



# Brighton City Council Meeting

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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2025

### 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, Pettengill, and Schmenk.

Staff Present: City Manager Gretchen Gomolka, City Clerk Tara Brown, Human Resources Manager Michelle Miller, Deputy DPS Director Corey Brooks, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Attorney Sarah Gabis, and Chief Brent Pirochta.

**Motion** by Councilmember Albert, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to split item 10 into two items. The two items will be 10 and 10a. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

### 4. Consider approval of the agenda

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

### 5. Consider approval of consent agenda items

**Motion** by Councilmember Schmenk, seconded by Councilmember Gardner 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 December 14, 2024**
- b. **Approval of the 2025 Policy Guidelines for Applicants Requesting Poverty Exemptions as of December 31, 2024, Resolution #2025-01**
- c. **Approval to recognize Veterans Connected as a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License, Resolution #2025-02**

#### Correspondence

### 6. Call to the public

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

Jon Emaus stated his interest in the open position on the Downtown Development Authority and provided a letter of interest as well as resumes to City Council.

Susan Walters-Bakhaus spoke about the Brighton Area Fire Authority amended and restated Articles of Incorporation.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call to the public was closed.

### 7. Staff updates

Chief Pirochta stated the statewide tornado drill is scheduled for March 19, 2025, please be aware that sirens will be tested during this time.

Community Development Manager Mike Caruso stated that the former Lindbom site, now West Village, has been

transferred to Pulte. The developer intends to submit plans soon which necessitates the consent judgment to be updated. Mr. Caruso indicated that the developer would reduce the density and remove some elements on this for sale product.

Deputy DPS Director Corey Brooks stated that the lift stations at Pine Creek will have work done.

City Manager Gretchen Gomolka passed around an Historic Booklet that was given to her by the Brighton Historical Society.

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

Councilmember Pettengill provided an update on the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission. During the most recent meeting, the commission reflected on all the good work accomplished over the past year. The St. Paul Pocket Park grand opening is slated for June 20, 2025. A call to artist is planned to solicit sculptures for installation in the pocket park and various other city locations.

Councilmember Gardner stated the Planning Commission met on December 16, 2025, to elect officers and draft amendments for outdoor storage. Mrs. Gardner also provided an update on the Brighton Area Fire Authority Meeting where the authority conducted its annual organizational meeting by electing its officers. The authority also took the first steps in creating a full time firefighter staff by hiring nine full time firefighters. The authority anticipates this process will take three years to fully implement.

Councilmember Gipson stated the Downtown Development Authority met on December 17, 2025, to discuss finances, next steps for the downtown, and projects.

Mayor Tobbe stated that the next meeting of SEMCOG will be here in the City of Brighton at the police department on February 20, 2025.

#### **Discussion**

#### **9. Alternate Brighton Area Fire Authority Board Member**

City Manager Gomolka relayed that the new Brighton Area Fire Authority Articles of Incorporation allow for each municipality to appoint an alternate member. City Council asked for this come back for future discussion.

#### **Public Hearing**

#### **~~10. Conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of the proposed 2025-2029 Recreation Plan, Resolution #2025-03~~**

City Manager Gomolka briefly described the need for the recreation plan which allows the city to apply for various grants and fund dollars. Community Development Manager spoke about the process and new additions to the plan. Jill Bahm from Giffels Webster was present to discuss the merits and need for a recreation plan and the different ways the city solicited feedback from the community.

City Council discussed various additions and areas that needed revision including civic events, community features, and parks. Community Development Manager stated the corrections and additions will be included.

Mayor Tobbe opened the public hearing for the proposed 2025-2029 Recreation Plan at 7:29 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment the public hearing was closed.

#### **~~10a. Conduct a public hearing and Consider adoption of the proposed 2025-2029 Recreation Plan, Resolution #2025-03~~**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve the 2025-2029 Recreation Plan, Resolution #2025-03. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

#### **11. Conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of proposed Ordinance 607: Chapter 98, Amendments to the R5**

### **Zoning Ordinance**

Mayor Tobbe opened the public hearing at 7:32. Hearing and seeing no comment the public hearing was closed.

City Council discussed the various changes made to the proposed ordinance with staff, highlighting the various changes made to the ordinance.

**Motion** by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Albert to approve Ordinance 607: Chapter 98, Amendments to the R5 Zoning Ordinance. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

### **New Business**

**12. Consider approval of the purchase of a new Flygt sludge mixer from Kennedy Industries at a cost not to exceed \$53,415**

**Motion** by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve the purchase of a new Flygt sludge mixer from Kennedy Industries at a cost not to exceed \$53,415. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

### **Closed Session**

**13. Consider Entering into Closed Session to Receive a Written Attorney-Client Privileged Communication pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, 1976, § 15.268(1)(h), Michigan Compiled Laws.**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to enter into Closed Session at 7:43 p.m. to Receive a Written Attorney-Client Privileged Communication pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, 1976, § 15.268(1)(h), Michigan Compiled Laws. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to direct the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in closed session. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to come out of closed session at 8:19 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

**14. Consider entering into a closed session to conduct a periodic personnel evaluation of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing, pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, 1976, § 15.268(1)(a), Michigan Compiled Laws.**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to enter into a closed session at 8:20 p.m. to conduct a periodic personnel evaluation of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing, pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, 1976, § 15.268(1)(a), Michigan Compiled Laws.

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to come out of closed session at 10:23 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

### **Other Business**

**15. Call to the public**

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 10:24 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call the public was closed.

**16. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TB', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Tara Brown, City Clerk