



Brighton City Council Meeting

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON AUGUST 12, 2025

1. Call to order

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll call

Present were Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, Councilmembers: Albert, Gardner, Pettengill, and Schmenk.

Others Present: City Manager Gretchen Gomolka, City Clerk Tara Brown, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Superintendent Josh Bradley, Attorney Sarah Gabis, and Chief Brent Pirochta.

Mayor Tobbe and Councilmember Gipson were absent.

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to excuse Mayor Tobbe and Councilmember Gipson for personal reasons. **The motion carried, 5-0.**

4. Consider approval of the agenda

Motion by Councilmember Schmenk, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to approve the agenda with corrections to the address for item 5b and contract duration for item 12. **The motion carried, 5-0.**

5. Consider approval of consent agenda items

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve the amended consent agenda. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 5-0.**

Consent Agenda Items

- a. **Approval of minutes: regular meeting of July 22, 2025**
- b. **Approval of Resolution #2025-21, Approval of the Sale of Alcoholic Liquor, Robert Song, DBA, Maru Sushi and Grill located at ~~6282~~ 8262 Cross Street**
- c. **Approval of MERS Resolution #2025-22, Establishing Uniform Transfer Provisions and to authorize the City Manager to execute the same**

Correspondence

6. Councilmember updates

Councilmember Albert stated that the logo subcommittee met and developed a plan to involve the high school and the public in the logo redesign process, ensuring opportunities for community input on both design and feedback.

Councilmember Gardner noted that a lot is happening downtown Brighton, please download the city's app and follow the Facebook pages to stay up to date.

Councilmember Pettengill stated the grand opening of the St. Paul Pocket Park and launch of the revitalized sculpture tour will be held on August 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. There will be music, light refreshments, and city officials will be in attendance.

Councilmember Schmenk stated there is a new book on the Kiwanis Story Walk along the Tridge in downtown Brighton. The book, Upper Peninsula Fun in the Sun by Johnny Storm is on display now. It is a fun rhyming story for kids enjoying the summer in the upper peninsula.

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn noted the Planning Commission will review the final draft of the Master Plan on August 18, 2025.

7. Staff updates

City Manager Gomolka noted several events happening in downtown Brighton, including Turn Up the AMP on Wednesday. Also city contractors have been contracted to weed downtown flower beds five times throughout the downtown area along Main Street. Painting of crosswalks and roadways will begin soon as the contractor is working throughout the county.

Police Chief Pirochta honored Officer Kristi Bell with a plaque commemorating her six years as the Brighton High School Student Resource Officer. Chief Pirochta also noted that he and City Manager Gomolka participated in the United Ways Day of Caring which helps local residents with cleaning up their yards and other light repair work.

Superintendent Bradley noted that a bid opening was held for the 2025 Road Maintenance Project with consideration for approval coming soon to City Council and that 1000 smart point water meters arrived and are being installed in the city.

8. Call to the public

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn opened the call to the public at 6:44 p.m.

Judy Daubenmier spoke regarding the solicitor's ordinance language as it pertains to canvassers and exempted groups; however, she was happy with the overall improvements from the current ordinance.

Ellen Lafferty announced that the City Council Candidate Forum is scheduled for September 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. The League of Women Voters will be moderating the forum. Invites and a list of questions have been sent to each candidate.

Dennis Nauss expressed concerns he has regarding access to his property via the city's alley way.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call to the public was closed at 6:53 p.m.

9. Mayoral Proclamation: Eagle Scout Chase Campbell

Discussion

10. Chicken ordinance

Community Development Manager Caruso introduced a proposed chicken ordinance in light of several requests to have chickens in the city. Highlights from the ordinance include limits on quantity of chickens, no roosters, coops, inspection, and fees. There was discussion on the number of chickens with City Council asking to allow more than what was listed in the draft ordinance as well as the necessity of permits and fees. The current draft will be revised from City Councils input and brought back to a future meeting for a first read and setting of a public hearing.

Public Hearing

11. Conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of proposed ordinance 610, Amendments to Chapter 98, "Accessory Structures" of the City of Brighton Code of Ordinances

Community Development Manager Caruso provided an overview of the proposed ordinance to with consideration to specific language regarding dwelling unit as defined in the Code of Ordinances.

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn opened the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Ellen Lafferty spoke regarding the newly adopted ordinance and the use of the accessory space as defined in the ordinance, asking for clarification on whether this space is intended to be used as living quarters for .

Mayor Pro Tem closed the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to adopt Ordinance 610 Proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding accessory structures as amended 98-5.164 to say second story.
The motion carried by roll call vote, 5-0.

New Business

12. Consider approval of the ~~three~~ two-year contract for both residential and commercial cross connection service agreement with Hydrocorp Inc. for the total renewal contractual amount of \$119,479.50

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Albert to approve the two-year contract for both residential and commercial cross connection service agreement with Hydrocorp Inc. for the total renewal contractual amount of \$119,479.50. **The motion carried, 5-0.**

Other Business

13. Call to the public

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn opened the call to the public at 7:40 p.m.

Ellen Lafferty asked that ordinances that come before City Council be modified to reflect a gender-neutral tone, rather than referring to he/she.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call to the public was closed at 7:41 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Tara Brown, City Clerk