



Brighton City Council Retreat

City Hall Council Chambers • 200 N First St. • Brighton, Michigan 48116
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL RETREAT HELD ON OCTOBER 27, 2018

1. Call to Order

Mayor Muzzin called the Brighton City Council Retreat to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Muzzin, Councilmembers: Bohn, Emaus, Gardner, Pettengill, Pipoly, and Tobbe. Staff: City Manager Nate Geinzer, City Clerk Tara Brown, DPW Director Marcel Goch, Utilities Director Tim Krugh, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Organizational Relations Manager Michelle Miller, DPW Superintendent Daren Collins, Superintendent Corey Brooks, Superintendent Todd Bennett, Chief of Police Rob Bradford, and Attorneys Paul Burns and Dennis Gabrian. There one person in the audience.

4. Consider Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to approve the agenda as presented.
The motion carried unanimously.

5. Call to the Public

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to Public at 8:31 a.m.

Susan Bakhaus indicated that she had several issues with recent actions by City staff and Council.

Mayor Muzzin closed the Call to Public at 8:34 a.m.

Discussion Items

6. FY 17/18 Summary: Goal Progress and Annual Report

Manager Nate Geinzer introduced the format for the Retreat, he noted that the meeting should be wrapped up by 4:00 p.m. on October 27, 2018 and 12:00 p.m. on October 28, 2018. Mr. Geinzer recapped the purpose of the meeting with a brief overview on goal progress and annual report. City staff highlighted several ways their respective department is maintaining fiscal responsibility, exemplary service, environmental responsibility, community engagement, community well-being, enhanced community, and social enrichment.

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Tobbe to take a ten-minute break at 9:42 a.m. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to reconvene the meeting at 9:52 a.m. **The motion carried unanimously.**

7. Fiscal Realities: A Recap

Manager Geinzer gave a detailed overview of new mandates, services, revenues, expenditures, and needs throughout the City departments since 2008. Staff highlighted new GASB pronouncements, reporting, election equipment, rental programs, utility asset management, and extensive police department mandates. Manager Geinzer outlined three primary fiscal challenges, streets and related infrastructure, capital equipment and facilities, and pension and OPEB liabilities.

8. Closed Session to Receive Written Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h)

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to enter into closed session to receive written attorney-client privileged communication pursuant to MCL 15.268(h). **The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.**

Motion by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to come out of closed session. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to dismiss for a lunch recess at 12:40 p.m. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to reconvene the meeting at 12:40 p.m. **The motion carried unanimously.**

9. Fiscal Realities: City Council Task Force Presentation & Recommendation

Manager Geinzer gave an overview of the Task Force intentions and members. Mayor Muzzin relayed the intent of the Task Force members as well as items of review, frequency of Task Force meetings, and staff involvement. Mayor Muzzin, Councilmembers Emaus and Bohn stated that all expenditures were reviewed, leaving no option off the table when evaluating the finances. Mayor Muzzin relayed the outline of recommendations from the Task Force in a series of graphs and slides. The Task Force recommended \$500,000.00 reduction in services, \$500,000.00 in new non-millage revenues, and \$1,150,000.00 in a new millage for streets and related infrastructure.

10. Fiscal Realities: Discussion on City Council Task Force Recommendation

Manager Geinzer asked that Council talk about the recommendations from the Task Force to answer cursory questions but to come back on October 28, 2018 with questions and opinions on the recommendations. Council talked about initial ideas of creating a TIFA district to capture residential dollars to commit to neighborhoods. There were concerns over losing the K-9 officer given the rise in opioid and drug use. Chief Bradford stated that Proposal 18-1 would make it more difficult for K-9 units to effectively relay what drug was found to the handler. Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly asked if leaf vacuuming was a consideration as he thought it would be a focus of the Task Force. Director Goch indicated that accumulation of leaves would present a problem for sewer systems and storm drains. Mr. Pipoly was surprised to not see more cuts that residents would feel. Mr. Emaus stated that if the Headlee does not pass in May, larger deeper cuts will be implemented and would affect the residents on a bigger scale. Manager Geinzer stated that there was no amount of cuts to get to two million. Mayor Muzzin indicated that the millage option was looked at last as budget cuts were a primary focus. Mr. Pipoly relayed that he was concerned that a new ballot proposal for the May election may

not pass, stating feedback from some residents. Mr. Bohn felt that a seven-year term was a compromise between a ten-year millage and a five-year millage, but cautioned that he did not want to be punitive and cut deeply because the Headlee did not pass. Rather Mr. Bohn noted that the election outcome was very close and that a shorter term with a lower millage rate may pass. Councilmembers asked about a citizens group to ensure buy-in from residents. Council discussed what a new millage scenario would look like and the roll Council would play in informational meetings.

Other Business

11. Call to the Public

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to Public at 1:59 p.m.

Susan Bakhaus inquired about the possibility of giving up Grand River and asked why it has been kept.

Mayor Muzzin closed the Call to Public at 2:01 p.m.

Manager Geinzer stated that the option had been looked at but ultimately the repairs and fixes required by Livingston County Road Commission in order to turn it over to them would be cost prohibitive.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly to adjourn the meeting at 2:04 p.m.
The motion carried unanimously.

Tara Brown, City Clerk

James Muzzin, Mayor