



# City Council Study Session

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## MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MAY 16, 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, Emaus, Gardner, Pettengill, Pipoly, and Tobbe. Staff: City Manager Nate Geinzer, City Clerk Tara Brown, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, DPW Director Marcel Goch, Chief Rob Bradford, City Engineer Gary Markstom, and Attorney Paul Burns. There were ten 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.

### **DISCUSSION OF CIVIC EVENTS**

Mayor Muzzin began the discussion of civic event reimbursement by stating that he feels that something must be done. He is in favor of a minimum of fifty percent reimbursement except the three parades, which are true civic events. The three parades are Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day. Councilmember Pettengill asks if the previously mentioned \$64,000 is with or without the three parades. It was clarified that the amount discussed was without the three parades. Councilmember Tobbe believes that the civic events bring people to the city and provides economic vitality to downtown. Councilmember Pettengill spoke about the Holiday Glow and questioned necessity of an electrician for events. She expressed that she is not in favor of one hundred percent reimbursement. Manager Geinzer stated that having an electrician on duty for the larger events is essential.

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly understands the added strain reimbursement would take on the event organizers but stated that the money is expended during the events. Councilmember Gardner also understands the difficult situation as civic events are critical to the city's identity but reimbursement was part of the three pronged approach the Task Force recommended. Mayor Muzzin stated that the recommendation was not totally from one place but rather through a new millage, concessions from employees, and economic development. Civic reimbursement was a portion of the recommendation. Councilmember Gardner supports a fifty percent reimbursement.

Councilmember Emaus, while on the Task Force, stated that every item in the budget was looked at closely. Asking for cost cutting in only one area was not the recommendation but rather it was for all areas to make concessions. He further stated that the duty of government is to provide core services. Mr. Emaus stated that anything less than one hundred percent is asking taxpayers to shoulder the burden. Councilmember Bohn agrees with Councilmember Emaus but is in favor of a three-year phase in. Councilmember Pettengill stated that she will not support one hundred percent reimbursement, she feels the events are too important to the community. Councilmember Tobbe noted that there are economic developments coming to the city that will generate revenue. He said that these developments have chosen this city and have made a sizeable investment because of the events and the vitality of the downtown area. Mayor Muzzin is in favor of a minimum fifty percent reimbursement with possible

phase-in. Councilmember Emaus stated that some businesses hate the events, noting the mess that is left after the events. Councilmember Pettengill stated that those event attendees will be back to shop. Mr. Emaus questions where the data is on event attendees coming back to shop downtown. He further noted that part of fostering economic development is having meetings at city hall on furniture that does not fall apart. He stated that the appearance of city hall is important to show developers that the city invests in itself.

Council discussed civic events at length, specifically the percentage of reimbursement and possible annual phase in. Councilmember Pettengill stated that some contribution is necessary and she is in favor of a fifty percent reimbursement, phased-in over several years. She said that a one hundred percent reimbursement would kill civic events. Council discussed the recent DDA meeting and the board members' thoughts on civic event reimbursement. Ms. Pettengill understood that the board was not in favor of reimbursements. Mr. Pipoly stated that was not the direction of the discussion.

Mayor Muzzin asked that staff bring back an outline of a reimbursement form with blanks so that Council can discuss and come to an agreement on the amount.

#### **CALL TO PUBLIC**

John Innes, State Bank, questions the true cost of the events. He stated that the Taste of Brighton will not happen if reimbursement is required.

Pam McConeghy thanked Council for the discussion and stated the Chamber pays \$20,000 in taxes. She noted that the Chambers' sponsorship is down fifty percent. She questions how the Chamber will raise money for staff to do Ladies Night Out.

Cal Stone, 2 Stones Events, asked Council if residents and business owners have been polled on their feelings towards events.

Mayor Muzzin closed the Call to Public at 7:24 p.m.

Councilmember Pettengill recalled that there was a civic event survey done previously and asked that the City Manager bring that information back to Council.

Manager Geinzer noted that it is staff's responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. The staffing requirements for events come directly from the management team, such as the Director of Public Services and the Police Chief, based on years of experience and the aforementioned responsibility.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to adjourn the Study Session at 7:29 p.m. **The motion carried without objection.**

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Tara Brown, City Clerk

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James Muzzin, Mayor