



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 28, 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, 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, Attorney Paul Burns, 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 6:02 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public.

5. Utility Operational/Asset Needs Part II (Wastewater Plant)

Director Goch, along with Deputy Director Brooks, introduced the discussion with a detailed photographic presentation. The overall presentation centered around the needs of the Wastewater Plant. It was relayed that most of the Wastewater Plant is over thirty years old and even with fixing or rebuilding key machinery, there is a limit. The Wastewater Plant does have several items in the Capital Improvements Plan, there are several pressing items. The Wastewater Plant does not have reliable internet and unfortunately there is no access to the internet other than extending fiber out to the plant which is costly but necessary to upgrade the older monitoring equipment. City Council discussed specific components of the plant such as the Third Street generator, the centrifuge, and several pieces of machinery that are beyond their useful life.

6. Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget Priorities/Goals

- a. **Update on Fiscal Realities Efforts & Fiscal Year 2020/2021 & 2021/2022 Preliminary Projections**
- b. **Budget Priorities/Goals for 2021/2022**

Manager Geinzer discussed the recent Standard & Poor's rating and the City's almost attaining the AAA rating if it were not for unfunded liability and COVID-19. Mr. Geinzer stressed the importance of funding depreciation and budgeting for projects in the Capital Improvements Plan. Manager Geinzer discussed several projections for the upcoming fiscal year and how the City is six months into the current fiscal year. Some items to be aware of are pending and future Michigan Tax Tribunal cases as companies start to assess their standing during the pandemic and the fallout from the aftermath. City Council should also expect another Headlee rollback as well as an additional officer due to the growing complexity of crime and investigation. Recently there has been a string of robberies at local big box stores, there have been up to five in one day.

Councilmember Bohn asked at what point does the City approach the stores and require the stores to have security to be part of the solution rather than fall victim to crime.

Councilmember Tobbe asked Chief Bradford if the crime is due to location or is it income driven. Chief Bradford stated that location and the easy access to the freeway is definitely a factor.

The discussion turned to Council Priorities with Councilmember Tobbe asking for increased lighting in the early hours near the High School as many children are walking to school in the dark among heavy traffic. He suggested some kind of lit crossing. Chief Bradford noted there were previous discussion about lighting crosswalk areas for school such as near 6th and 7th Street, School Street, and near Lee Road and Peppergrove. Mayor Pro Tem Gardner asked about a possible four way stop near the Northwest Neighborhoods and expressed concern about non-motorized transportation access as there has been an increase in those types of transportation.

Manager Geinzer also noted some attention must be given to the downtown sidewalks as many are crumbling and will not last until the Downtown Streetscape project. Over the years, the sidewalks have been patched but a solution that will last at least three or more years is necessary to safeguard the pedestrian's downtown.

7. Retreat Wrap Up

Manager Geinzer thanked City Council for the discussion during the past evenings and has direction for items discussed and initiatives to move forward.

8. Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 8:29 p.m.

Susan Bakhaus asked that public works invest in a water softener for the City.

Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public at 8:31 p.m.

Director Goch stated the cost would be enormous to implement City wide water treatment softening, it would be cost prohibitive.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. **The motion carried without objection by roll call vote.**