



# City Council Special Meeting

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## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON APRIL 5, 2018

### SPECIAL SESSION

Mayor Muzzin called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor Muzzin, Mayor Pro-Tem Pipoly, Councilmembers: Bohn, Emaus, Gardner, Pettengill and Tobbe. Staff: City Manager Nate Geinzer, Attorney Paul Burns, City Clerk Tara Brown, Utilities Director Tim Krugh, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Human Resource Director Michelle Miller, Police Chief Robert Bradford, and Assistant to the City Manager/DDA Coordinator Brandon Skopek. There were two people in the audience.

### CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 6:02 p.m.

Susan Bakhaus noted a recommendation from staff, during a previous budget meeting, was to implement a facilitator to oversee the budget meeting.

Bob Pettengill would like a better understanding of what Council is doing. He stated that he has no idea what is going on and believes the budget talk is a communication tool and should be used as such. He is concerned with the lack of detail and noted that Fiscal Year 2016/2017 had 250 pages while fiscal year 2017/2018 had 80 pages. He would appreciate a line item budgeting for more understanding.

The Call to the Public was closed at 6:07 p.m.

City Manager Nate Geinzer gave a brief overview of the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year Budget Report, outlining key areas and organization of information presented.

Councilmember Emaus arrived at 6:09 p.m.

Council and staff spoke about the necessity of a detailed report. A line item report can be made as a supplemental appendix to the Budget report; it will not have expenditure detail.

Councilmember Tobbe arrived at 6:14 p.m.

Mayor Pro-tem Pipoly discussed the possibility of monitoring the click count on the appendix via the website. Council and staff discussed that the document should be one document so a click count would be of the entire Budget rather than appendix alone.

Ms. Gomolka will provide a draft of the ledger for Council to review. Ms. Gomolka also gave a general ledger big picture and addressed questions regarding the millage, street work, underfunded capital, public works, and long term goals.

Council noted that during conversations with City residents the most frequent questions about the Headlee override was an end date/sunset. Residents have asked how long the override will last. Mr. Geinzer noted that there is time to alter the ballot language if Council wishes but it must be done during a regular meeting on either April 19th or May 5th so that action could be taken.

Councilmember Gardner asked about the likelihood of a rollback. Ms. Gomolka said the likelihood is good that there would be a rollback but several factors are involved. Councilmember Emaus spoke about the law of diminishing returns and property value rates.

Councilmember Bohn would like to see a ten year end date and complete transparency with all expenditures and streets listed for residents to follow along with the status of each street and the financials. He noted that the proposed tax increase would be significant for his household.

Ms. Gomolka spoke at length about the general fund and the thought process on budgeted realities versus actuals. The personal property tax (PPT) reimbursement from the state was an unpredictable amount that fluctuates based on the States formula. Since the formula is not set and reimbursement award fluctuates, Council would be more comfortable lowering the budget amount from the PPT reimbursement.

Councilmember Pettengill asked about the details for Rents and Royalties, Ms. Gomolka will get back to the Councilmember.

Councilmember Tobbe asked about an outside audit/evaluation firm for gas, telecom, and electric. Ms. Gomolka did find savings in returning to the Consumers Energy, she noted that most outside evaluation firms hold the savings for years and little is passed onto the customer. This is something Ms. Gomolka would like to explore if the firm's business model aligns with the City's expectations. Mayor Pro-tem Pipoly asks that the City keep on top of contract negotiations for utility services. Ms. Gomolka also spoke about OPEB, but will defer to the labor lawyer to address questions.

Human Resource Director Michelle Miller spoke about the three main insurance providers that City provides to its employees. Of the City's 52 employees, 24 employees opt out of insurance. Ms. Miller also noted the City's new health and wellness incentive. Ms. Miller noted items to be updated including the employee handbook, and policy changes.

City Clerk Tara Brown spoke about the move towards digital records retention. She will be working with IT and various departments during the digital migration. Ms. Brown also noted the upcoming elections for this Fiscal Year, the August Primary and the November General Elections with the possibility of a May 2019 election.

Council spoke again about line items. Ms. Gomolka noted that adopting a budget on line item detail is not functional. Councilmembers Emaus and Tobbe are looking for more detail and description within each budget item. Councilmember Gardner stated that she does not want such a structured and locked down budget, the directors should be able to make those purchase determinations as needed.

Ms. Gomolka stated that the Assistant Assessor position will be difficult to fill based on what she hears within the county as well as state. The need for assessors is growing and the talent base is lacking in candidates. Ms. Miller noted that the position will be posted on the City's website.

Police Chief Bradford explained various efforts to reduce overtime that was created by sickness and disability. One of the ways to reduce overtime was to utilize a swing car which covers shift changes during 3:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. He also noted that the City of Brighton Police force is only backing up Michigan State Police and Livingston County during emergency calls. Chief Bradford also explained forfeiture money and its disbursement in relation to the agreement between the DEA and the City for Detective Brad Patton's service.

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 9:12 p.m.

Bob Pettengill stated that he likes line items and would be in favor of a sunset clause on the Headlee override. He noted various area municipalities that have had unsuccessful Headlee overrides.

The Call to the Public was closed at 9:16 p.m.

**Motion** by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Councilmember Emaus, to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm. **The motion carried unanimously.**