



# Brighton City Council Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers • 200 N First St. • Brighton, Michigan 48116  
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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON OCTOBER 17, 2019

### 1. Call to Order

Mayor Muzzin called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

### 3. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Muzzin, Councilmembers: Bohn, Emaus, Gardner, Pettengill, Pipoly, and Tobbe. City Manager Nate Geinzer, City Clerk Tara Brown, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Human Resources Michelle Miller, Assistant to the DPS Director Patty Thomas, Chief Rob Bradford, Attorney Jeff Alber. There were five persons in the audience.

### 4. Consider Approval of the Agenda

**Motion** by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to approve the agenda as amended, moving item 8 to new business. **The motion carried without objection.**

#### Consent Agenda Items

**Motion** by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to approve the consent agenda as amended. **The motion carried without objection.**

### 5. Approval of Minutes: Study Session Meeting of October 3, 2019

### 6. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 3, 2019

### 7. Approval of Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals

### 8. ~~Transmittal of Pension and OPEB Reporting under Public Act 202 of 2017~~ (moved to New Business)

#### Correspondence

### 9. Call to the Public

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 7:32 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Muzzin closed the Call to the Public at 7:32 p.m.

### 10. Staff Updates

Director Goch stated that Rickett Road is moving along. Contractors for Brighton Square had been working on Flint Road but were finished with their repairs in three days.

Clerk Brown noted that the clerk's office will be open on Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for election related business that include issuing absentee voter ballots, registering voters, and other election information help.

Manager Geinzer reported that the latest edition of the print newsletter has been sent to residents and should have already arrived. Future editions of the print newsletter will contain more informational pull-outs such as the FOG or FROG program among other city initiatives and projects.

Councilmember Tobbe asked what specific Rickett Road issues have come up. Director Goch stated that a contractor machinery came a little too close to City utilities but it also provided an opportunity for some repair work.

#### **11. Updates from Councilmember Liaisons to Various Boards and Commissions**

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly stated that the DDA met on October 15, 2019 and approved of architectural services agreement with Lindhout and Associates as required under PA 57 and also approved a new brushed aluminum backlit sign for The AMP not to exceed \$5,000.

Councilmember Gardner relayed that the county LETS program will be expanding to include vans for transportation to and from medical appointments. This expansion was made possible through Federal and State grant money.

Councilmember Emaus noted that the Brighton Veterans Memorial Committee met to finalize plans for Veterans Day, which will be celebrated on Saturday, November 9, 2019 starting at 11:00 a.m. There will also be a short presentation honoring veterans and businesses at the AMP after the parade.

Mayor Muzzin stated that the Brighton Area Fire Authority met on October 10, 2019 and issued a resolution in honor of Don Hall who will be retiring November 1, 2019 after fifty years of service. There will be coffee and cake on November 1<sup>st</sup>, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for those who would like to stop by and wish him well. There may be a special meeting to discuss the addition to fire station 34 and hope to get the addition out to bid, if not the next meeting date is November 14, 2019.

#### **12. Receive Annual Audit Report and Presentation**

Director Golmoka introduced Tim St. Andrews and Tyler Luce from Plante Moran, city auditors. Mr. St. Andrews and Mr. Luce presented a thorough overview of the city financials, standings, and answered questions from City Council. The city proudly received an unmodified audit this year and will submit the audit to be awarded the GFOA certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. City Council thanked Plante Moran and the finance department for all of their hard work in preparation for the audit.

**Motion** by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to receive and file the annual audit report and presentation by Plante Moran for audit year June 30, 2019. **The motion carried without objection.**

#### **New Business**

#### **8. Transmittal of Pension and OPEB Reporting under Public Act 202 of 2017**

Director Gomolka explained the pension and OPEB reporting public act with additional spreadsheets, specifically illustrating what future changes in assumptions and the new State of Michigan's uniform assumptions may mean for the city and if necessary a corrective action plan could be in place to provide for funding strategy.

Councilmember Emaus thanked Director Gomolka for the supplemental spreadsheet and spoke directly about pulling specific triggers and questioned if our unfunded status increased or lowered. Director Gomolka said the status is higher. Councilmember Emaus clarified that payments were increased to pension and OPEB yet the city is underfunded. Director Gomolka also spoke at changes that MERS will implementing in the future that will increase costs further to many municipalities across the state.

Mayor Pro Tem asked if MERS determines their calculations and if the city can increase the payments to MERS to try to help the pension and OPEB assumptions. Director Gomolka stated yes, they do and noted that both Manager Geinzer and her have spoken about increasing funding to get ahead of the issue.

Councilmember Bohn is concerned over the 5% return on investments seems quite low given the market over that last five years. He stated that the fund should have been growing much more than what is listed. Councilmember Emaus asked if MERS is projecting a phase in to a lower assumption of what the rate should be. Director Gomolka indicated that one tenth of the loss from the large loss in 2008, which is smoothed out over the past ten years in response to Councilmember Bohn. Ms. Gomolka noted that MERS has lowered the rate based on an experience study but not as much to make it more palatable.

Councilmember Emaus asked if either Director Gomolka or Plante Moran sees a forecast of bottoming out to possibility lower and lower assumptions. Manager Geinzer noted that studies will be conducted to take demographics, mortality rate, and health when calculating the assumptions. Mr. St. Andrews stated that he does see the trend going down and a new public sector mortality table may result in a further one to three percent increase.

Councilmember Tobbe would like to prepare for a much lower assumption of 6.5% next budget season.

Manager Geinzer stated that Plante Moran has been a great resource when looking at strategies with their actuaries. He further stated that he will pull more numbers and compile information for Council.

**Motion** by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to receive and file the transmittal of pension and OPEB reporting under Public Act 202 of 2017. **The motion carried without objection.**

**13. Approval of Engineering Services for the 2019 Water Reliability Study Update in an Amount Not to Exceed \$11,000.**

Director Goch introduced the agenda item, noting that this must be completed every five years and this item was budgeted for in the CIP. The results will be submitted to EGLE once the results are back.

Mayor Pro Tem Pipoly noted that the original budgeted amount was for \$25,000, and with a savings of \$14,000, is there a plan for where the saving will be utilized. Director Goch stated that there are savings and will be addressed next budget. Manager Geinzer noted that utilities do require extensive work and any savings will be budgeted for infrastructure.

**Motion** by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to approve of engineering services for the 2019 Water Reliability Study Update in an amount not to exceed \$11,000. **The motion carried without objection.**

**Other Business**

**14. Call to the Public**

Mayor Muzzin opened the Call to the Public at 8:25 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Muzzin closed the Call to the Public at 8:25 p.m.

**15. Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. **The motion carried without objection.**