



Brighton City Council Meeting

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON OCTOBER 19, 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, Gardner, Gipson, and Pettengill. Councilmember Emaus was absent.

Staff Present: City Manager Gretchen Gomolka, City Clerk Tara Brown, Human Resources Manager Michelle Miller, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Chief Brent Pirochta, and Attorney Sarah Gabis. There were eighteen people in the audience.

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to excuse Councilmember Emaus for personal reasons. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

4. Consider approval of the agenda

Motion by Councilmember Albert, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to approve the agenda as presented. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

5. Consider approval of consent agenda items

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to approve the consent agenda as presented. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

Consent Agenda Items

a. Approval of Minutes: regular meeting of October 5, 2023

Correspondence

6. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:32 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call to the public was closed.

7. Staff updates

City Manager Gomolka stated that phase three of the Downtown Streetscape project began and expressed the benefits of beginning before phase two was completed. Director Goch also remarked that phase three beginning now while contractors are still on site is most beneficial to completing the project before or on time. City Council and staff discussed various aspects of phase three noting the only underground is a storm structure and detours will be through East Street. The street and sidewalk will be removed and replaced.

Director Goch noted Dunnigan will be in the Northwest Neighborhood to complete punch list items left over from the project in the neighborhood. Leaf pickup has begun, and the leaf vacuum machine will be out starting on October 30, 2023. The utility pole located in the Northwest Neighborhood that was knocked down is ordered but city staff is waiting on DTE.

Community Development Manager Caruso stated the Lindbom demolition has started with the 7th Street side coming down first. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) discussed Christmas lighting that will be more robust than

years past. Funding of the holiday lights will be through individual sponsorships on Patronicity.

8. Updates from Councilmember liaisons to various boards and commissions

Councilmember Pettengill noted the Zoning Board of Appeals met on October 12, 2023, to hear two variances for 330 N 2nd Street for a reduction to minimum lot depth and reduction of rear-yard setbacks, both of which were approved. The vote was 5-2.

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn stated the Planning Commission met on October 16, 2023, to consider and eventually approved a site plan for the MSU Federal Credit Union at the former Big Boy location.

Councilmember Gardner stated the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission (BACC) met on October 9, 2023, and met with artist Erik Nordin, reviewed Hyne Alley, and discussed the sculpture tour and St. Paul pocket park. It was noted the BACC will help plan the unveiling of Decision Pending when it is placed in its new location at the center of the Mill Pond festival area.

Councilmember Albert stated the Downtown Development Authority met on October 17, 2023, conducted its bi-annual informational meeting and heard from the various advisory committees, consultants, and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Albert also noted City Council will conduct the annual City Manager review via a new review format crafted by the subcommittee tasked with developing the form.

9. Receive the Plante Moran annual audit report and presentation

Tim St. Andrew and Philip Femminineo from Plante Moran reviewed the audit presentation with City Council and were happy to report an unmodified audit which means that the audit was clean without any issues. Mr. St. Andrew happily reported the city is in great fiscal shape rating among the top in comparison to other Plante Moran municipal customers.

10. Transmittal of pension and OPEB reporting under Public Act 202 of 2017

Director Gaines presented the annual pension and OPEB information to comply with Public Act 202 of 2017, no action by City Council is necessary.

Discussion

11. MDOT I-96 diverging diamond interchange pedestrian pathway

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to authorize MDOT to proceed with the dual pathway design construction, including the additional \$10,000 stretch as described with the City of Brighton maintaining the pathway. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

Public Hearing

12. Conduct a public hearing, second reading, and consider adoption of Ordinance 605: to repeal article X, "Massage Operations" of chapter 22 "Businesses" and codified as sections 22-301 through 22-325 of the City of Brighton Code of Ordinances

Mayor Tobbe opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. hearing and seeing no comment the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Albert to adopt Ordinance 605 to repeal article X, "Massage Operations" of Chapter 22 "Businesses" and codified as sections 22-325 of the City of Brighton Code of Ordinances. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.**

New Business

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

Motion by Councilmember Albert, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to enter into closed session at 7:37 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, 6-0.**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to come out of closed session at 8:20 p.m. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

14. Consider entering into closed session to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing pursuant to MCL 15.268 (1)(a) of the Open Meetings Act

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to enter into closed session at 8:21 p.m. to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing pursuant to MCL 15.268 (1)(a) of the Open Meetings Act. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to come out of closed session at 9:54 p.m. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

Other Business

15. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 9:54 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call to the public was closed.

16. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Albert to adjourn the meeting at 954 p.m. **The motion carried (6-0).**

Tara Brown, City Clerk