



City Council Study Session

200 N First St • City Hall Council Chambers • Brighton, Michigan 48116
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This meeting was conducted electronically.

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 7, 2021

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present were Mayor Pipoly and Mayor Pro Tem Gardner, Councilmembers: Bohn, Emaus, Muzzin, Pettengill, and Tobbe (arrived at 6:37 p.m.), all of whom disclosed their locations. City Manager Nate Geinzer, City Clerk Tara Brown, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, Human Resources Manager Michelle Miller, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Management Assistant Henry Outlaw, Police Chief Rob Bradford, DPS Superintendent Daren Collins, Compliance Officer Josh Bradley, Economic Development Coordinator Denise Murray, Attorney Paul Burns, and Attorney Jeff Alber. There were five persons in the audience.

Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 6:33 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public.

Receive Update on Donation Box Enforcement

Community Development Manager Caruso relayed a brief update to City Council on the donation box enforcement. Mr. Caruso stated the three locations in the City where the donation bins are permitted to be have been working diligently to empty the contents regularly but as many people are home during the pandemic there has been an increase in donations especially on the weekends.

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner thanked Mr. Caruso for the positive update. Councilmember Pettengill asked if Mr. Caruso could relay the amount that the community has donated to the bins. Mr. Caruso stated that it may be difficult to determine, however the non-profit companies that collect noted that the City of Brighton donation bins are the most prosperous, the best location is located at the Brighton Mall.

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner inquired about the status of Simple Recycling and when they anticipate collecting again. Manager Geinzer will provide an update to City Council but noted the company is having difficulty staffing the trucks needed to collect the donations. Councilmember Pettengill asked Mr. Geinzer to also provide how much money has been generated by contributions by City residents to Simple Recycling.

Receive Update on Social Districts and Consider Staff Direction

Management Assistant Outlaw shared a power point presentation on social districts, House Bill 5781, which allows for the consumption of alcohol in public areas. His research and analysis showed various cities that have implemented social districts and what they have found both positive and negative, how the cities chose to indicate the social district zones, and cup style and stickers to ensure enforcement is able to recognize allowable beverages.

Chief Bradford has contacted other Chiefs who have social districts within their cities. Petoskey was able to provide the best feedback.

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner noted how little space is left outdoors for people to gather either in an igloo or on patios. Ms. Gardner is in favor of investigating how the City of Brighton can move forward with creative solutions to help business owners who are hurting during these difficult times.

Councilmember Pettengill asked about cup size and stickers, how boundaries are defined, and if there is a sunset on the social district.

Councilmember Bohn relayed that his position has not changed since the discussions of social districts began in 2020 and stated he is not in favor of promoting alcohol use. However, Mr. Bohn stated that Tecumseh has the best approach if a social district is approved.

Councilmember Muzzin noted his total support and asked staff and police to bring back a plan.

Councilmember Emaus stated he is in favor, noting the discussion was tabled to 2021. Mr. Emaus would like the topic be brought back to City Council to help businesses and bars thrive to ensure economic health. Mr. Emaus also noted the social districts plan can be revoked at any time should it be abused.

Councilmember Tobbe stated that social districts can be a good idea but noted his concern over liability.

Mr. Geinzer stated City staff, working with City attorneys, will bring a plan back for City Council's consideration.

Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 6:42 p.m.

Susan Bakhaus would like to know how much has been sent to the City from Simple Recycling.

Hearing and seeing no additional comment, Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public at 6:43 p.m.

Manager Geinzer will provide the total contributions from Simple Recycling donations at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to adjourn the study session at 7:19 p.m. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk

Shawn Pipoly, Mayor