



Brighton City Council Meeting

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 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 Albert 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, 7-0.**

Consent Agenda Items

- a. **Approval of minutes: retreat of January 24, 2026**
- b. **Approval of minutes: regular meeting of January 27, 2026**
- c. **Approval for Northern Pump and Well to perform an overhaul and rebuild on high service pump #4 at the Challis water plant in the amount of \$25,000**
- d. **Approval of the Tetra Tech Engineering services proposal for America's Water Infrastructure Act water system risk and resiliency assessment and emergency response plan at a cost not to exceed \$17,800**

Correspondence

6. Councilmember updates

Mayor Pro Tem Bohn stated the Planning Commission met on February 2, 2026, to discuss various ordinance amendments to zoning and recommended adoption of the Master Plan.

Councilmember Pettengill stated the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission received a generous donation of \$2,848 for the Main Street Mile to enhance and further the Children's Summer Series. Also, the commission received a landscaping plan from Karleen Shafer, Landscape Design and Associates, for Hyne Alley.

Councilmember Gardner stated the Brighton Area Fire Authority welcomed thirteen new firefighters and the Fire Fighter of the Year award was given to Ryan Sauve.

7. Staff updates

Chief Pirochta stated that tomorrow, February 11, 2026, is 211 Day which is a resource for non-emergency care and support.

DPS Director Goch stated that sanitary sewer work is being conducted throughout the city as indicated on the city Facebook and app, however, those affected will receive door hangers indicating the day and time of the potential disruption. This work is scheduled for times that most people are sleeping in the midnight hours. The work can be somewhat noisy, but the work is fast so disruption should be minimal.

City Manager Gomolka is happy to report that the city has been notified that we have received 2 million dollars in Federally approved grants for generators at both water and wastewater plants that we submitted for consideration by Congressman Tom Barrett and Senator Elissa Slotkin.

8. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:45 p.m.

Deniss Nauss spoke regarding the alleyway near Leith Street and asked about the progress of the survey review.

Mike Monroe spoke regarding snow removal within the Hyne Street public parking lot.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call to the public was closed at 6:52 p.m.

City Manager Gomolka provided an overview, including several images, of snow removal efforts across city parking lots. She also affirmed that DPW crews serviced all municipal lots during a time of heavy snowfall during the day. Because of the nature and timing of this snowfall, there were instances where snow was not completely removed due to prioritization of streets and sidewalks in the downtown and a plan was made to come back that evening and the next morning to remove the remaining snow from the parking lots.

Discussion

9. MDOT discussion of final year of I-96 Interchange Project

The MDOT updated City Council and explained the progress and next steps for the I-96/Grand River interchange rebuild in Brighton. In 2025, crews rebuilt westbound I-96 and the north side of Grand River, using detours and nighttime demolition to keep traffic moving and reduce disruptions. Construction resumes in the spring with work shifting to eastbound I-96 and the south half of the interchange. This phase will include multiple ramp closures, nighttime bridge demolition, and a series of temporary detours, some lasting about a month or longer, to safely complete reconstruction while maintaining two-way freeway traffic. Overall, the project continues to prioritize safety, traffic flow, and staged construction to minimize community impact.

10. United States of America's 250 Celebration

City Manager Gomolka opened the discussion with City Council about no cost initiatives within the city that can be conducted to celebrate the 250th. She asked if council was interested in her forming a committee of City Council, merchants, DDA, and staff to come together to plan this celebration. More information will be coming soon.

Public Hearing

11. Conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of Ordinance 609, Amendments to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, "Animals"

Mayor Tobbe opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the public hearing was closed.

Council members discussed how complaints would be handled and whether ordinance amendments might be necessary in the future. Mayor Pro Tem Bohn expressed interest in establishing an inspection framework that would review each permitted chicken applicant's parcel on either an annual or three-year cycle.

Community Development Manager Caruso provided a brief overview of the ordinance and assurances that the proposed ordinance has police power but is complaint driven should action be taken. If in the future modifications need to be made, those changes will be through an ordinance amendment.

Motion by Councilmember Albert, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to adopt Ordinance 609, Amendments to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, "Animals". **The motion carried by roll call vote, 6-1. Mayor Pro Tem Bohn voted no.**

New Business

12. Consider appointment to the Board of Review

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve the appointment of Donna Stuart to the City of Brighton Board of Review. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

13. Conduct a first reading and set a public hearing of March 10, 2026, for proposed ordinance amendments to allow an increased number of land divisions under Public Act 58 of 2025

City Manager Gomolka provided an overview of the proposed ordinance, which implements Public Act 58 of 2025 and allows the City of Brighton to permit additional land divisions on a parent parcel prior to the statewide effective date of December 23, 2026. Early ordinance adoption would increase the allowable divisions from 4 to up to 10 parcels for an initial ten-acre parcel, providing property owners with access while aligning local regulations with updated state law that are set to take place in 2027.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to set a public hearing of March 10, 2026, for proposed ordinance amendments to allow an increased number of land divisions under Public Act 58 of 2025. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

Other Business

14. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 8:10 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call to the public was closed.

15. Adjournment

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

Tara Brown, City Clerk