



City Council Special Study Session

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MINUTES OF THE BUDGET STUDY SESSION OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON APRIL 9, 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 four 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 introduced the budget session discussion by summarizing the last two budget talks and turned over the discussion to Director Goch. Mr. Goch spoke about the infrastructure within the DPW with Council on various points, notably: mandatory testing, insurance cost, engineering, well-head protection programs, and other regulations set by the state. Mr. Goch was happy to note that in 1939 most of the City water system was converted to copper. He noted that much of the new regulations stem directly from the Flint water issue which is why we have seen so much more involvement and regulations by the DEQ. By 2025 the City must have an inventory of all water lines and their composition with a specific plan to replace any existing lead. Mr. Goch expressed his frustration with the DEQ representatives assigned to the City change frequently then there is a new interpretation that the new representative requires. This makes following the state rules difficult as the requirements are ever changing. Councilmember Pettengill noted that water usage was down this year. Director Gomolka remarked that the 2018 spring and summer were very wet which may have contributed to the lower water usage. Mr. Goch then discussed several maintenance items that will be done more frequently than in the past such as valve turning to alleviate the possibility of valve failure.

Superintendent Brooks stated that the Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOG) program will be instrumental in the sustainability of future assets as more and more education is relayed to sewer users throughout the City. FOG build up can block large portions of the sewer system resulting in many hours of overtime. The vacor truck, which will need to be replaced soon, is crucial to remedy these types of blockages. Councilmember Tobbe asked if there was a mutual aid agreement with other municipalities for help during equipment failure. Mr. Goch stated that a handshake agreement within Livingston County has been beneficial to all utility authorities. Neighboring MHOG utility authority, of Genoa Township, is a backup should the need arise and it is a mutual should MHOG require assistance. Superintendent Corey Brooks spoke about the new testing required for PFAS, noting that the state is still developing a reliable

testing procedure. Mr. Goch also said that new regulations precipitated the necessity for underground storage tank monitoring system for diesel fuel storage so that leaks can be measured. Mr. Goch then began to speak at length about the necessity to remain or achieve compliance to become eligible for grants. Councilmember Tobbe remarked that he feels that public safety is also water and sewer, not just police. He then asked if there are state mandates for fees based on depreciation so rates may fund the system over time. Ms. Gomolka explained the reserve funding for utilities and outlined how the rates are calculated. Councilmember Pettengill discussed salary and wages and then asked how Director Goch is paid. Ms. Gomolka stated that Mr. Goch's salary is split over DPW, water, and waste water. Mr. Emaus asked if there is cushion or contingency plan should an emergency arise. Staff stated that in the event of an emergency, projects will be postponed to take care of the emergency.

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to break for five minutes, starting at 7:43 p.m. and reconvening at 7:49 p.m. **The motion carried without objection.**

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to reconvene the meeting at 7:49 p.m. **The motion carried without objection.**

Manager Geinzer briefly discussed post-employment benefits, touching on pensions and health care before speaking about Transfers Out. Mayor Muzzin then opened discussion for other items within the budget for questions or comment. Councilmember Bohn then asked to discussed the Capital Improvement Plan and the funding model recommended by staff to fund depreciation and capital. Councilmember Bohn created his own funding model similar to staff's recommendation but asked that each funding bucket have its own fund. He discussed the funding model and how accountability would look for transferring in and out of major and local streets. Councilmember Emaus asked about the Grand River signal study budget item and adjusting those in house. Mr. Goch noted that staff can only do so much with the timing and only one company can adjust those signals and it will require a signal study. Council and staff discussed the street sweeper and the necessity of clearing the roads of debris to remain complaint and ensure the storm drains are maintained. Renting a street sweeper is not an option as each rental would be cost prohibitive. Council asked about the window bid that was budgeted for last fiscal year. Manager Geinzer noted the first time the windows were out for bid, only one bid came back and he was not comfortable with only one. Second time the window bid went out, two higher priced bids came back. The current window bid has been adjusted to allow more time to complete the job, bid opening is set for May 21, 2019.

Councilmember Emaus remarked that he feels the City should go back to the Charter to direct business to remove the snow from sidewalks and parking lots. Council passionately discussed snow removal and staff time and cost for the snow removal.

Mayor Muzzin excused himself from the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Manager Geinzer summarized the requests and input from Council during the discussion, stating that the Grand River signal study and the audio visual equipment has been taken out of the budget and the funds will be directed back into the general fund.

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CALL TO PUBLIC

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly opened the Call to Public at 9:37 p.m.

Susan Bakhaus spoke about franchise fees as it pertains to the cable access channel.

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly closed the Call to Public at 9:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to adjourn the Budget Study Session at 9:39 p.m. **The motion carried without objection.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk

James Muzzin, Mayor