City has been at the staff limit level for some time. By the end of fiscal year '28-'29, the City's fund balance will be projected to be at 29% or $14.6 million, in line with Council's direction.

Member Gurumurthy said she had a few questions in terms of the whole staffing position elimination. She said she wanted to make sure it's positions they were never planning to fill versus a hiring lag. She said most importantly, she thinks the quality of services because for the next three years, if you're not filling those positions, is that going to impact the quality of service or are they confident that it'll remain the same? City Manager Cardenas said they are quite confident it will remain the same. He wouldn't say they are 100% they're going to plan on filling all of those, but most of those have been open for some time, especially in public safety with respect to attritions or when they would hire a couple and then another couple would retire. The City has been at that staffing level for some time. He said to finalize that, they are confident they're going to be maintaining the same service level they always have. Member Gurumurthy said they'd have to look at this again after three years. City Manager Cardenas said every year they'll be looking at the budget and seeing what can be done. He doesn't think they're going to re-look at this particular proposal. He thinks at the end of the three years, they'll be innovative and change how they work. He doesn't think this is going to be technically how they're going to look at this after three years. He said hopefully, the funding levels will be back or they will have made efficiencies that they can return to these. He said it's up in the air, but he thinks it's a good path forward that they've been able to identify. Member Gurumurthy said he had already mentioned there are few ideas that might help keep things stable, even without filling these positions. She said it would be good to understand the options or other ideas to help fill the needs unless they are confident that they can eliminate those positions and the level of service will stay the same. She said it would be good to see those ideas sooner than later. City Manager Cardenas said yes, they'll be looking at those ideas in terms of

how they can be more innovative. He said he believes that is what Council has pushed him and the staff for for over a year. He didn't want to draw those correlations between these positions and their innovative efforts. He said these are things they've identified now, but there are some other ideas they have out there that they need to evaluate and determine what the cost efficiencies are of those and what those costs get ramped up that make them more efficient. He thinks there are two separate silos they're working off of. Member Gurumurthy clarified by saying basically, if they are eliminating, then they will not need to add those again. City Manager Cardenas said as time goes by, they'll see. He thinks they'll be a completely different kind of city and operation in three years. He doesn't think they want to be beholden to the idea that three years prior, they lost this position and we need to bring it back. Member Gurumurthy said she would like to keep this in mind every year and then think through the next. She said they'll do the next three years, but she knows the growth is going to happen. It's going to be a different set of services that they will need to satisfy the residents, so this is a constant thing. It's not as easy as simply eliminating.

Member Gurumurthy said that's one thing and then with the public safety, the percentage of staff position is, the whole public safety is the maximum, so she always cringes about the response times. Then, the City is building a new facility, so that's another thing as well. She thinks it all goes hand in hand. If they are thinking of anything related to keeping the quality of service, but without these positions being filled, she would like to see those ideas sooner than later. She then said she knows they are moving some capital savings, like trucks and vehicles, past three years. She wanted to make sure that not everything is pushed to after three years and suddenly, at the end of the third year, they have to scramble and think of all the things. She wanted to know if there is a gradual transition. She said they also have to stay on top of maintenance, something that is constant. She said if you're not replacing it, you are using it. Is that going to be an additional cost that they have not planned for? She said she wanted to make sure they are all aware of these things so they can keep an eye on them. The sooner they know how to keep things stable, the better.

Member Smith asked City Manager Cardenas and Assistant City Manager Mahoney when they expect to have the results from the biannual survey back. City Manager Cardenas said he believes the survey will be going out this fall, like Assistant City Manager Mahoney said. He believes they'll have responses pretty quick, likely by the end of the year. Member Smith said when they go through the budget for next year, it'd be good to look at those results and the cuts they've made and just make sure that things are still lining up.

Member Staudt said he hadn't planned on speaking, but there were some comments he had heard that need a little clarification. One is that the second and third year of this budget are a planning tool more than anything. He asked City Manager Cardenas if it is a legal requirement. City Manager Cardenas said it is not. Member Staudt said they started this three-year budgeting back when Mayor Gatt was elected, maybe 15 years ago, and it was a good guide. He said it was in a period of time that was extremely difficult. This one has snuck up on them a lot more than it did in 2009-2010. They had seen it coming. They started preparing, but they didn't have any idea where it was going to

go. He said this one is a lot more difficult because this is a slow, gradual increase in employee compensation and other costs and, incidentally, at the exact same time, their capital improvement millage is expiring, and they have another vote in November. He said they should trust him when he says if they don't pass that, they're going to have to suddenly start paying for fire engines and police cars and all kinds of things that they haven't been paying for for the last 10 years. He said if they think things are difficult now, they're going to be extraordinarily difficult if that doesn't pass. They've become a little bit dependent on this additional mill for their capital improvement projects. He can't even imagine what it's going to be like moving forward for the next 10 years without that. This is a good first step. It gives them some planning and it gives them some ability to forecast some additional cuts. This isn't going to be easy and they need to be prepared. He is happy to support this motion and move it forward, but they're going to have a very serious discussion next year if the capital improvement millage doesn't pass.

Mayor Fischer said, kind of alluding to what Member Gurumurthy was talking about, they're taking out some positions that were vacant for a while. He said he wanted to impress upon them that that's kind of the easier choice of what to do at this point. He really thinks that it's incumbent upon the City manager's office over the next year or the next several years to continually look at the structure of City Hall and the staff they have there. He said there may be opportunities to shift and fill some of these positions by realizing efficiencies in other departments. It reminds him of the fact that he thinks the last major overhaul that they had in staff or staff structure was when they did the Parks and Recreation Cultural Services Department and created that department. He said that was the last time there was a major change in the structure of the City. He thinks that as they continue to move through these budget years, every single position should be scrutinized and there may be an opportunity to bring some of the public safety ones back if that's where they need to prioritize their funding.

Mayor Fischer commented on Member Staudt's comment that this has kind of snuck up on them. They were also down in the finance department as far as staffing, but he wanted to make it very clear that this is the last year that he plans on breaking this process into two. From here on out, as long as he is sitting at that table, the full three years needs to be presented to Council in March or April with the budget. He would highly encourage that at that time, the fund balance is what it needs to be. That's his expectation going forward and he wanted to set that a good nine months before they get into the next budget cycle. He said he appreciated all the hard work staff had put into this and the hard work and the thought that City Manager Cardenas had put into this. It wasn't an easy task with the monumental amount that they've had to overcome. He thinks they've done a fairly good job and he is proud to support this. He said he will be looking for additional strategic and critical thinking as it relates to staffing and positions that they're filling when they start having conversations next April.

Member Heintz said he was thinking of things that wouldn't be redundant to everyone else. From his still novice and still learning perspective, he wanted to challenge the City to continue to think outside the box whenever they can. He said he understands on this, later on, these items or even throughout the process, they might be supplementing different positions with contractor-like roles when they don't need a full-time position in that role to

continue to meet the needs of the residents. From his perspective, when they do things like that, there might be a loss in connectivity, a loss in continuity, especially if any contractor-like role might be mixed and matched from time to time. He said they should think creatively wherever they can. For example, if they need a quarter person rather than a full-time person, maybe they can share roles within adjacent cities or Oakland County or whatever the process might be. He said he was still learning, not knowing what's possible. He said they should not simply continue to operate how they always operate but instead think of how they can mix things up, do things differently and still get the high-quality service. If a contractor will do, that's good enough. He said they'd want to add that continuity with somebody who really knows Novi and continues to work in Novi. He said maybe they only need them for part of the time, so they could try to find different ways to make it work for them financially and from a service level as well. He said he appreciated their time and he looks forward to seeing what will happen in the future.

CM 26-06-076 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval of Resolution Acknowledging the Updated Multi-Year Budget Projections for Fiscal Years 2027/28 and 2028/29.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-076 **Yeas: Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt**
Nays: None

5. Consideration of the City's 2026-2027 property and liability insurance coverage with Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool in the amount of $607,328, and authorize the Mayor to sign the required Intergovernmental Contract to join the pool.

City Manager Cardenas said the City has been with Travelers Insurance since 2024 via their Kapnick Insurance Brokers. When Kapnick went back out to the market, they only got one bid from Travelers. City administration engaged the Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool for a quote. The financial administration discussed this matter back at their June 1st meeting. After all the evaluations, all the meetings they had, the overall experience, customer service efforts and recommendations from other communities, ultimately led the staff to suggest moving to the Michigan Municipal League Liability Pool. He said they will look at the deductibles moving forward because we've had the same deductibles for quite some time, so he thinks once they get this relationship established, then can look at other ways of how they can adjust their current policy and bring it up to where it needs to be in 2026.

CM 26-06-077 **Moved by Martinez, seconded by Gurumurthy: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval of the City's 2026-2027 property and liability insurance coverage with Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool in the amount of $607,328 and authorize the Mayor to sign the required Intergovernmental Contract to join the pool.

Member Martinez said to the City Manager that he noticed that in this MML Liability and Property Pool there is coverage for cyber insurance, data breach, and things of that sort. From his view of it, that seems to overlap with item 6 on their agenda. He asked if there was an overlap or if that was intentional. City Manager Cardenas said yes, it was intentional. He also said the level of insurance they have is not to the need that they need that they have. He explained that they've had this relationship with Cowbell before. This is the level that they have, and he thinks they all receive those fantastic videos that talk about cybersecurity. It's maintaining that current service that they have. It's another service, but it doesn't reach the support and coverage that they are desperately in need of in case something happens in the future. Member Martinez said that was perfect and he thanked City Manager Cardenas for his response.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-077 **Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer**
Nays: None

6. Consideration of the City's 2026-2027 cyber insurance coverage with Cowbell in the amount of $39,397.

CM 26-06-078 **Moved by Martinez, seconded by Gurumurthy: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval of the City's 2026-2027 cyber insurance coverage with Cowbell in the amount of $39,397

Member Smith said to the City Manager that he noticed it said because it's not a Michigan company, if they become insolvent, the City's claims would not be guaranteed. He's assuming that means if it were a Michigan company, they would be guaranteed. City Manager Cardenas said that was a good question. He'd have to look into that and get back to Member Smith about it. Member Smith said that was just his engineering mind at work. He then said given the nature of cyber issues, their entire base of people that they're insuring could be pretty exposed. It's not like house insurance or something like that where a tornado might hit you, but not anyone else, and there is a basis to pay for that. If they did get hit and went bankrupt, he would just like to know why, what the issue is with a non-Michigan company. If that really is the case, maybe they should be looking at Michigan companies. He said we need this. He's not sure what the timing on getting this coverage is, but if it's imminent, he would support it. If not, he would want to go back and have a look at that. City Manager Cardenas said "imminent" seems very dire, but the City's coverage ends by July 1st. He said they can definitely look into this and get back to him. They can also always change after the fact as well, so they can get him that so he could have it now, and then they can get him those answers posthaste. Member Smith said "imminent" seems appropriate for something ending in July. He said they don't want to go completely uncovered.

Mayor Fischer said Member Smith had brought up a couple of good points. He said City Manager Cardenas had already mentioned this, but the deductibles are something they can make sure they're in line with some of their other cities. He suggested that maybe, if they package all of that up for Council, that would be very helpful in the coming months.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-078 **Yeas: Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey**
Nays: None

7. Consideration of Labor Agreement between the City of Novi and the Novi Professionals Association of the Michigan Association of Public Employees for a contract term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

City Manager Cardenas said as a reminder, this is breaking up the current main group into two different factions, one dealing with just the City Hall group and one for their Public Works and Parks Maintenance. He gave kudos to their team, especially Tia Gronlund-Fox, Ms. Mahoney, and Elise Marra. They did a really great job, including department directors, Mr. Herczeg, Ms. Mikus, Mr. Boulard, and all the directors that have staff in this. It was really a collaborative effort. He appreciated the union members as well, coming to the table and working with them to find common ground.

CM 26-06-079 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval of Labor Agreement between the City of Novi and the Novi Professionals Association of the Michigan Association of Public Employees for a contract term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-079 **Yeas: Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy**
Nays: None

8. Consideration of Labor Agreement between the City of Novi and the Michigan Association of Public Employees DPW/Parks Maintenance for a contract term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

CM 26-06-080 **Moved by Smith, seconded by Martinez: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval of Labor Agreement between the City of Novi and the Michigan Association of Public Employees DPW/Parks Maintenance for a contract term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-080 **Yeas: Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz**
Nays: None

9. Consideration of a contract for mowing services to Teddy's Lawn & Landscape, at an estimated annual cost of $148,590.

CM 26-06-081 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Smith: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval to award a unit price contract for mowing services to Teddy's Lawn & Landscape, the second lowest qualified bidder, at an estimated annual cost of $148,590 for one (1) year with the option of three (3) one-year renewals.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-081 **Yeas: Smith, Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez**
Nays: None

10. Consideration of approval to award a contract for forestry services to CutMyTreeDown.com and Owen Tree Service Inc., at an estimated annual cost of $544,000.

CM 26-06-082 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Martinez: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval to award a unit price contract for forestry services to CutMyTreeDown.com and Owen Tree Service Inc., the two lowest qualified bidders, at an estimated annual cost of $544,000. The contract term is eight months with three optional one-year extensions.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-082 **Yeas: Staudt, Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith**
Nays: None

11. Consideration of approval to award the Novi Road Median Drainage Improvements, 12 Mile Road to 13 Mile Road, project contract to Merlo Construction Co., the qualified second-low bidder, in the amount of $663,737.

Member Heintz said this is the second time on the meeting's agenda where they had the qualified second-lowest bidder. He said he wanted to make sure that the process of selecting the appropriate individual was going to be done. He said while cost isn't very important, they should look at the process of what makes an individual a qualified individual and not necessarily always going for the lowest bid. In his mind, they should make sure to notice things they learn along the way, like any kind of common tendencies, when they have to go to another individual. In his mind, they don't always have to go with the lowest bidder if there is something that makes it more appropriate to go with quality over a few bucks.

Member Smith said when they talked about this the first time, he thought it was too expensive. He said he still thought so, so he wouldn't support the motion.

CM 26-06-083 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt: MOTION CARRIED 4-3**

Approval to award the Novi Road Median Drainage Improvements, 12 Mile Road to 13 Mile Road, project contract to Merlo Construction Co., the qualified second low bidder in the amount of $663,737.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-083 **Yeas: Fischer, Casey, Gurumurthy, Staudt**
Nays: Heintz, Martinez, Smith

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS:

G. Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1204

Mayor Fischer said he removed Item G which is the warrant. He told City Manager Cardenas that he noticed they had a $190,000 payment to Priority Waste. He asked City Manager Cardenas what that was for. City Manager Cardenas said it was for Priority Waste's bill for the month of May 2026. It included solid waste recycling and yard waste collection for that month. Mayor Fischer said they've had quite a few updates and they've heard from quite a few residents that there have been delays. He asked City Manager Cardenas if any of those delays were in May. City Manager Cardenas said yes, there was a considerable number of delays that they experienced, more so than they had usually had over the previous few months. He said a lot of them were yard waste, but they also had a lot of recycling delays that month as well. Mayor Fischer asked if the amount of $190,000 had been discounted by Priority for their failure of services. City Manager Cardenas said no, it had not been discounted at all. Mayor Fischer clarified that the City had been paying "full freight" for bad service. City Manager Cardenas said yes, they are paying the same amount for the service disruption. Mayor Fischer said the City is paying the same amount they would if they got the correct level of service under the agreement. He said the City was not getting the amount of services and the level of service that Priority Waste had promised in the agreement, yet they were still paying the same amount. City Manager Cardenas said that was accurate. Mayor Fischer asked what the City had done to rectify this issue with Priority Waste or at least, to get a discount. He asked what Priority Waste's position was in this situation. He asked if they think they're doing a great job. He asked if they think they are A+ students. City Manager Cardenas said he doesn't believe they think that. He said, if they're using that analogy, then Priority Waste fired who would have been the principal. The CEO has been relieved. They've done an overhaul with respect to their leadership. He said they would be meeting with Priority Waste and the City's consortium of solid waste and recycling partners on Thursday of the upcoming week. Priority Waste has promised that they have new vehicles. This is important because the old vehicles have been the root cause of the disrupted service. That is what they've been told in the past. Priority Waste believes they are moving in the right direction to rectify this, but there have still been some interruptions in service in June. Mayor Fischer said they've been hearing about this same situation for over a year or two. He asked what the trend on their missed pickups is at this point. He said it's getting worse. City Manager Cardenas said yes, it has been getting worse, especially with May. It was not a good month in terms of…Mayor Fischer asked what their excuse was for May. He guessed it was that people started cleaning up their yards like they do every May since people started building homes. He asked if they didn't expect this. He doesn't understand how that could be an excuse. City Manager Cardenas said Priority Waste goes back to truck issues, and they haven't actually talked about staffing. It's been more the trucks have not been serviceable to come and pick up the capacity the City has. Mayor Fischer said they need to start looking at what kind of damages the City can assess

against them ASAP. He said he would not support releasing the payment on the day of the meeting. He said he would support making all the warrant payments except for Priority Waste until they can start to get some information from them on rectifying their poor performance.

Member Martinez thanked Mayor Fischer for bringing this to Council's attention. He asked City Attorney Schultz if the City is still under the original GFL contract now that Priority Waste took over the operations. City Attorney Schultz said yes. Member Martinez said under that contract, if he remembered correctly, there is $100 penalty for each incident of delayed pickup. City Attorney Schultz said yes, those are the words of the agreement. Member Martinez said the other aspect of it is it's up to $500 when the vehicles aren't being maintained in operable condition. City Attorney Schultz said yes, he believes there is an escalator. Member Martinez said he was sorry to ask City Attorney Schultz on the spot, but he couldn't find a definition in the agreement to answer his question of how they define "incident." He asked if it meant every household, every day or what the frequency is. City Attorney Schultz said "incident" is not defined in the agreement. Member Martinez said he knows they've had neighborhoods where parts of the neighborhood were picked up and other parts were not. He asked if they could view each of those houses that did not get picked up as an incident. City Attorney Schultz said he would be happy to look at that. He said he could not give Council an answer about that at the meeting, but they would be happy to sit down with staff and administration and see what the City's options are. Member Martinez said he would appreciate that. He agreed with the mayor that he believes the City has been very courteous for a long time in allowing Priority Waste to get their act together. He understands that they fired the person who was in charge, but that doesn't seem to be helping. He said if they're getting excuses, if they're getting more delays and issues, residents should go to the DPW page and send them a ticket notifying them that their trash, recycling or yard waste is not getting picked up. Their staff is tracking that and that will really help them to be able to enforce the contract. He said he agreed with the mayor that the payment should not go through at the meeting.

Member Staudt asked City Attorney Schultz if there are any penalties for the City withholding payment. City Attorney Schultz said there are not any penalties specifically written into the contract. He said there are all the normal contractual provisions that say you're supposed to pay within a certain time and each one of those, he guessed they'd have to evaluate it as they hear from Priority whether they're going to make an issue out of it. He said what he is understanding is that the matter has been removed to take a look to see Council's options and probably have something back to Council at their next meeting. He said that does not seem unreasonable to him given the timing of this. Member Staudt asked if there are any terms within the contract to allow them to withhold damages from their payment. City Attorney Schultz said there is the liquidated damages provision that they were talking about which can be a deduction from their payment, but they'd need to talk about what that could amount to. Member Staudt said this is really giving Priority Waste an opportunity to help the City determine how they're going to recover their damages. City Attorney Schutlz said he thought that was a fair statement of question Council will pose to Priority, yes.

Member Gurumurthy said she wanted to take the opportunity to request that they invite the Priority Waste team to come and present to Council, just like they did with GLWA. She said the delay and all that is fine, but she'd like to know what they are going to do to prevent this in the future. She sent a note to Rob about being at the Public Utilities Committee meeting, but she thinks Priority Waste should also have to come to Council and present how they are going to prevent it. She would like to know what their plan of action is.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she appreciated Mayor Fischer taking this out of the Consent Agenda so they could have this conversation. Novi is by no means the only community that has been affected. There have been other communities who have very publicly posted on their socials that they are working with Priority Waste to figure out how to calculate the damages. In some instances, the communities are withholding payments entirely. She feels that Council is well justified to have this conversation with them, to have this opportunity to catch their attention, again, financially, and to consider what damages the City might be able to liquidate based on the lack of service. She also said that if they needed to, in the short term, she would be open to having dialogue about relaxing the ordinance that allows them to come in from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. There's a time limit for rubbish pick up. If Priority Waste needed that window to be able to pay overtime and get the trash picked up in Novi, she'd be open to that dialogue as well if that becomes a remedy in addition to the remedies they're already talking about. She said she was in full support of withholding payment on that bill at this time but paying everything else on the warrant.

CM 26-06-084 **Moved by Casey, seconded by Gurumurthy: MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

Approval of claims and warrants – Warrant 1204 with the exception of check 204687 to Priority Waste.

Roll call vote on CM 26-06-084 **Yeas: Casey, Gurumurthy, Heintz, Martinez, Smith, Staudt, Fischer**
Nays: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT:

Sunitha Ananthaswamy Ramappan, 24935 Portsmouth Ave, said she has proudly called Novi home for more than 20 years. She said although their two children graduated from Novi High School nearly a decade ago, she and her husband have chosen to continue making Novi their home because of the community and the values that are cherished there. She said she was honored to be there tonight to express her interest in serving on the Cultural Arts Advisory Committee. She apologized and said she sings better than she talks. She was a little nervous. She gave many thanks to Toby for encouraging her to apply for this position. She said throughout her life and career, she believed that arts and culture have the power to bring people together, build understanding and strengthen communities. She said bringing the world together with music is her personal motto. As a world musician, she has collaborated with artists from diverse musical genres and cultural traditions, using music as a bridge to foster connection and dialogue. For nearly

15 years, she taught preschool music at Novi Northville Montessori, introducing young children to music from cultures around the world, alongside traditional American folk music. As producer and host of "The World Musician," a show that used to be aired on Chanel 12 in Farmington from SWOCC Studios, she collaborated with artists from across Michigan to share their stories and music. Community service has also been an important part of her work, including leadership roles in cultural organizations and organizing fundraising events that support meaningful causes. What excites her most about the Cultural Arts Advisory Committee is the opportunity to enrich the lives of Novi residents through creativity, education, and cultural connection. If appointed, she would support arts programming, local artists, and partnerships that create meaningful opportunities for cultural exchange. She said Novi is a wonderfully diverse and vibrant community. She said she would be honored to contribute her experience in music, education, media, event planning and community engagement to help ensure that Novi's arts programs reflect and celebrate that diversity while bringing residents together.

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 8:22 P.M.

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Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

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_____
Justin Fischer, Mayor

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_____
Transcribed by Diana Charles
Customer Service Representative

Date approved: July 13, 2026