



PUBLIC UTILITIES & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

February 05, 2025 | 5:30 PM

Mayor's Conference Room

Novi Depot Conference Room | 45175 Ten Mile Road

(248) 347-0460

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL - Council Members Heintz, Smith, and Thomas

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[December](#) 10, 2024 and January 14, 2025 Minutes

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Next Steps in the Development of a Broadband Master Plan

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Materials and Strategy Regarding DTE Power Outages in the Community

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: People with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk (248) 347-0456 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.



CITY OF NOVI
Public Utilities & Technology Committee Meeting
December 10, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Novi Depot Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER 5:37 PM

ROLL CALL: Council Members Heintz, Smith, and Thomas

PRESENT Council Members Heintz, Smith, and Thomas

STAFF LIAISON: Rob Petty, Chief Information Officer (CIO)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motioned by: Member Smith; Seconded by Heintz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of October 22, 2024, Minutes and November 19, 2024: Motioned by Member Heintz; Seconded by Smith. Approved 3:0

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Thomas introduced City Planner Barbara McBeth and laid the foundation for her presentation.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Presentation by Novi City Planner Barbara McBeth.

The following are the bullet points of Barbara McBeth's presentation.

- Barb McBeth explained the master land-use plan, including comprehensive and specific plans like the active mobility plan and parks and recreation plan.
- A master plan also considers trends and demographics, including population growth, housing preferences, and building construction trends.
- Barb McBeth explains the process of selecting a consultant, including identifying goals and objectives for the plan.
- Surveys and online feedback tools are used to gather community input.
- Planning staff could collect information on fiber and cable installation during the review process.
- The idea of including fiber installation as a public benefit in new developments was discussed.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- The group discusses the need to prepare for an RFP or RFQ for the broadband master plan.
- The team stressed the importance of clearly defining goals and objectives before engaging a consultant.

- The group agreed to focus on these goals and objectives in the next meeting to prepare for the RFP process.
- The group reviewed action items, including exploring potential funding sources and understanding the capabilities of FlashVote.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Member Heintz; Seconded by Member Smith
Approved 3:0 (6:44 PM)



CITY OF NOVI
Public Utilities & Technology Committee Meeting
January 14, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Novi Depot Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER 5:30 PM

ROLL CALL: Council Members Heintz, Smith, and Thomas

PRESENT Council Members Heintz (Zoom), Smith, and Thomas (Zoom)

STAFF LIAISON: Rob Petty, Chief Information Officer (CIO)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Smith motioned to amend the agenda to include a presentation by Mayor Joe LaRussa of Farmington Hills. Motioned by: Member Smith; Seconded by Heintz. (Motion approved 3:0) Approval of the agenda: Motioned by Member Smith. Second, by Heintz. (Motion approved 3:0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

N/A

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Thomas thanked Director Sheryl Walsh for providing the committee with information about the FlashVote tool and an overview of survey options.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Discuss survey options to gauge community broadband satisfaction and fiber options.

- Councilmember Smith inquired about the access to people who have signed up for the community survey and those who have participated in specific events.
- Councilmember Smith asks if the survey results are anonymous or if specific answers can be traced back to individuals. It was confirmed that survey results are anonymous.
- The committee stressed the importance of knowing the geographic location of respondents to understand internet satisfaction rates.
- The topic of a second survey to investigate specific areas of dissatisfaction, such as speed, price, or availability, was discussed.

2. Presentation by Farmington Mayor Joe LaRussa.

- Mayor LaRussa shared information about a joint broadband task force and the decision to opt for a public-private partnership with Sci-Fi Networks.
- The benefits of an open-access fiber network, which allows multiple providers to offer services, were discussed.
- Chairperson Thomas and Mayor LaRussa discuss the potential for using county-owned fiber networks for economic development and low-cost internet.

- The process of sending letters to DTE and the Michigan Public Service Commission to demand better performance and transparency was shared.
- Chairperson Thomas and Mayor LaRussa discussed the challenges of getting DTE to provide detailed data and the importance of building trust.
- Mayor LaRussa emphasized the need for continued engagement and accountability to ensure that DTE meets its commitments.
- The committee discussed the role of the council and community in holding DTE accountable and advocating for better service.
- A discussion was had explaining that state regulation preempts local ordinances, making it challenging to enforce utility line burial.
- The committee thanked Mayor LaRussa for his time and wealth of information.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- The group discusses the feasibility of creating a map of existing fiber infrastructure and the need for accurate data.
- The group discusses the need to schedule future meetings to continue their discussions and set the next steps.
- Future meeting dates: February 5th and February 19th were established.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Member Smith; Seconded by Member Heintz.
Approved 3:0 (6:25 PM)