

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BRIGHTON
HELD ON JUNE 15, 2017 AT THE BRIGHTON CITY HALL
200 N. 1ST STREET, BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN

STUDY SESSION

The Council conducted a Study Session at 6:30 p.m.

Present were Mayor Muzzin and Mayor Pro-Tem Pipoly, Councilmembers Bohn, Pettengill, Gardner, and Emaus; Staff: City Manager Nate Geinzer, Attorney Paul Burns, Chief Rob Bradford, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, DPW Director Marcel Goch, Assistant DPW Director Patty Thomas, Community Development Associate Brandon Skopek, Management Assistant Jessica Reed, Deputy City Clerk Kelly Haataja, and an audience of six.

It was moved by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Gardner to excuse Councilmember Tobbe for personal reasons.

Motion passed 6-0-1

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 6:31 p.m., hearing and seeing none the Call to the Public was closed.

DPW SERVICES AND EXPECTATIONS

DPW Director Goch discussed the level of service the City provides for sidewalk winter maintenance. He asked Council what expectations they have for snow removal, such as time done by, weekends, holiday season, and clearing all of Grand River at the same time as downtown. He spoke about the need to address some issues such as overtime costs, safety, and time for parking lot maintenance. Clearing sidewalks on regular time, focusing on the downtown before Grand River, and minimize salting was debated.

It was noted that by ordinance, winter sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of property owners, although the City has been providing this service for many years. Staff and Council discussed efficiency, service levels, walkability, and freeing up time and resources. Implementing a new approach for the upcoming season, tracking results, keeping residents and business owners informed, and seeking feedback was suggested.

Next, Goch spoke about lawn maintenance and the responsibilities of the four divisions involved. Consolidating into one division will reduce costs and free up time to full-time water, wastewater, and DPW personnel allowing them to focus on larger projects and tasks. Re-naturalizing and maintaining smaller areas was also considered.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Management Assistant Reed gave a one year update on communications and community engagement. She spoke about strategies for creating community attachment and its relationship to social offerings, economic growth, public education, and increased volunteerism. Ms. Reed mentioned there is an increase of positive reactions to the City's Facebook page, e-newsletter, press releases, and the bi-annual printed newsletter. Some engagement activities fulfilled this year are Earth Day, Millpond clean-up, Explorer's Camp, neighborhood garden experiment, 150th Committee, and Chalk and Chow.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 7:29 p.m. Mr. Dan Cheresko Jr., from Brighton Township suggested sending the e-newsletters to homeowner's associations in the surrounding townships. Many residents outside the City frequent Brighton and have interest in being informed of the City's happenings.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Pipoly and seconded by Emaus to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Motion passed 6-0-1

Kelly Haataja, Deputy City Clerk

James Muzzin, Mayor