



Brighton City Council Meeting

Contact Information: City Hall • 200 N First St. • Brighton, Michigan 48116
(810) 227-1911 • www.brightoncity.org • info@brightoncity.org

This meeting was conducted electronically.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 21, 2021

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pipoly called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Pipoly and Mayor Pro Tem Gardner, Councilmembers: Bohn, Emaus, Muzzin, Pettengill, and Tobbe, all of whom disclosed their respective locations in the City of Brighton, County of Livingston, State of Michigan. 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, Regulatory Compliance Superintendent Josh Bradley, Assistant to the DPS Director Patty Thomas, Attorney Paul Burns, and Attorney Jeff Alber. There were thirteen persons in the audience.

Mayor Pipoly noted a change to item #13 of the agenda to remove "Receive a Written Attorney Client Privileged Communication pursuant to MCL 15.268(h).

4. Consider Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to approve the agenda as amended. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

5. Consider Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Muzzin to approve the consent agenda as presented. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

Consent Agenda Items

- a. **Approval of Minutes: Study Session of January 7, 2021**
- b. **Approval of Minutes: Regular Session of January 7, 2021**

Correspondence

6. Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 7:35 p.m.

Mark Binkley spoke against closing Main Street for the Farmers Market.

Collin Miller asked that City Council consider that Saturday is the best day of the week for sales and they do not allow the Farmers Market on Main Street.

Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public at 7:42 p.m.

7. Staff Updates

Management Assistant Outlaw relayed the renewed efforts to begin Small Town, Big Hearts campaign to fund emergency support for businesses in need.

Human Resources Manager Miller happily reported due to the decline in COVID-19, City offices will reopen Monday, February 1, 2021 to the public. She thanked residents, customers, and developers who worked with City employees to maintain service by phone, email, and drop box.

Manager Geinzer noted while the doors were closed, services remained operational. City staff adapted quickly to

remote services and utilized electronic customer service methods to facilitate seamless support.

Chief Bradford stated the City has been experiencing an increase in theft. He asked residents to please lock your home and car doors. The Livingston County Health Department is working to vaccinate residents, but Chief Bradford stressed that residents must be patient as the State is behind in the delivery of vaccines.

Director Goch and his staff are working on the budget and gathering bids/scopes of work for various projects around the City such as sidewalks, storm line video work, and tree work.

Director Gomolka reported she has been working on bond issuance. During conversations with the rating agency the City has maintained the AA+ rating with a possible increase to AAA if it were not for COVID-19 and the funded status of Pension and OPEB, as well as per capita incomes. The bond agency is on track to post the sale of bonds on February 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Manager Geinzer stated he has been appointed to the executive committee of the Economic Development Council of Livingston County.

8. Updates from Councilmember Liaisons to Various Boards and Commissions

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner noted the County achieved an 81.8% response rate for the 2020 Census which is the highest response in the State of Michigan. Funding from the Census is an important funding mechanism for residents and communities.

Councilmember Bohn asked why the county health department is not outfitted with the proper freezers required for vaccine storage. Manager Geinzer will follow up with the health department and relay the information to City Council.

Councilmember Pettengill stated the next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Muzzin stated the Brighton Area Fire Authority met Thursday and reappointed the board members. Mayor Pipoly as Treasurer; Mike Corrigan as Member at Large; and himself, Councilmember Jim Muzzin as Chairperson.

Councilmember Emaus had no update for boards and commissions; however, he stressed that "flushable" wipes are not flushable at all and will cause serious damage to the sewer system. Director Goch confirmed that wipes are not flushable because of the stringy makeup of the fiber. Wipes should be disposed of in the trash.

Councilmember Tobbe attended the remote SEMCOG broadband summit for Southeast Michigan that is working to extend broadband to those without.

Mayor Pipoly recommends placing a news alert on the utility bills to state wipes are not flushable and should be thrown out. Mr. Pipoly asked that staff convey to the residents how much damage wipes can cause to the wastewater system.

Manager Geinzer noted different efforts to educate the residents about the damage wipes can cause but mailing out reminders and news articles in both the eNewsletter and print newsletter. Mr. Geinzer called upon Mr. Bradley to speak more about wipes and FROG program.

Mr. Bradley stated that a series of articles in the print and weekly eNewsletter have been sent to residents and he is working to relay the importance of FROG to area commercial businesses but stresses that education is key to inform residents about wipes.

Public Hearing

- 9. Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider Approval of Resolution #2021-03 "Approving the 1010 State Street Brownfield Plan," with Clarification Being Added to Section 1.3 "Description of Costs to Be Paid for with Tax Incremental Revenues" Per City Council Comments Made During the December 17, 2020 City Council Study Session**

Mayor Pipoly opened the public hearing at 8:09 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the public hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Tobbe to table the consideration approval of resolution #2021-03 "Approving the 1010 State Street Brownfield Plan," with clarification being added to section 1.3 "description of costs to be paid for with tax increment revenues" per City Council comments made during the December 17, 2020 City Council Study Session. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

New Business

10. Consider Approval of Reimbursement Agreement Related to the 1010 State Street Brownfield Plan

Motion by Councilmember Muzzin, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gardner to table consideration of approval of the reimbursement agreement related to the 1010 State Street Brownfield Plan. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

11. Discussion of Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce Civic Event Application for the 2021 Farmers Market Season

Assistant to the DPS Director Patty Thomas introduced the agenda item outlining the request by the Chamber to hold the Farmers Market on Main Street for the 2021 Season and spoke about the associated fees and safety measures that will be needed.

Council briefly discussed the possibilities of holding the Farmers Market on Main Street.

Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Pam McConeghy, asked to withdraw the application after hearing a couple local merchants who spoke against the event as it would be detrimental to their business.

12. Approval of Tetra Tech Design Engineering Scope of Services for The Addition of Easterly Streets Improvements to the Grand River Phase 2 And Phase 3 Road Improvement Project in an Additional Amount of \$209,200 with a not to Exceed Total of \$329,200, Including The Related Budget Amendments in the Amount of \$209,200 From the Fund Balance of the General Fund Major and Local Street Funds

Motion by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gardner to approve of Tetra Tech Design Engineering scope of services for the addition of easterly streets improvements to the Grand River phase 2 and phase 3 road improvement project in an additional amount of \$209,200 with a not to exceed total of \$329,200, including the related budget amendments in the amount of \$209,200 from the fund balance of the General Fund Major and Local Street Funds. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

Other Business

13. Consider Entering into Closed Session to ~~Receive a Written Attorney Client Privileged Communication Pursuant to MCL 15.268(h)~~ and to Discuss the Purchase or Lease of Real Property Pursuant to MCL 15.268(d)

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to enter into closed session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property pursuant to MCL 15.268(d). **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

Motion by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Councilmember Muzzin to come out of closed session and resume the regular meeting at 9:29 p.m. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

14. Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 9:28 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gardner to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk

Shawn Pipoly, Mayor