



Brighton City Council Retreat

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MINUTES OF THE RETREAT OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2026

1. Call to Order

Mayor Tobbe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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, and Schmenk.

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

Councilmember Pettengill was absent.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to excuse Councilmember Pettengill due to personal reasons. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

4. Consider Approval of the Agenda

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

5. Call to the Public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 9:02 a.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call to the public was closed.

6. Discussion: Citizen Survey

Clerk Brown noted that the City of Brighton has not conducted a citizen's survey since 2022 partially due to the major streetscape project and asked that City Council consider if they would like to conduct a survey and if so, what does City Council want to learn from the survey. City Council and staff reviewed high-level topics from previous surveys and what other communities are looking into for the upcoming year.

It was the consensus of City Council that staff develop a survey asking benchmarking questions as well as initiatives to be determined. Clerk Brown asked that City Council and staff send all potential question topics to her via email.

7. Discussion: Street Selection

DPS Director Goch presented an overview of the voter-approved Street Millage program, outlining planned and potential road projects, estimated costs, and construction timelines through 2028. The presentation highlighted major projects such as South Seventh Street (Spring 2026), Woodlake Drive, Brighton Lake Road,

and Flint Road, including associated engineering costs, scope of work (e.g., mill and overlay, reconstruction, water main replacement, and ADA improvements), and use of federal aid grant funding where applicable. Staff also reviewed recommended 2026 neighborhood street packages for Council consideration, PASER ratings for priority streets, and a range of preventative and alternative road maintenance treatments (including spray patch, crack seal, chip and fog seal, micro-surfacing, and micro seal/fiber mat). Staff will come back to a future City Council meeting with engineering proposals.

Lunch

8. Discussion: Phase I of wastewater plant bonding

Staff presented a discussion on potential future Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) bonding, noting that a 2023 assessment identified 13 priority projects totaling approximately \$32 million. Staff reviewed the prioritized project list and provided an update on an application for an Emerging Contaminant Grant to study PFAS and evaluate elimination of sand filter systems, with results potentially informing future bonding needs. City Council were presented with three options for addressing possible future PFAS regulations, ranging from targeted upgrades to completing additional projects from the priority list that will be dictated by future EGLE regulations.

Mayor Tobbe asked that staff bring back financing and bonding options for further discussion with grant opportunities in mind to a City Council meeting.

9. 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 Albert, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to enter into closed session at 1:04 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, 6-0.**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to come out of closed session at 3:34 p.m. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

10. Call to the Public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 3:34 p.m.

Susan Walters Bakhaus spoke regarding AT&T PEG fees associated with end user billing for government channels.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call to the public was closed at 3:36 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner, to adjourn the meeting at 3:37 p.m. **The motion carried, 6-0.**