



Brighton City Council Retreat

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

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL RETREAT OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 26, 2021

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pipoly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. 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, Human Resources Manager Michelle Miller, Management Assistant Henry Outlaw, Police Chief Rob Bradford, DPS Superintendent Daren Collins, Regulatory Compliance Superintendent Josh Bradley, Assistant to the DPS Director Patty Thomas, Deputy DPS Director Corey Brooks, Economic Development Coordinator Denise Murray, and Attorney Jeff Alber. There were five persons in the audience.

3. Consider Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Call to the Public

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

5. Presentation and Discussion of 2020 Biannual Survey Data

Management Assistant Outlaw discussed in detail the findings of the 2020 Biannual Citizen Survey data with a presentation and breakdown of key topics. Mr. Outlaw felt the results accurately reflected the population as evident in the percentage breakdown of key demographics. Overall the survey found that residents are satisfied with City services. Residents are proud of their City and are interested in supporting infrastructure projects to promote and renew the appearance of the City and its capital.

Given the 2018 ballot proposal that allowed marijuana establishments and recreational use, it was important to City Council that the survey also asked residents where these establishments should be placed if permitted within the City. The results were mixed, the survey representation accurately reflected the 2018 ballot proposal. Overall residents were open to testing facilities but were apprehensive about where to place actual storefronts that would sell to the public. Community Development Manager Caruso, in light of the Village of Pinckney, would like to be prepared and have an ordinance near completion or drafted to avoid delays should a ballot proposal be submitted to the City. Planning and preparation are imperative to stay ahead should something change in the future.

City Council discussed how to proceed and instructed staff to bring back the topic for further discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Tobbe, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to take a break at 6:52 p.m. and reconvene the meeting at 7:00 p.m. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

6. Discussion on Community Enrichment

Management Assistant Outlaw began discussions on a possible Community Enrichment Commission (CEC) that would dissolve the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission (BACC) and absorb its duties and commission members to form a new broader scoped group to be staffed like the DDA. The Community Enrichment Commission would undertake non-motorized initiatives, parks and recreation, and neighborhood improvements and engagement.

The Citizens Survey results pointed to more communication with the neighborhood and specialized issues. The current BACC focus has been directed towards art and events geared towards children but are otherwise inactive during the winter months. The CEC would encompass a wider range of projects with seven voting members and four non-voting members.

Councilmembers discussed how the group would fit with the other boards and commissions. Main concerns were that the BACC was primarily focused on arts and the change to non-motorized transportation or sidewalk gap type projects may be out of range for the group. Another concern was the method of funding for the potential new commission since the main funding source was mostly driven by donations; however, City Council was interested in learning more.

Manager Geinzer noted several project examples that would be a good fit for the CEC such as re-naturalization of City lands, bike lanes, and pond cleaning. These are projects that should be looked into however staff is busy with several other projects.

Councilmember Bohn asked if this new plan may be force fitting an artistic group into areas out of the groups normal scope. Mr. Outlaw stated there is overlap of the projects mentioned and the interests of the current BACC. Councilmember Muzzin, Mayor Pipoly, Mayor Pro Tem Gardner, and Councilmember Emaus are in favor of a broader CEC group and would like to hear more. Councilmember Pettengill asked if this group could be a sub-committee of the DDA, but expressed her desire to be involved. Councilmember Tobbe asked if the appointments will be vetted by City Council.

7. Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 7:44 p.m.

Susan Bakhaus spoke about street signs.

Jordan Genso addressed topics discussed at the retreat meeting and thanked City Councilmembers.

Craig Wood thanked City Council for listening to community feedback.

Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public at 7:48 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk

Shawn Pipoly, Mayor