



Brighton City Council Meeting

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MARCH 2, 2023

1. Call to order

Mayor Tobbe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll call

Present were Mayor Tobbe, Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, Councilmembers: Albert, Emaus, Gardner, Gipson, and Pettengill.

Staff Present: City Manager Gretchen Gomolka, City Clerk Tara Brown, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Finance Director Liz Gaines, Assistant to the DPS Director Patty Thomas, DPW Superintendent Daren Collins, Superintendent Brad Schrader, Deputy DPS Director Corey Brooks, Regulatory Compliance/Water Treatment Superintendent Josh Bradley, DPS Clerk Traci Mularoni, Attorney Sarah Gabis, and Chief Brent Pirochta. There were approximately thirty-five people in the audience.

4. Consider approval of the agenda

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Albert to approve the agenda as presented. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

5. Consider approval of consent agenda items

Motion by Councilmember Albert, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to approve the consent agenda as presented. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

Consent Agenda Items

- a. **Approval of Minutes: regular meeting of February 16, 2023**
- b. **Acceptance of the quarterly finance and investment reports**
- c. **Approval of the annual poverty exemption resolution #2023-02**

Correspondence

6. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:34 p.m.

Lynn Wilde, A Wilde Theatre, spoke regarding the civic events list, noting that Weekends on West event is detrimental to her business because of the loud music but hopes to find a solution to satisfy all businesses involved.

Tony Kassab, from Jamison's, spoke regarding parking, small festivals, and previous Covid allowances.

Nick Hegle, The Pound!, spoke in favor of Weekends on West as a community event for all to enjoy the musicians.

Patty Phillips spoke in support of A Wilde Theatre and hopes that an amicable solution can be made with surrounding businesses.

Eric Siegel, owner of 110 East Grand River, spoke in favor of A Wilde Theatre. Mr. Siegel also supports an amicable solution with surrounding businesses.

Ken Schmenk spoke regarding a fentanyl awareness event that will be hosted at 2142 on March 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

At Mayor Tobbe's request, Assistant to the DPS Director Patty Thomas explained the Civic Event application process, from application to Events Committee meetings and the eventual recommendation to City Council.

7. Staff updates

Michael Sage from DTE spoke regarding the recent winter ice storm and outages in the area. It was noted the ageing infrastructure and heavy ice build up as a culprit for the outage. Mr. Sage will work with engineers and City Manager Gomolka to come back to City Council in April with a more in depth look at engineering and other power related concerns within the city.

City Council discussed several frequent power outage sites, potential discussions for engineering, and thanked Mr. Sage for the visit.

Chief Pirochta stated the police department took approximately 180 calls for service the night of the ice storm. The department played a vital role in aiding the fire department as well as the DPW employees.

Director Goch provided an update on the DPW efforts during the ice storm. Director Goch then congratulated Superintendent Daren Collins on his retirement effective Friday, March 3, 2023.

Superintendent Daren Collins thanked city staff, City Council, and residents, stating it is an honor to come back and work in his hometown but is proud to hand over the duties to Superintendent Brad Schrader.

Clerk Brown noted the GoGov app is very close to being ready. Apple and Google both have the requests from app development. The app should be live soon and a marketing push will be forthcoming.

8. Attorney update – sign ordinance

Attorney Gabis provided an update to the coming sign ordinance. The sign ordinance will bring the city into compliance with state and federal laws.

9. Updates from Councilmember liaisons to various boards and commissions

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn thanked the DPS group for filing the pothole within the CSX tracks on 4th Street. Mr. Bohn asked that the DTN construction crew be aware not to leave oil tracks down 2nd Street since it is newly paved.

Councilmember Gardner noted the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission will meet on March 13, 2023, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Emaus will meet with the Brighton Veteran Memorial Committee soon to plan for Memorial Day and discuss potential routes to circumvent Streetscape construction. The Downtown Development Authority is waiting for an updated Streetscape timeline from Giffels Webster. Mr. Emaus then discussed the marketing and advertisement plans for the Streetscape project in detail. Mr. Emaus also noted that he will not run for re-election for City Council.

Councilmember Albert thanked both Councilmember Emaus and Superintendent Daren Collins for their service to the City of Brighton.

Mayor Tobbe thanked Councilmember Emaus for his service. Mayor Tobbe attended a recent SEMCOG committee session in which southeast Michigan is projected to see a large increase in population and development. Livingston County is projected to be the largest growth with a potential 35,000 to 40,000 new residents.

New Business

10. Consider approval to award a three-year contract for waterway treatment to Aqua-Weed Control in an amount not to exceed \$8,518 per year

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to approve approval to award a three-year contract for waterway treatment to Aqua-Weed Control in an amount not to exceed \$8,518 per year. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

11. Consider approval of 19 civic event applications and permit the City Manager to approve small, pop-up events

per review and recommendation by the Civic Event Committee for the 2023 season

City Council discussed in detail the concerns of merchants and the recommendations from the Civic Event Committee. Weekends on West Event will come back to City Council for further discussion and recommendation after the involved parties present a solution that is agreed on. City Manager Gomolka will work with City Attorney Gabis to address the pop-up event approval process and authority.

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Albert to approve of the civic event applications as recommended by the civic event committee for the 2023 season as presented without the Weekends on West event and the Veterans Connected Ruck to Live event. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

12. Consider Entering into Closed Session to Receive a Written Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Pursuant to section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h)

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to enter into closed session to receive a written attorney-client privileged communication pursuant to section 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(1)(h) at 8:47 p.m. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to come out of closed session and reconvene the regular meeting at 9:25 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

Other Business

13. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 9:26 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment the call to the public was closed.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. **The motion carried (7-0).**

Tara Brown, City Clerk