



# City Council Special Study Session

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## MINUTES OF THE BUDGET STUDY SESSION OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON APRIL 10, 2019

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly called the Study Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present were Councilmembers: Bohn, Emaus, Pipoly, and Tobbe. Absent were Mayor Muzzin, Councilmembers Gardner and Pettengill.

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.

**Motion** by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Tobbe to excuse Mayor Muzzin, Councilmember Gardner and Councilmember Pettengill for personal reasons. **The motion carried without objection.**

### **CALL TO PUBLIC**

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

### **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly introduced the budget session discussion. Councilmember Emaus noted that he wished to clarify that his focus was and will be exactly what the Budget Task Force focused on to take a hard look at every aspect of the City budget and investigate each and every item possible to achieve savings to fund the much needed infrastructure issues. The Task Force asked for concessions from City employees, voters to approve the Headlee Override, and new non-millage revenue. He stated that he would rather have civic events patrons pay than employees shoulder the burden, therefore Mr. Emaus is in favor of 100% civic event reimbursement. Mr. Emaus then asked staff to discuss the franchise fees. Director Gomolka stated that franchise fees from cable companies are paid for rights of way usage thought out the City but the fees are passed down to customers from the cable company. PEG or Public, Education, and Government fees are directly for studio and audio/visual needs for the cable access channel. Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly stated that he is in favor of pushing audio/visual to another year and asked how much is actually received annual for PEG fees from the cable companies. Director Gomolka stated that from Comcast the City received \$4,000 and from AT&T the City received \$13,141 for fiscal year 2018/2019. Those funds are then earmarked as such and to be spent only on studio or audio/visual equipment needs. Director Gomolka to return to Council with a complete list of the balance to date of PEG fees in and out. Councilmember Tobbe asks if leasing equipment is an option, Manager Geinzer will investigate the cost benefit and bring back to Council. Manger Geinzer noted that there is a potential that there is no fund balance after all expenses have been paid.

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly stated that the Headlee proposal, if successful, will go to streets. Councilmember Tobbe favors a dedicated streets funding plan specifically earmarked to dispel mistrust in taxes and perception. Talks then shifted to economic growth and large projects throughout the City. Community Development Manager Caruso stated the DTN project on Second Street probably will start in one to two years. It is not a project that will impact our current fiscal year. Councilmember Bohn is in favor of City Hall windows. He further stated that windows are a need for the building, not a want. Councilmember Tobbe stated that commercial buildings are commonly poorly insulated so windows will not help to be more conservative with heating or cooling. Mr. Tobbe is in favor of discussing the windows after the May 7, 2019 election. Manager Geinzer restated that deferring items from capital is how the City got into the fiscal position it is currently in. Mr. Emaus then read a list of questions from Councilmember Pettengill.

Council and staff discussed civic events and possible funding scenarios. Councilmember Emaus noted local municipalities have an ala cart approach to civic events which clearly list costs for each need for events with pricing. He further stated that civic events will not go away. Council discussed civic events are classifications, such as true civic events. Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly asked that staff prepare a list of recommended fees for further discussion at a future study session. Council, again, spoke about the DDA potentially contributing to civic events or helping defray the costs to civic event organizers. Manager Geinzer stated that the DDA was asked for a larger contribution and they did increase at a recent meeting. Councilmember Tobbe reminded all that the City is only 2.9 square miles and that new revenue from development is not going to be something the City can count on since the City is almost entirely developed but asked about charging a hotel tax or charging a tax to neighboring township for roads and amenities. Manager Geinzer noted the MML is trying to do work in Lansing to help city and state share revenue. He also stated that the city does not have statutory authority to levy a hotel tax or something along that line, but Mr. Geinzer said he will take a fresh look at all possibilities. Councilmember Tobbe remarked that there must be some innovative way to share the fiscal burden.

Manager Geinzer clarified that the direction from Council is to take audio/visual and the signal study out, but asked for clarification as to where Council would like that money to be invested. Councilmember Bohn stated that he would like to see the money go back into the CIP fund while Councilmember Emaus stated that he would like to see the public bathrooms. Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly asked that Manager Geinzer bring suggestions back for Council approval.

#### **CALL TO PUBLIC**

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly opened the Call to Public at 8:05 p.m.

Susan Bakhaus spoke about local and public streets.

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly closed the Call to Public at 8:06 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to adjourn the Budget Study Session at 8:06 p.m. **The motion carried without objection.**