



Brighton City Council Meeting

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2024

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, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Community Development Manager Michael Caruso, Finance Director Liz Gaines, City Clerk Tara Brown, Attorney Sarah Gabis, and Chief Brent Pirochta.

4. Consider approval of the agenda

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

5. Consider approval of consent agenda items

Motion by Councilmember Schmenk, 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 October 22, 2024
- b. Approval of the 2024 Brighton Ladies Night Civic Event
- c. Approval to recognize The Livingston County Chorale as a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization for the purpose of obtaining a Charitable Gaming License, Resolution #2024-22
- d. Approval of the five-year watershed advisory agreement at a cost not to exceed \$3,387.30 per year
- e. Approval of a Transfer with Outdoor Service (1 Area) and Sunday Sales Permit (PM) for a Class C license – Spirits and Mixed Drink from Grand River Grille, Inc to 8125 Movie Drive, Brighton MI, DBA as Michigan Pickleball Group, LLC; Resolution 2024-23

Correspondence

6. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:33 p.m.

Karen Wirth spoke regarding density within the R5 district and asked that new builds align with current homes to maintain the neighborhood look.

Deborah Teegan spoke regarding the R5 district and new builds.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call to the public was closed at 6:39 p.m.

7. Staff updates

Clerk Brown thanked all the amazing election inspectors on an election well run. All Election Day precincts reported by 8:30 p.m. and most inspectors were home by 9:30 p.m. The November General election brought many early voters in resulting in high turnout numbers that kept the inspectors busy all day. Overall the election went well and without issues.

Chief Pirochta noted that police officers will be at Target for their annual Heros and Helpers charity organization

pairing local public safety partners with youth from under-resourced areas to go holiday shopping on November 23, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. And on November 23, 2024, police officers will be hosting the Cram the Cruiser event to benefit Bountiful Harvest from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at local grocery stores.

City Manager Gomolka also noted that the Chamber of Commerce event, Holiday Glow on November 23, 2024, will begin at 1:00 p.m. with holiday shopping opportunities and fun for all. Santa is expected to arrive around 5:50 p.m.

DPS Director Goch was asked if lines along Main Street in the areas without curb can be painted to reflect the division between parking and walking area. Director Goch noted the line would need to be yellow but will look into options to achieve what is being asked.

City Manager Gomolka noted the Brighton Area Fire Authority agreement is expected to be brought to City Council for City Council's review and potential approval. Snowplow names have been decided by vote and the winners will be listed on Facebook as well as the My Brighton MI app. The winning names are Clearopathra, Clark W. Blizzwald, Sled Zepplin, Betty Whiteout, and Plowmageddon. The city is happy to report that the MML, in partnership with the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation, would like to help market downtown with a grant to fund wayfinding and logo design. More information will be brought back to City Council once an approach has been determined. Fire pit hours have been changed to winter hours from 7:00 a.m. to midnight.

8. Updates from Councilmember liaisons to various boards and commissions

Councilmember Pettengill stated that Troop 350 conducted fall cleanup for several local residents for those who aren't able.

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn stated the Planning Commission met on November 4, 2024, and conducted a public hearing for the R5 zoning district with a public open house with Giffels Webster just prior to the meeting.

Councilmember Gardner stated the Huron River Watershed Council calendar is available for free at city offices. Please stop by and grab your calendar before they run out.

Councilmember Albert noted the Brighton Veterans Memorial Committee will meet soon to discuss and debrief from the Veterans Day Parade. The committee will discuss what went well and what can be improved.

Councilmember Gipson relayed a happy birthday to the Marines on their Marine Corps Day and thanked all who served. The Downtown Development Authority met and approved holiday lights similar to last year with hopes of expanding in upcoming years. The authority also discussed future funds and how they can help other areas of the Downtown District.

Discussion

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

Finance Director Gaines provided an overview of the pension and OPEB reporting pursuant to Public Act 202. No action was necessary.

10. Review draft Ordinance 607: Amendments to the R5 Zoning District Regulations

City Manager Gomolka provided a general overview of the steps that have been taken so far. Attorney Gabis explained what options are available to move forward with the recommendations from Planning Commission as it pertains to amendments to the R5 Zoning District regulation. Community Development Manager Caruso outlined the changes and recommendations that the Planning Commission proposed for adoption.

City Council deliberated at length about multiple family dwellings, duplexes, allowable building types as it relates to minimum lot width, maximum lot width, and maximum lot area, height, units, setbacks, and lot coverage. Revisions will be made and brought back to City Council to conduct a first reading and set a public hearing date.

City Council recessed from 8:00 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

New Business

11. Consider approving the purchase of a Caterpillar skid steer loader and hammer attachment for a cost not to exceed \$73,890

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve the purchase of a Caterpillar skid steer loader and hammer attachment for a cost not to exceed \$73,890. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

12. Consider appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to appoint Caleb Jenkins to the Zoning Board of Appeals. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

13. Consider awarding the contract for the rehabilitation of the Oak Ridge Meadows lift station to CSM Mechanical, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$175,400

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to award the contract for the rehabilitation of the Oak Ridge Meadows lift station to CSM Mechanical, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$175,400. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

Other Business

14. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 8:20 p.m.

Susan Walter-Bakhaus spoke regarding the report associated with the Zoning Board of Appeals appointment in the packet and the appointment process.

Caleb Jenkins spoke and thanked City Council for the appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals and appreciated their support.

Karen Wirth thanked City Council for listening to residents and appreciate their attention to the R5 district.

Jillian Powers spoke as a longtime resident stating that she is not in favor of flat roofs.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call to the public was closed at 8:28 p.m.

City Manager Gomolka clarified the report for the Zoning Board of Appeals appointment.

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn stated the qualifications of the recent Zoning Board of Appeals appointee were outstanding and has full faith in the new members' abilities.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk