



City Council Special Study Session

200 N First St • City Hall Council Chambers • Brighton, Michigan 48116
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MINUTES OF THE BUDGET STUDY SESSION OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON APRIL 8, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present were Mayor Muzzin, Councilmembers: Bohn, Emuas, Gardner, Pettengill, Pipoly, and Tobbe. Staff: City Manager Nate Geinzer, City Clerk Tara Brown, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, DPW Director Marcel Goch, Superintendents Corey Brooks, Daren Collins, and Todd Bennett, Human Resources Manager Michelle Miller, Chief Rob Bradford, and Attorney Paul Burns. There were two persons in the audience.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 6:30 p.m. Hearing and seeing no response, Mayor Muzzin closed the Call to Public at 6:30 p.m.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Manager Geinzer reviewed the budget discussion from the previous budget meeting and asked Council if any further clarification was necessary on the discussion. He did relay specifics regarding the supplies budget and Finance Director Gomolka outlined the supplies budget specifics as well as the insurance inquiry from Councilmember Pipoly. Council then spoke at length about supplies and how they are categorized.

Mayor Muzzin then directed staff to discuss administrative services as they pertain to the various departments. Council discussed workman's compensation, conference allowance, education, legal services, transportation, per diems, and health insurance. It was noted that insurance calculations are based on trend, not actual usage. Manager Geinzer noted that insurance rates are dynamic and will fluctuate based on the health of the employees. Council then spoke about IT and the specifics under the mutual agreement with City of Howell. Manager Geinzer stated the mutual agreement is data share and Mr. Pitera is on premises one day a week but is accessible via email and phone when needed. When needed, Graconn is the IT backup.

Next, Manager Geinzer spoke about the Community Development Department and the savings that were gained when Mr. Caruso was hired as manager. Mr. Caruso then spoke about the developments within the City and the projected timelines for each development. He also spoke about the limited space for development and within the near future, the City will be fully developed.

DPS Director Goch began to outline the projects and needs within the DPS, specifically noting that there is a great need within water and waste water facilities to remain and achieve recent and ever changing state requirements. Mr. Goch noted that status quo is not a sustainable path, a significant investment will be needed. He noted several grant opportunities that the DPS is currently set up for with the

addition of the Saw Grant asset management, Lucity, as well as many other benefits to employee licensing and education. Councilmember Pettengill asked if the toilets at the Imagination Station are slated to be replaced. Mr. Goch said that the downtown toilets are not on the list for replacement. She then asked if there is an active search for a DDA Director, Mr. Geinzer stated that the DDA has not expressed interest in looking for a Director. Ms. Pettengill asked that the toilets be replaced with porcelain as the steel toilets have corroded and are in bad shape. Chief Bradford stated that public toilets are steel to prevent vandalism. Councilmember Bohn stated that he would also be in favor of toilet and sink replacement downtown. Council then discussed the specifics about the frequency of cleaning services for the bathrooms as well as the company used for these services. Ms. Pettengill requested that City Hall be open for restroom use after hours, Mr. Geinzer noted that the City Hall building is not designed to be open after hours.

Council discussed bonds and the dissolution of the LDFA and then turned their attention to Boards and Commissions. It was noted that the PSD is currently running a balance of \$2,500 and has recently had three listening sessions to gather advice and ideas to drive traffic to the downtown shops. Mr. Tobbe noted that the discussions were very productive. The Imagination Station fund has been scaled back to \$2,500, sealing will be done during the 19/20 Fiscal Year.

Director Gomolka spoke briefly about the Finance Department and the change in employee compensation attributing the change to a recent hire and an employee moving to Community Development.

The next discussion was about the Police Department budget. Mr. Geinzer noted the recent reduction of one officer due to retirement. Chief Bradford then spoke about various statistics regarding felonies, CSCs, and projected life of equipment. Councilmember Bohn asked if there was any interest in going with a hybrid, propane, or plugin police vehicles. Chief Bradford stated that he has investigated different vehicles but ultimately the cost/benefit is not there with hybrids right now. Council then discussed operations and maintenance, intersections, and body cams.

DPS Director Goch spoke at length about the services provided and efforts made to reduce costs throughout the department including the recalibration of the salt trucks to reduce the amount of salt used as one of the many cost saving initiatives. Mr. Goch stated that the new dual-purpose equipment purchases have worked out nicely. Mr. Goch and Council spoke about the street sweeper and the very imminent need to replace the equipment as it is more than twenty years old. Council and Mr. Goch spoke at length about sidewalks. Mr. Emaus asked if the City should go back to the City Charter and require businesses to shovel their own sidewalks and parking lots in areas that the City maintains. Mr. Emaus voiced concern over the time and money spent to remove snow from those areas when that time and money could be spent on sidewalk restoration and replacement. Mr. Goch then laid out a very stark and honest evaluation of the water and waste water department needs and requirements at the respective plants. He has growing concerns over the budget since the requirements and restrictions from the state are ever changing and growing.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to Public at 8:56 p.m. Hearing and seeing no response, Mayor Muzzin closed the Call to Public at 8:56 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Tobbe to adjourn the Budget Study Session at 8:56 p.m. **The motion carried without objection.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk

James Muzzin, Mayor