



Brighton City Council Minutes

City Hall Council Chambers • 200 N First St. • Brighton, Michigan 48116
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MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON FEBRUARY 15, 2018

STUDY SESSION

Mayor Muzzin called the Study Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present were Mayor Muzzin, Mayor Pro-Tem Pipoly, Councilmembers: Emaus, Bohn, and Pettengill. Absent were Councilmembers Tobbe and Gardner. Staff: City Manager Nate Geinzer, Attorney Paul Burns, Assistant to the DPW Director/Deputy City Clerk Patty Thomas, Assistant to the City Manager, Jessica Lienhardt, DPW Director Marcel Goch, Police Chief Rob Bradford, Utilities Director Tim Krugh, and Community Development/DDA Coordinator Brandon Skopek. There were three members in the audience.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 6:31 p.m.

Mr. Rick Starnes who owns property at 421 and 423 W. Main Street stated that he has determined that there is no other community in the State that has an SAD for marketing. The State has determined that in order to have an SAD, the market value of the properties must be shown to go up as a result. This has not been done through all of the years of the SAD. The necessity of the SAD needs to be shown. He noted that when he asked the PSD Board what their brand is, they did not know. They have spent \$20,000 on the branding and are proposing to spend another \$10,000.

Mr. Joseph Parsons of 409 W. Main Street stated that no one is allowed to decorate his property in the future. There has been damage done to his building in the past while it was being decorated for the holidays. He is also concerned with the differences in the way the PUD fees are assessed based on the two different zones. He does not believe the PSD is benefitting the downtown merchants. If Council determines that there is a necessity for the SAD, the rates should not be raised. The property owners are the ones who maintain the buildings and not the business owners.

The call to the public was closed at 6:41 pm.

DISCUSSION OF CITY SURVEY SUMMARY RESULTS

Ms. Lienhardt provided a summary of the results of the 2017 Brighton Citizen Survey Results. The summary included the total number of respondents, whether they were residential or commercial property owners, ages, quality rankings of City services, staff interactions, opinions about the Millpond area, sculpture exhibit, downtown parking, condition of City streets, and if the City should ask for revenue to fund streets and public safety.

Ms. Lienhardt will send the raw data from the survey to all councilmembers.

DISCUSSION ON PRICIPAL SHOPPING DISTRICT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Ms. Lienhardt and Mr. Skopek provided City Council with details of the steps and timeline for the Principal Shopping District Special Assessment Process.

Attorney Paul Burns advised Council that there are three times during the process when a property owner can object to the SAD.

Ms. Lienhardt advised that there are five municipalities in the State of Michigan that have special assessment districts for their downtowns.

There was a brief discussion between Councilmembers regarding their thoughts on the continuation of the PSD SAD.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Joseph Parsons stated that the City and the property and business owners have improved the downtown. He believes that there are infrastructure improvements that need to be made.

Mr. Starnes asked who levies the SAD for the five municipalities in the State that have these districts, as noted this evening. He reiterated his statement from the first call to the public that the market value of the properties must be shown to go up as a result of the SAD. He does not believe that the PSD is what is bringing people downtown.

The Call to the Public was closed at 7:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.
The motion carried unanimously.

Patty Thomas, Asst. to the DPW
Director / Deputy Clerk

James Muzzin, Mayor