



# Brighton City Council Meeting

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

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 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, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Human Resources Manager Michelle Miller, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Chief Brent Pirochta, and Attorney Sarah Gabis. There were approximately fifteen people in the audience.

### 4. Consider approval of the agenda

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

### 5. Consider approval of consent agenda items

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

#### Consent Agenda Items

##### a. Approval of Minutes: regular meeting of September 7, 2023

#### Correspondence

### 6. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:32 p.m.

Jim Vichich thanked the city for the widened sidewalks that are now wide enough to allow wheelchairs to access businesses on Main Street but asked city staff to look at the sidewalk by the CoBach building as it seems to be a place that accumulates water and snow.

Craig Wood from GoLivCo expressed his support for the pedestrian pathway and asks for more non-motorized support throughout the county.

Shawn Bhajan, owner of Hometown Bikes, also spoke in support of the pedestrian pathway.

Dave Wolf spoke in support of the pedestrian pathway.

Jim Vichich spoke about a recent event that was hosted at the Cobach building for a senior tour.

### 7. Proclamation: Eagle Scout Basil Nowling

### 8. Staff updates

Chief Pirochta stated that Brighton Police Department recently received a Netum Scan Animal Tag Reader courtesy of the Michigan Doodle Rescue Connect to help reunite chipped dogs with their family.

City Manager Gomolka stated that downtown businesses have come together to kick off Halloween season with a Gal-O-Ween shopping night on October 5, 2023, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Director Goch provided a brief update on current projects, especially noting that Main Street should be completed in October however many other features will still need to be worked on to complete the Streetscape project.

#### **9. Updates from Councilmember liaisons to various boards and commissions**

Councilmember Emaus stated that the Brighton Veterans Memorial Committee is planning to bring the Veterans Day Parade back onto Main Street for November 11, 2023, and will proceed as normal. The Downtown Development Authority meet to discuss the Streetscape Project and affirmation of officers. SPARK partner Denise Murray has secured grants from Lake Trust Credit Union for businesses affected by the Streetscape Project.

Councilmember Albert noted a recent update from Jim Muzzin, BAFA board member, that the fire authority hopes to upgrade the fire station on Grand River utilizing some congressional grants that were recently awarded.

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn stated the Planning Commission met to discuss two agenda items. First was to open up the Master Plan and begin discussions with Giffles Webster and second was to discuss zoning ordinance amendments.

Councilmember Pettengill stated the Zoning Board of Appeals met to discuss and ultimately approve a variance at the UPS store to allow an 80% window coverage due to items of sensitive nature and packaging.

Councilmember Gipson stated the Ruck to Live event will be downtown Saturday, September 23, 2023, beginning at 7:00 a.m. The event attendees will stay out of the way but are looking to make themselves known as they move throughout the City to raise awareness to Veteran suicide and raise funds.

Mayor Tobbe spoke about the Streetscape project and the gratitude the City of Brighton has to construction workers and all trades people bringing the project together.

#### **Discussion**

#### **10. 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 Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Albert to enter into closed session at 7:10 p.m. to receive a written attorney-client privileged communication pursuant to section MCL 15.268(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to come out of closed session at 7:34 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

#### **11. Discussion with MDOT on potential pedestrian pathway beneath I-96 Interchange**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to table the pedestrian pathway until more information has been gathered. **The motion carried, 6-1. Mayor Pro Tem Bohn voted no.**

#### **12. City Manager Review Committee**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to create City Manager Review Committee consisting of Mayor Tobbe, and Councilmember Albert and Pettengill. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

#### **13. Decision Pending location discussion**

Human Resources Manager Miller briefed City Council on the discussions the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission regarding the placement of Decision Pending. The Brighton Arts and Culture Commission will present their recommendation at the next meeting. HR Manager Miller also provided an update regarding the September 11, 2023, Brighton Arts and Culture Commission meeting where they discussed sculpture rotation, a future call to artists, Robertson Brothers donation, and the complexity involved with the rehabilitation of the pocket park wall on St. Paul.

#### **New Business**

**14. Discuss Consumers Energy Company gas franchise ordinance**

City Manager Gomolka updated the City Council that the current City Ordinance approved nearly 30 years ago with Consumers Energy is expiring and will need to be repealed and replaced with another 30-year ordinance. A first read and setting of a public hearing will be on the agenda for the October 5, 2023, meeting.

**15. Conduct a first reading and set a public hearing for October 19, 2023, for ordinance #605 to repeal Article X, Massage Operations” of Chapter 22 “Businesses” and codified as Sections 22-301 through 22-325 of the Brighton City Code of Ordinances**

City Clerk Brown discussed that there is redundancy with the current Massage Operations ordinance since the State of Michigan licenses massage businesses and employees and the Community Development team conducts inspections for businesses certificates of occupancies within the city. Clerk Brown recommends that City Council repeal the current ordinance.

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to set a public hearing for October 19, 2023, for ordinance #605 to repeal Article X, Massage Operations” of Chapter 22 “Businesses” and codified as Sections 22-301 through 22-325 of the Brighton City Code of Ordinances. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

**16. Consider approval of Tetra Tech proposal to prepare the Fiscal Year 2025 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.**

**Motion** by Councilmember Albert, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to approve the Tetra Tech proposal to prepare the Fiscal Year 2025 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan in an amount not to exceed \$65,000. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

**17. Consider awarding the contract for the Northstar Tower fencing installation to Justice Fence Co. in an amount not to exceed \$18,531**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to award the contract for the Northstar Tower fencing installation to Justice Fence Co. in an amount not to exceed \$18,531. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

**18. Consider entering into closed session to consider the purchase or lease of real property pursuant to MCL 15.268 (1)(d) of the Open Meetings Act**

**Motion** by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to enter into closed session at 9:40 p.m. to consider the purchase or lease of real property pursuant to MCL 15.268 (1)(d) of the Open Meetings Act. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to come out of closed session at 10:33 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

**Other Business**

**19. Call to the public**

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 10:33 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call to the public was closed.

**20. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 p.m. **The motion carried (7-0).**