



City Council Special Meeting

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This meeting was conducted electronically.

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET STUDY SESSION OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON APRIL 9, 2020

Call to Order

Mayor Pipoly called the budget study session to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present were Mayor Pipoly, Mayor Pro Tem Gardner, Councilmembers: Bohn, Emaus, Muzzin, Pettengill, and Tobbe. City Manager Nate Geinzer, City Clerk Tara Brown, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Human Resource Manager Michelle Miller, Management Assistant Henry Outlaw, Superintendent Daren Collins, Superintendent Corey Brooks, Assistant to the DPS Director Patty Thomas, Chief Rob Bradford, Attorney Paul Burns, and Attorney Jeff Alber. There were two persons in the audience.

Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 6:02 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public at 6:03 p.m.

City Manager Geinzer read from a prepared statement, attached.

Budget Discussion

City Council began discussions with administrative services, specifically conferences and workshops. Councilmember Bohn would like to see all conferences and workshop funds be taken out for City Council as well as staff. He further asked the value in continuing with MML, SEMCOG, and various other memberships. Manager Geinzer noted the merits of retaining MML and SEMCOG memberships, he stated the value in their websites, clarification on law, and statistical data. Much of the City Council conferences and workshops budget is for new Councilmember training, should it be necessary with a newly elected Councilmember.

Discussion then turned to legal services and the pending MTT cases. Attorney Burns stated he expects more property appeals in the future as a result of COVID-19. Council and staff discussed the cost of MTT cases settle versus the cost of appraisals. The cost benefit was debated along with a possible case for condemnation for budget planning.

City Manager Geinzer noted the budget addition of an Economic Development Manager and moving the Management Assistant to full time, which is already in the FY 19/20 budget. The Management Assistant would be split between the City Manager, City Clerk, Human Resources, and communications. Councilmember Bohn would like the DDA to hire their own Development Manager and pay for it from DDA funds. Manager Geinzer noted the DDA has contributed funds with the understanding that certain DDA initiatives would be paid for by the contribution, such as snow plowing and staff time for DDA initiatives amongst others. Councilmember Bohn noted there has been no deterrent to economic development in the City without a dedicated DDA employee. Manager Geinzer noted that he has shouldered the responsibilities of the position after Brandon Skopek left the City, but sees the value in a

dedicated employee to take development further. Councilmember Muzzin stated, with no disrespect, employing a DDA manager has been much smoother rather than a DDA placed manager. Council and staff discussed Planning Department and how it pertains to economic development as well as future succession planning. Discussion came back to the DDA position with Councilmember Bohn stating that he would like the DDA manager position to be filled at a later date until the economic burden of the pandemic is realized, Councilmember Pettengill agreed. Mayor Pipoly stated a DDA manager will enable the City Manager to concentrated on other important initiatives and larger planning, rather than manage the DDA. Councilmember Emaus quoted the City Charter and noted it is not City Council's duty to micromanage the hiring of positions but rather to approve the budget.

Manager Geinzer directed conversations to the Planning Department noting the code enforcement position will be left vacant through the end of FY 19/20.

The DDA budget was discussed noting the DDA board approved the budget and are seeking grant opportunities for the streetscape project and community promotions.

The Brighton Arts & Culture Commission is funded by the DDA and is planning to continue the children's summer series, repaint several sculptures. Human Resources Manager Miller said the BACC is looking forward to keeping the children's series running for this year with many of the same acts.

Manager Geinzer stated the Principle Shopping District is without revenue, the board is on hold pending a City Council decision. The Imagination Station will be sealing the playscape this year; sealing was not accomplished last summer due to weather conditions. Other expenditures such as SPARK, accounting services, actuarial services, and janitorial services were discussed.

The Police Department budget was then discussed specifically noting needs such as air conditioners, specialty equipment for crime scenes, info/speed sign, furniture, personal protection equipment, and generators.

Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 7:38 p.m.

Tom Tolen stated the power outage at his home neighborhood had made it necessary for him to attend this electronic meeting in the library parking lot to utilize their Wi-Fi.

Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Pubic at 7:40 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Muzzin, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk

Shawn Pipoly, Mayor