



# Brighton City Council Meeting

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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON DECEMBER 9, 2025

### 1. Call to order

Mayor Tobbe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Tobbe led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

### 3. Roll call

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

Others Present: City Manager Gretchen Gomolka, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Deputy DPS Director Corey Brooks, DPS Superintendent Josh Bradley, Human Resources Manager Michelle Whitney, City Clerk Tara Brown, and Chief Brent Pirochta.

### 4. Consider approval of the agenda

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

#### Consent Agenda Items

- a. **Approval of minutes: regular meeting of November 25, 2025**
- b. **Approval of the agreement with Brighton Area Schools to collect their non-principal residence operating property taxes on the city's summer 2026 tax bills**
- c. **Approval of the agreement with Livingston Educational Services Agency to collect operating property taxes on the city's summer 2026 tax bills**
- d. **Consider approval of a contract addendum for BS&A Integrated Payments to process electronic payments**

#### Correspondence

### 6. Councilmember updates

Councilmember Pettengill stated the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission met on December 8, 2025, to discuss the sculpture walk planning and Hyne Alley improvements.

Councilmember Schmenk noted that the Kiwanis Club has placed a new book along the StoryWalk at the Tridge titled *Santa's Secret* by Denise Brennan-Nelson, a proud Michigan resident.

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn stated the Planning Commission met on December 1, 2025, to conduct a public hearing for the Master Plan updates, review their regular meeting schedule for 2026, and elect officers for the upcoming year.

Mayor Tobbe reflected on the outpouring of support and warmth our community showed Ed Bambas who recently was the recipient of a generous amount of money through a social media influencer from Australia. Mr. Bambas was affected by life tragedies and the GMs bankruptcy.

## **7. Garden Club presentation**

Lynn O'Shaughnessy from the Brighton Garden Club presented City Council with a beautiful, printed image of the city she took on October 14, 2025, the night that the Garden Club was honored with a Mayoral Proclamation thanking them for beautification efforts throughout the city and the county and for their time and dedication to gardening.

## **8. Staff updates**

Chief Pirochta thanked participants of several charitable events that were going on throughout the county, Walmart for Shop with a Cop and Target for Heros and Helpers.

Community Development Manager Caruso noted that former Detroit Tiger, Brandon Inge has opened a baseball training center near Airborne and MJR Theatre.

City Manager Gomolka noted that the December 9, 2025, City Council meeting will be the only meeting held in December. She also expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to the annual Giving Tree, noting that all gifts were purchased and that several families were assisted through the generosity of City staff and members of the public.

## **9. Employee Spotlight**

Human Resources Manager Whitney highlighted City of Brighton employees Branden Bauer, Brian Lieberman, Deb Utter, Gary Schultheis, and Jeff Kane for their years of service.

## **10. Call to the public**

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:59 p.m.

Giovanna Tessmer spoke regarding the need to repair Woodlake Drive.

Nikolas Hertrich, Mayor of the City of Howell, introduced himself and stated that he hopes to come together as the two cities in Livingston County to promote business and enrichment of the two great cities.

## **Discussion**

### **11. Discuss first road projects to be funded with 2025 street millage funds**

City Council discussed project options for the first slate of roads in the city. DPS Director Goch will come back to City Council with more information on planning and engineering.

### **12. Board and commission liaison positions**

Mayor Tobbe expressed that it is his intention for current liaisons remain on the boards and commissions they are on. However, Susan Gardner will be stepping down from the Huron River Watershed Committee to allow space for others to attend.

## **New Business**

### **13. Appointments to Brighton Area Fire Authority Board**

**Motion** by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve the reappointment of Jim Muzzin, appointment of Susan Gardner, and appointment of Alternate Paul Gipson to the Brighton Area Fire Authority. **The motion carried, 6-0. Councilmember Gipson abstained.**

### **14. Conduct a first reading of Ordinance 612, amending Chapter 78, "Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places" of the City of Brighton Code of Ordinances, and set a public hearing for January 13, 2026**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to set a public hearing of January 13, 2026, for proposed Ordinance 612, amendments to Chapter 78, "Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places" of the City of

Brighton Code of Ordinances. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

**15. Consider approval of Resolution #2025-25, 2026 City of Brighton Boards and Commissions Meeting Schedule**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve Resolution 2025-25, 2026 City of Brighton Boards and Commissions Meeting Schedule. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

**16. Consider approval of a Metro Act Bilateral Right-of-Way Telecommunications Permit and Application for Ezee Fiber Texas, LLC and authorize the City Manager to execute the same**

**Motion** by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Albert to approve of a Metro Act Bilateral Right-of-Way Telecommunications Permit and Application for Ezee Fiber Texas, LLC and authorize the City Manager to execute the same

**Other Business**

**17. Call to the public**

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 8:16 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call to the public was closed.

**18. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Albert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

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Tara Brown, City Clerk