



# Brighton City Council Meeting

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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2026

### 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, City Clerk Tara Brown, and Chief Brent Pirochta.

### 4. Consider approval of the agenda

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

#### Consent Agenda Items

##### a. Approval of minutes: regular meeting of January 13, 2026

#### Correspondence

### 6. Councilmember updates

Councilmember Pettengill reported that Boy Scout Troop 350 has assisted many residents with snow removal and remains available to help others in need. She noted that when calls or requests for assistance are made to her, the Scout Troop typically responded within approximately 15 minutes. Councilmember Pettengill expressed pride in the Troop's hard work and commitment to the community and encouraged residents to contact her if they, or someone they know, need assistance clearing sidewalks and walkways of snow.

Councilmember Albert thanked the DPW staff for their hard work clearing sidewalks and roads during this heavy snow event.

Councilmember Gipson reported that the Downtown Development Authority met on January 20, 2026. During the meeting, members elected their officers, which remained the same as the previous year. The board also approved 2 Stones to conduct the downtown concert series, which will take place every Thursday and select Saturdays from June through August.

Mayor Tobbe stated that he would like to establish a public parking committee to explore public parking options, ideas, and related initiatives, consisting of Councilmembers, staff, business owners, and Downtown Development Authority representatives.

### 7. Staff updates

Chief Pirochta reported that his department has been particularly busy in light of the pending retirement of Deputy Chief Craig Flood, effective February 27, 2026, and the promotion of Sergeant Chris Parks to Deputy Chief, effective

February 24, 2026. He noted that interviews for the newly vacant sergeant position will be conducted in the coming month. Chief Pirochta also reminded the community to exercise caution during the extended period of cold weather and challenging road conditions, encouraging residents to keep blankets and emergency supplies in their vehicles in case they or others become stranded.

DPS Director Goch noted that due to recent road salt shortages, the City of Brighton will be prioritizing hills, intersections, and school zones with salt to conserve. If shortages persist, the city will spread a mix of salt and sand until more salt can be sourced. Notification about this plan will be on City of Brighton social media sites and app.

City Manager Gomolka reported that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will present its upcoming construction plans for the remainder of the I-96 Interchange Project at the next City Council meeting on February 10, 2026. She also congratulated Kristi Troy on her official appointment as City Manager of the City of Howell.

#### **8. Call to the public**

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:43 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call to the public was closed.

#### **New Business**

#### **9. Consider approval of the Hubbell, Roth & Clark Inc. proposal to perform design and construction phase engineering services for the Woodlake Neighborhood Rehabilitation Project in an amount not to exceed \$571,380 with necessary budget amendments**

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve the Hubbell, Roth & Clark Inc. proposal to perform design and construction phase engineering services for the Woodlake Neighborhood Rehabilitation Project in an amount not to exceed \$571,380 with necessary budget amendments in the Street Millage and Local Streets funds. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

#### **10. Consider approval of the 21 civic event applications for 2026**

Assistant to the DPS Director Thomas provided a high-level overview of the proposed civic events for the 2026 event season noting that police, fire, and staff have reviewed all applications for compliance and safety.

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn expressed concern regarding the growing popularity of the Destination Stars Hollow event, stating that it may be becoming too large for the City of Brighton. City Manager Gomolka noted that spreading the event over two to three days helped manage crowd size and indicated that she expects the 2026 event to be similar to 2025, during which crowd size and control were not issues as they had been in 2024.

**Motion** by Councilmember Schmenk, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to approve 21 civic event applications for the 2026 season. **The motion carried 6-1, Mayor Pro Tem Bohn voted no.**

#### **Closed Session**

#### **11. 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 Gibson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to enter into closed session at 7:04 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, 7-0.**

**Motion** by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to come out of closed session at 8:11 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

#### **Other Business**

#### **12. Call to the public**

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 8:11 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call to the public was

closed.

**13. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Councilmember Schmenk, seconded by Councilmember Gipson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

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Tara Brown, City Clerk