



Brighton City Council Retreat

City Hall Council Chambers • 200 N First St. • Brighton, Michigan 48116
(810) 227-1911 • www.brightoncity.org

This meeting was conducted electronically.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL RETREAT OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2021

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pipoly called the meeting to order at 6:02 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, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Finance Director Gretchen Gomolka, 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, Deputy Chief Craig Flood, Attorney Paul Burns, and Attorney Jeff Alber. There were five persons in the audience.

3. Consider Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Muzzin, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill 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 6:04 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public.

5. Discussion of Marijuana & Related Land Uses

Community Development Manager Caruso along with Management Assistant Henry Outlaw began discussion about findings on the survey as it pertains to marijuana and related land uses. The survey data reflected the outcome of the 2018 ballot proposal that allowed recreational use and business establishments.

Mr. Caruso then introduced Jill Bahm from Giffels Webster who presented next steps for zoning amendments in response to the cannabis industry pushing ordinance and charter amendments through ballot initiatives, as evident in the Village of Pinckney. Ms. Bahm provided a brief history on medical marijuana regulations and what can be gleaned from Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) response though licensing and regulations. Several municipal regulations and case laws were discussed. Ms. Bahm then spoke about recreational marijuana and practices from other municipalities who have permitted uses within their jurisdiction. Overall the discussion then turned to detailed descriptions of businesses, types of businesses throughout Michigan, licensing fees for different businesses, and considerations for next steps.

Attorney Burns and Attorney Alber briefly discussed that municipals have experienced legal issues corresponding directly to the permitting process. Those potential businesses that were not selected

during the permitting phase brought legal action to the municipality. Attorney Burns noted preplanning and having an ordinance drafted is recommended.

Chief Bradford and Deputy Chief Flood reached out to Police Departments in municipalities that allowed establishments. Overall reported there was not a noticeable change in crime or calls. Chief Bradford voiced concern over the availability of cash on hand at the storefronts and cautioned that extra security would be required; however, marijuana business owners are aware.

City Council discussed a variety of topics surrounding marijuana businesses throughout the City, specifically types permitted and those businesses that would have less traffic but still be a part of the industry. The Planning Commission has had no compelling urge to move forward with discussing marijuana nor has the Commission requested staff drafting a zoning ordinance for marijuana establishments in the City. Attorney Burns relayed the necessity for the City to get out in front of the issue before it becomes an issue. In other words, Mr. Burns recommends the Planning Commission begin work on an ordinance.

Manager Geinzer noted City Councils direction and will place the topic on a future City Council meeting to direct the Planning Commission to look at drafting a recreational marijuana ordinance.

Councilmember Bohn stresses that we must control our own destiny and convey to the Planning Commission exactly why a marijuana ordinance must be considered. Councilmember Pettengill would like to hear more about different types of business that would allow for the least disruption to the City residents.

Councilmember Muzzin noted that odor has been a challenge with the marijuana establishments and asked Attorney Burns if there is any recourse for the City to regulate odor. Attorney Burns remarked odor would fall under public nuisance and addressed.

6. Utility Operational/Asset Needs Part II (Wastewater Plant) (postponed until January 28, 2021)

7. Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 7:56 p.m.

Gerald Griffin, a resident of Green Oak Township and marijuana business owner, spoke about marijuana and businesses from his perspective as an owner.

Jordan Genso announced his intention to run for City Council for one of the four available positions up in 2021.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**