

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BRIGHTON
HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2016 AT THE BRIGHTON COMMUNITY CENTER 218 E. GRAND RIVER
AVE. BRIGHTON, MI 48116

RETREAT

Present were Mayor Muzzin, Mayor Pro-Tem Pipoly, Councilmembers Bohn, Pettengill, Tobbe, Gardner, Emaus, and staff: City Manager Nate Geinzer, Organizational Relations Manager Michelle Miller, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Management Assistant Jessica Reed, Utilities Director Tim Krugh, DPW Director Dave Blackmar, Assistant DPW Director Patty Thomas, Chief Tom Wightman, Deputy Chief Rob Bradford, Clerk Stewart, Deputy Clerk Haataja, Attorney Burns, Community Development Associate Brandon Skopek and an audience of one.

Mayor Muzzin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 8:01 a.m.

Susan Walter-Steinacker, 907 Brighton Lake Road, spoke asked about emails that go unanswered. Ms. Walter-Steinacker asked that a response be sent to confirm receipt.

Mayor Muzzin stated that it is not required for City Council to respond and Attorney Burns supported that stance saying that the Council needed to respond in whole to such a group email.

The Call to the Public was closed at 8:02 a.m.

INTRODUCTION

City Manager Geinzer said that the purpose of the retreat was to build foundation of a strategic plan. Manager Geinzer reviewed what Vision, Values, Goals, and Strategies meant, and discussed what is 'good' public policy. The Council considered the 10 Habits of Effective Governing bodies, and talked about building a successful team.

MORNING SESSION

Lead a mediation to focus the City Council.

Discussion of cities that people enjoyed was held. An activity was held to demonstrate how the Council and Staff prioritized "discretionary" funding.

Morning Activity: Designing a community. Using art materials three groups designed their ideal city.

AFTERNOON SESSION

For the next activity, the City Manager gave the assignment to determine what this ideal community values, identifying ten unique values organized by priority.

The City Council reviewed the three sets of values and combined like elements. Examples of values included: connectivity, inclusivity, balance, opportunity, sustainability, transportation, a sense of community, and health and safety.

The Council discussed the values and how they applied to the City of Brighton. Brighton Schools and Downtown area were two current assets that drew people to live in Brighton. The Council talked about ordinances that would allow expanded housing opportunities to revitalize the interest in living in the community, potentially using bonding to fund some projects without overextending City assets, and supporting education with programs such as BARC.

Council talked about how to prioritize values. Staff brought up issues of partnerships and the desire to revitalize Downtown while maintaining the old downtown feeling.

The Council separated the values into a wants and needs list. Needs being: infrastructure issues, fiscally balanced, core services (streets, police, fire), education. Wants included: a sense of community, connectivity, arts & culture, recreation, collaborative community, revitalization.

Potential partnerships with other communities were discussed.

WRAP UP

Manager Geinzer talked about taking the list to review at the Sunday meeting. First turning values into goals and conversations and some strategies to achieve and then redo budget activity.

RECESS

It was moved by Councilmember Emaus seconded by Gardner, to adjourn the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Motion passed 7-0.

Pamela Stewart, City Clerk

James Muzzin, Mayor