



Brighton City Council Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers • 200 N First St. • Brighton, Michigan 48116
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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MAY 3, 2018

1. Call to Order

Mayor Muzzin called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

3. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Muzzin, Councilmembers: Bohn, Emaus, Gardner, Pettengill, and Pipoly. Absent was Councilmember Tobbe. Staff: City Manager Nate Geinzer, Attorney Paul Burns, City Clerk Tara Brown, DPW Director Marcel Goch, Deputy Chief of Police Craig Flood, Utilities Director Tim Krugh, Assistant to the City Manager/DDA Coordinator Brandon Skopek, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, and Building Department Clerk Wendy Ayala. There were 15 persons in the audience.

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly, to excuse Councilmember Tobbe from tonight's meeting for personal reasons. **The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Consider Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly, to approve the Agenda as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Pipoly, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. **The motion carried with a roll call vote.**

7. Approval of Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments

9. Approval of Resolution 18-06 for Liquor License Transfer from Border Cantina-Brighton, Inc, to SBS 1, LLC, dba Single Barrel Social LLC, Located at 8724 W. Grand River Ave, Brighton, MI 48116

Correspondence

10. Call to the Public

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 7:33

Gary Kruzman, a thirty-year resident of Brighton, believes a fifteen-year term for a tax increase is a stopper for him and that threatening to take away services is not a good. He asks that Council agree to a two-year tax increase and then go back to voters after Council and staff have proven themselves accountable.

Jerry Joseph, a business owner in the City, finds it interesting that the City is asking for a tax increase to repair roads. He further states that his property has seen a thirty percent decrease in value because his

neighbor has crushed asphalt parking lot instead of the cement that was planned. He is not in favor of the tax increase.

Motion from Councilmember Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to extend Gary Kruzman's call to public by two minutes. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Gary Kruzman would like transparency and accountability if the tax increase passes by listings roads that would be completed and when. He is in favor of a two-year term.

Mayor Muzzin clarified with respect, that while Mr. Kruzman has many good comments he also has a lot of misinformation. Mayor Muzzin stated that current revenue is capped and recommends that Mr. Kruzman call Manager Geinzer to talk about the financials.

Mayor Muzzin closed the Call to the Public at 7:44 p.m.

11. Staff Updates

Deputy Chief Flood thanked Starbucks for hosting the Coffee with a Cop on April 24, 2018. The event had a great turnout of 25-30 people. Deputy Chief Flood also reported that the Police Department took in over 400 pounds of drugs during the National Drug Take Back Event that was held on April 28, 2018. He also noted that the Police Department has received new barricades to use during civic events.

Utilities Director Tim Krugh stated hydrant flushing will begin on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 12:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will continue this work Wednesday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DPW Director Marcel Goch noted that the roof work on City Hall should be completed by Sunday, May 6, 2018. He also stated that the old DPW building has been taken down.

There was a brief discussion on roof repair and funding. Director Goch indicated that as of Thursday, there was no surprises. The roofing company indicated that the roof looks okay and that the allotted funds will be sufficient. Flashing and coping will be completed last.

Manager Geinzer and Assistant to the City Manager/DDA Coordinator Brandon Skopek met with Brighton Arts and Culture Chair and David Zinn, the chalk artist, to develop a summer project, more information to come.

12. Updates from Councilmember Liaisons to various Boards and Commissions

Councilmember Bohn stated that the Planning Commission held a special meeting to discuss ordinances and review the master plan noting that Giffels Webster was very helpful and has done a good job.

Councilmember Pettengill shared two community events, the Brighton Historical Society will host the annual Village Cemetery clean up on May 5, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the 7th Annual Imagination Spring Kickoff on May 12, 2018 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Muzzin spoke about the Millpond clean up on Arbor Day with a special tree dedication to Darian Locklear, the student who passed in a car accident on her way hockey practice. The dedication was very moving. Fifty family members of Ms. Locklear's attended dedication.

Councilmember Gardner asked DPW Director Goch if the logs and branches by the Millpond spillway is something that the DPW cleans, as it seems to be a collection point for debris. Director Goch indicated that the DPW does clear the spillway as needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly noted that Sheriff Mike Murphy sent out a Millpond Clean up event, possibly hosted by the Rotary Club of Livingston for May 12, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Manager Geinzer to clarify with Rotary.

13. Eagle Scout Presentation (Noah Duneth)

Mayor Muzzin presented Eagle Scout Noah Duneth with a proclamation for his achievement. Eagle Scout Noah Duneth spoke about his project which he worked with Green Oak Township's Historical Society to construct a 100 foot split rail fence, it was completed in three days.

Public Hearing

14. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider Approval of the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget

Mayor Muzzin provided a brief recap on the process to adopt a budget, noting three budget work sessions.

Mayor Muzzin opened the Public Hearing for the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2018/2018 at 7:58 p.m.

Lynn Hawkins, Robertson Drive, is concerned with how the budget relates to the road millage. She asks how many new hires, how is road money found when City finds it necessary (Challis, Second Street), did the City buy duplexes, who pays for the band shell. She asks what has been cut, and what kind of belt tightening has occurred. She also feels that a road millage that will go on indefinitely is throwing good money after bad. Ms. Hawkins would like a casual atmosphere to voice her questions to staff or Council on monthly basis. She noted that she has been a resident for 46 years.

Jerry Joseph feels that Brighton is a vibrant, retail, and commercial area compared to many areas in his travels. He asks Council if there is \$31,000 for the Principal Shopping District then how can it be handed over to the private sector. He would like to know why the City has financial problems. He further stated that if Brighton cannot make it, no one can.

Mayor Muzzin closed the Public Hearing at 8:06 p.m.

Mayor Muzzin asked Manager Geinzer to address some of the questions that came up during the Public Hearing. Noting the DDA, employee attrition, road millage, and PSD money.

Manager Geinzer, who has been in his position for two years, stated that every local government is impacted by lack of funding, Headlee, and state shared revenue lead to less revenue within the City. The City is responsible for 30 miles of roads. Manager Geinzer pointed to the Budget Report to show where the money is going and where it is spent. The City needs to invest in its infrastructure to maintain. In the

past, this investment was not the case, which is where the City is today. The City came dangerously close to losing two main services this spring/summer because of equipment failure. Wage freezes, changes to benefits, furloughs, and attrition all occurred to reduce expenses. Manager Geinzer also explained the 2015 gas tax revenue and that 22 percent of the gas tax is split among 500 communities which leaves virtually nothing for local governments. Geinzer also explained the DDA and its projects to promote economic development. He noted the current need to maintain and repair the 30 miles of roads is estimated to be \$40-\$50 million. Manager Geinzer relayed that he is always accessible and noted several avenues for information via the print newsletter, electronic newsletter, and social media. Addressing this problem on a two-year basis is not feasible. The need is too big.

Mayor Muzzin further clarified that the DDA has helped with the East Bound Ramp and purchase of the duplexes on Second Street and it was a good financial decision. Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly relayed that the DDA purchased the dilapidated duplex property for \$250,000 and will sell it to make way for a development that will be worth about \$5 million, which the DDA believes, is a good financial decision.

Mayor Muzzin also clarified that of every dollar paid in to the City stays local, only .42 cents stays in the City, the remainder is collected for the library, school, ambulance, or fire department. And the remaining Principal Shopping District \$31,000 was left over from the existing balance of the PSD special assessment, it is not general fund dollars.

Councilmember Bohn asked about budget page 83. He asked for clarification tier 1 and tier 2 priority equipment needs. Manager Geinzer clarified that tier 1 is our top needs, then tier 2. Director Goch stated that the three vehicles in tier 1 are the top priority and he hopes that the capital made by selling older vehicles will be reinvested. Not to exceed \$350,000. Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly asked if the DPW has looked into leasing bucket trucks or other equipment. Director Goch relayed that he has investigated leasing but found it cost prohibitive, stating that vehicles the DPW would like to purchase are an investment to utilize in many ways throughout the City.

Councilmember Emaus appreciates all the residents who are engaged and interested and welcomes the opportunity to sit down and go through the budget.

Councilmember Bohn asked that the list of assumptions be included in the next budget.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to Approve of Resolution 18-07, including Exhibit A, to adopt the City's Budget and Millage Rates for Fiscal Year 2018/2019. **The motion carried with a roll call vote.**

New Business

5. Approval of Minutes: Study Session of April 19, 2018

Motion from Councilmember Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to approve the Study Session Minutes of April 19, 2018. **The motion carried with Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly abstaining.**

6. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of April 19, 2018

Motion from Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2018 clarifying that no additional funding was authorized for the City Hall Roof Project. **The motion carried with Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly abstaining.**

8. Approval of Millage Informational Open House Schedule

Councilmember Pettengill asked about locations and rainout dates for the open house dates. Manager Geinzer clarified that the request is to authorize the dates and that all possible locations for open houses would be on public park spaces. Any rainouts to be held at City Hall or the Community Center.

Councilmember Emaus would like a location to be held on the East Side of Grand River. Councilmember Bohn cautions council and staff to remember to be strictly informational. Manager Geinzer noted that these open houses events are to present information and provide the transparency and accessibility residents have requested.

There was a brief discussion about the new website and redesign. Manager Geinzer relayed that the new website will not be ready until fall. He stated that street information is on the website, www.brightoncity.org/streets.

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to approve the dates for the Millage Information Open House Schedule. **The motion carried unanimously.**

15. Consider Resolution Establishing the Levy and Authorizing the Collection of Taxes, Penalties and Fees for FY 2018/19

Motion by Councilmember Bohn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly to approve of Resolution 18-08 Establishing the Levy and Authorizing the Collection of Taxes, Penalties, and Fees for Fiscal Year 2018/19. **The motion carried by roll call vote.**

16. Consider Approval of an Extension to the City's Agreement with Waste Management for Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste Services

Director Goch gave a brief overview of the contract outlining the increase of \$0.80 per month per user. Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly, as the financial caregiver for his parents who reside in Brighton Township, Brighton City residents get much more services for their money.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly, seconded by Councilmember Gardner, to approve of the One Year Extension to the City's Agreement with Waste Management for Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste Services. **The motion carried unanimously.**

17. Discussion of Adding a "Sunset" Provision (or Term) to the Headlee Override Millage Ballot Language

Mayor Muzzin stated that this was discussed at the budget sessions and was prompted by residents. Stating that this decision must be made tonight to comply with the State deadline. Muzzin asked about the financing involved with a 10 term for the millage. Finance Director Gomolka clarified that should the millage pass, it may be financially prudent to do more repairs in years 1-3 than revenue coming in. While

there are 10-year bonds, the City is also trying to maintain the roads that are in good shape. Manager Geinzer and staff are in favor of 15 years, but will be ready to work with the term Council approves.

Councilmember Bohn fully supports asking the voters to voice their opinion by vote, but would like to see a 2 mill tax increase with a 10 year term/sunset.

Councilmember Emaus stated that 4.3 mills just gets the City back to the 20 mills that the Charter approved when the charter was developed and voted.

Manager Geinzer cautioned that even with a full override, it will not address the complete scope of the road decline.

Councilmember Bohn is concerned about the millage not passing. Councilmember Pettengill would like to see 3 mills for 10 years. Councilmember Emaus stated that 4.3 mills at 10 years is a beginning to a long-term approach to maintain and improve the quality of our roads.

Councilmember Gardner does not support lowering the rate. Upon conversations with residents, Gardner has been asked that Council and Staff be open and upfront about the information with a clear plan.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to add a 10 year "Sunset" Provision to the Headlee Override Millage Ballot Language. **The motion carried with a roll call vote.**

Other Business

18. Call to the Public

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 9:17 p.m.

Susan Bakhaus would like to see resolutions on the agenda in case it is not stated. Ms. Bakhaus also clarified that the charter millage rate was listed as up to 20 mills because common council had to pick a cap number. She also asked about meetings that some of Councilmembers attended. Ms. Bakhaus stated that she also attended a meeting with residents and building owners who plan to vote no on the Headlee override.

Bob Pettengill, Main Street, would like to address some audience comments about not knowing what is going on throughout the City. He asks those who have questions, attend the meetings. He stated that there were only two people at the budget meetings this year. The Second Street project was discussed at DDA, City Council, and Planning Commission. He asked those who questions spending, read the 181 page Budget Report. Mr Pettengill also asks that people read about the Headlee Amendment and educate themselves. He also stated that he will vote yes. Mr. Pettengill mentioned his concerns about the informational open houses and asks that Council and Staff keep mosquitos, seating, a PA system, and toilets in mind while planning these events.

Gary Kuzman thanked Council for listening to his questions and concerns but is still voting no.

Lynn Hawkins thanked Council for lowering the millage term.

Patrick Greve, Waste Management, thanked Council and residents for continuing the service contract for another year.

Mayor Muzzin closed the Public Hearing at 9:27p.m.

Mayor Muzzin clarified that he does not have to alert anyone about meetings he has if the meeting does not involve a quorum. Mayor Muzzin stated that he attended all three meetings that were spoke about during the call to public and there was never a quorum. He further clarified that if a quorum walked in, the quorum was asked to leave. Mayor Muzzin gave an example of a City resident's taxable value and services over the years before and after the 2008 recession. Mayor Muzzin also explained that resolution numbers are not placed on the agenda in case the number is not used.

19. Adjournment

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly, seconded by Councilmember Emaus, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk

James Muzzin, Mayor