



City of Brighton
www.brightoncity.org

BRIGHTON: STATE OF THE CITY

MAYOR MUZZIN/ CITY COUNCIL

2017 was a year of progress for the City of Brighton. In celebrating the City's sesquicentennial, we were able to reflect on how far we've come, appreciate where we are, and share hopes for the future of our community. City Council continues to work collaboratively for the betterment of the City and benefits from the perspectives of new members. We don't always agree, which means we represent a variety of facets within our electorate, however, we don't have easy decisions to make, but we respect each other and we make the best decisions we can with the information we have.

With the infusion of new leadership, City staff have undergone a time of transition and growth. City Manager, Nate Geinzer, came into his position with energy, vision, and the will to shake things up. He has done all of that and more. Geinzer has assembled an excellent team to keep this City the gem that it is and is tirelessly working on behalf of our community members.

Manager Geinzer put an emphasis on communications and community engagement this year. City staff revamped the City's Facebook page, tripling engagement, and renewed the City's print and email newsletters. The print newsletter is mailed to nearly 3,000 homes biannually and the email newsletter is sent out biweekly to over 800 subscribers. City staff continue to host community activities and events that connect businesses and residents with City initiatives, such as volunteer activities supporting the Millpond Restoration Project and events celebrating Brighton's 150th Anniversary.

Our Finance Director, Gretchen Gomolka, is in her second year and has maintained the same, high level of quality that we've come to expect from our finance professionals. Existing Finance Department staff stepped in to welcome Gomolka and have been eager to embrace new energy and changes. The Finance Department is a committed group that keeps the whole City running, not to mention, the Brighton's bond rating improved to an AA+ this past year!

The Community Development Department plays a critical role to the City of Brighton team. They've brought their experience, energy, and ideas to redefine development as an inclusive process. The department has overseen an extensive update to the Zoning Code, which is now available online in a new, clear, and concise format. Community Development staff are currently in the middle of a Comprehensive Master Plan update, which will include a Downtown Plan, Complete Streets Plan, and Recreation Plan to guide the City for years to come. In addition, the department is working towards certifying the City of Brighton as a Redevelopment Ready Community with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Community Development staff have demonstrated their dedication to shepherding projects from idea to completion and with their efforts, the City continues to attract investment.

Together, the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Utilities Department have made strides in assessing the City's infrastructure needs. Like most cities in Michigan, Brighton is dealing with aging roads, sewers, equipment, facilities, and more with extensive investments needed to maintain, repair, and replace. The newest addition to the Brighton management team is DPW Director, Marcel Goch, who brings years of experience with him as the former DPW Superintendent for the City of Howell. The DPW recognizes that there are major equipment and facility needs that must be addressed, as well as federal and state mandates. Under the direction of Goch, DPW staff will be evaluating and implementing new ways to effectively and efficiently perform operations, which is a common theme embraced by the entire organization.

The Utilities Department is in the third and final year of the 90% grant-funded Asset Management Program for wastewater and stormwater utilities. The program is scheduled to be completed in October 2018 and will provide the City with a comprehensive solution that focuses on system sustainability, which will prolong assets, meet regulatory requirements, and base rate-setting on sound operational and financial planning.

The Brighton Police Department continues its tradition of exemplary service to the community. Our Police Department is a stellar example to surrounding communities and continues to set the bar high in performance. This past year, Rob Bradford was promoted from Deputy Chief to Chief of Police. Chief Bradford is not new to Brighton. He began his career here as a reserve officer and has since gained over 21 years of experience with the City. Bradford has made community policing and risk management big priorities in his first year as chief and through programs like Coffee with a Cop, he has made sure that his officers are visible and accessible to community members. Moving forward, the department will focus on using data to optimize their staffing, improve services, reduce expenditures, and maintain their status as the highest trained department in Livingston County.

Our Boards and Commissions are an integral part of the City. These volunteers serve their community sacrificing their time to give back – time that could be spent with family. I thank these volunteers, their spouses, and families for giving back to this Brighton community we love and call home.

City staff and Council truly have a passion for the City of Brighton and are committed to providing exemplary service to community members. Our residents and businesses chose to be in Brighton and enjoy a high level of service. This choice and our continued commitment to providing value and quality of life, inform our decisions as a city. I can say with confidence that along with the collaboration of our taxpayers, the City of Brighton will continue to provide strong value to our community members.

BUILDING NEW CONNECTIONS

BRANDON SKOPEK / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / 810.225.8019

CHECK OUT THE NEW ZONING CODE AT WWW.BRIGHTONCITY.ORG

This is truly an exciting time for Brighton with new projects sprouting up around the City and many more anticipated in the coming months. New developments and enhancements, both public and private, will strengthen and diversify offerings within the Brighton community. In addition, Community Development staff are updating internal processes to make it easier for property owners to invest in their homes and businesses.

Construction on the University of Michigan's 300,000-square-foot Brighton Center for Specialty Care is running ahead of schedule and plans to hire 500 employees to serve 1,300 patients per day, offering upwards of 40 different medical services. The Brighton Center for Specialty Care is spurring development nearby with site work initiated for the new Holiday Inn Express located on the southwest corner of Murphy Drive and Nemco Way and the new Candlewood Suites located along Library Drive.

Cheresko Development is in the early phases of a vibrant redevelopment venture on Main Street. The highly anticipated project will enhance our dynamic downtown by constructing two new, high-quality buildings that will house restaurants, office space, and living space. Additionally, an outdoor courtyard will complement the aesthetic and character of Main Street with space for gathering, dining, and enjoying entertainment.

"Second Street Flats," a proposed multi-family development along N. Second Street, will offer a diverse mix of condominiums for all family types. According to a market analysis conducted earlier this year, diversifying Brighton's housing market will help the City meet housing demands within an evolving demographic. Demand for urban-style housing is strong in this area given its close proximity to our thriving downtown.

The proposed development plans to attract empty-nesters and young families to the area.

After receiving final site plan approval from City Council in October, the Brighton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is moving forward with the long-awaited Millpond Bandshell and Amphitheater revitalization. This project will make the Millpond more suitable for gatherings and performances by constructing a new bandshell and stage, installing a colored concrete plaza, seating, and landscaping. Furthermore, green infrastructure will be implemented to reduce stormwater runoff and help improve Millpond water quality.

To assist with residential and commercial property improvements, City Council adopted a new zoning ordinance in October. The zoning ordinance, which had not been comprehensively updated since 1981, was overhauled to improve the City's development processes and reflect changes in state and federal policy. The new ordinance uses the "Clearzoning" format, which offers a more concise, user-friendly document that allows readers to quickly access and understand zoning regulations. Following the completion of the Master Plan process, additional zoning regulations will be updated.

The amount of public and private investment seen over the course of the past year affirms that the City of Brighton continues to be a great place to call home. The City will continue to make great strides in offering an outstanding quality of life for all community members. For more information on what's new in Community Development, visit www.brightoncity.org.



BEAUTIFY BRIGHTON: GROWING GREEN

LYDIA MACKLIN-CAMEL/ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ 810.225.9255

Green looked good on Brighton this year as the City took on new environmental initiatives. In June, Brighton was recognized for its environmentally sustainable efforts at the annual Michigan Green Communities (MGC) conference. Earning a bronze award in the MGC Challenge, Brighton used the contest to benchmark environmental efforts and identify opportunities for improvement. Since then, the City has expanded Millpond restoration efforts, participated in a new environmental council, and increased recycling opportunities for community members.

Earlier this year, the City hosted a Millpond cleanup on Earth Day, which kick-started the Millpond Restoration Project. 85 volunteers participated in the initial cleanup to remove brush and trash from the northeast shoreline. Volunteers returned throughout the spring to help plant native seedlings and continue cleanup efforts. With direction from staff at Landscape Design and Associates, the City plans to continue this work in the spring, focusing on the removal of invasive plants and planting native species to restore the wetland habitat.

With recent approval from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the City will also be taking on a massive shoreline reclamation effort around Brighton City Hall. This work will include restoring the shoreline to historic levels and replanting the area with deep-rooted native plants to reduce future erosion. The Millpond Restoration Project is volunteer-led and those interested in participating in the 2018 season can get volunteer opportunity updates by joining the Millpond Volunteers list at www.brightoncity.org.

In September of this year, the Greater Brighton Area Chamber Environmental Council brought together interested community members to discuss environmental priorities. The project-based group hosted by the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce (GBACOC), plans to focus on initiatives that

affect both community members and local businesses. With representatives from the community, City staff and Council, business owners, and the GBACOC, the GBAC Environmental Council will work together to generate sustainable projects and plans that promote community action, environmental education, economic viability, and community prosperity.

Over the course of the year, the City has worked to expand recycling opportunities for Brighton residents. In December, the textile recycling program, Simple Recycling, kicked off making Brighton the 26th community in Michigan to participate. Simple Recycling is available in addition to current waste and recycling services and provides curbside collection and recycling of clothing and small household items at no cost to the resident or City. Downtown Brighton will also be getting five public recycling bins that will be placed around the Millpond next spring. After earning a grant to purchase the bins from the MDEQ earlier this year, the City looks forward to having recycling options available to residents and visitors enjoying the downtown area.

With the New Year upon us, the City is excited to build on achievements from 2017 and explore new opportunities to make Brighton a more sustainable community in 2018 and beyond. For further information on these initiatives and more, visit www.brightoncity.org.



TAX CALENDAR

Winter 2017 taxes will be mailed out on December 1, 2017. Taxes will be due on February 28, 2018.

Summer 2018 taxes will be mailed out on July 1, 2018. Taxes will be due on August 15, 2018.

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

FOR AGENDAS & MINUTES SEE BRIGHTONCITY.ORG

City Council

1st & 3rd Thursdays / 7:30 p.m. / City Hall
Study session begins at 6:30 p.m.

Downtown Development Authority
3rd Tuesdays / 7:15 a.m. / City Hall

Principal Shopping District
1st Tuesdays / 7:30 a.m. / City Hall

Brighton Arts & Culture Commission
2nd Mondays / 6:00 p.m. / City Hall

Planning Commission
3rd Mondays / 7:00 p.m. / City Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals
2nd Thursdays (as needed) / 7:00 p.m. / City Hall

2018 SNOW REMOVAL INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS / 420 S. THIRD STREET / 810-225-8001

Winter is here and the City of Brighton will be working hard to keep streets cleared and safe throughout the season. We encourage all Brighton residents and businesses to contact the City as needed for additional plowing or salting at any location.

For more information about snow removal, visit www.brightoncity.org or contact the Department of Public Works directly at **810-225-8001**.

Comments, questions, and requests are always welcomed by the City Manager, Nate Geinzer. He may be reached by phone at **810-225-8022** or by email at geinzern@brightoncity.org.

CITY OF BRIGHTON

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