



Brighton City Council Meeting

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MARCH 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, Councilmembers: Albert, Gardner, Gipson, Pettengill, and Schmenk.

Others Present: City Manager Gretchen Gomolka, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Human Resources Manager Michelle Whitney, City Clerk Tara Brown, Chief Brent Pirochta.

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

4. Consider approval of the agenda

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

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, 6-0.**

Consent Agenda Items

- a. **Approval of the minutes: February 24, 2026**
- b. **Approval of the proposal from Carpet Depot to replace the carpet in the CoBACH Building at a cost of \$10,615.75 including the necessary budget amendments**
- c. **Approval of the purchase of a portable sewer TV camera from The Home Depot for a cost not to exceed \$13,497**

Correspondence

6. Councilmember updates

Councilmember Schmenk reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on February 26, 2026, to consider two variance requests. Both variances, one related to a gas station renovation near the freeway and the other for a garage, were approved.

Councilmember Pettengill stated the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission met and discussed various summer initiatives. They also considered restructuring the commission to be advisory, the City Attorney was present to discuss the Open Meetings Act.

7. Staff updates

Chief Pirochta stated that with severe weather approaching, it is important to be prepared. He advised ensuring vehicles are equipped with essential items such as salt, sand, a shovel, and blankets to help maintain safety in case of an emergency.

DPS Director Goch noted that City staff will be vacuuming leaves in certain areas that were missed over the winter; however, residents are asked not to rake additional leaves into the streets.

8. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:37 p.m.

Mark Gatesman addressed City Council regarding his candidacy for Circuit Court Judge.

Dennis Nauss spoke regarding the alley adjacent to his home, noting that a tree is scheduled to be removed.

Dan Wholihan addressed City Council regarding his wife, Kristina Lyke's candidacy for Circuit Court Judge.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call to public was closed at 6:46 p.m.

Discussion

9. Brighton Arts and Culture Commission grant opportunity

Human Resources Manager Whitney presented City Council with an opportunity to revitalize a project for Hyne Alley that proposes transforming the existing alley into pedestrian-focused downtown destination through enhanced landscaping, lighting, public art, and seating, with an estimated total cost of approximately \$72,000 and potential grant funding opportunities identified to support implementation. City Council indicated that it was in favor of advancing the grant process to pursue funding options.

10. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Community Development Block Grant opportunity

City Manager Gomolka updated City Council on the opportunity from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), who administers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to support local projects that benefit low- to moderate-income residents. Staff have identified this as a potential funding opportunity for the city, with eligible uses including infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and economic development initiatives. Some information like identifying a qualifying project, meeting program requirements, and dedicating staff resources for application and administration is forthcoming. City Council was in favor of investigating more details about the grant. Staff will update at a future City Council meeting.

New Business

11. Consider approval of Site Plan 26-01, a building and site redevelopment of 8355 W. Grand River

Motion by Councilmember Schmenk, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to approve site plan 26-01, a building and site redevelopment of 8355 W. Grand River. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

12. Consider entering into closed session for strategy session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to Michigan Open Meetings Act, 1976, § 15.268(1)(c), Michigan Compiled Laws

Motion by Councilmember Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to enter into closed session at 7:27 p.m. or strategy session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to Michigan Open Meetings Act, 1976, § 15.268(1)(c), Michigan Compiled Laws. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 6-0.**

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to come out of closed session at 7:44 p.m.

13. Consider possible action as a result of closed session

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve and authorize the City Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Department of Public Services TPOAM contracts as discussed in closed session. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

Other Business

14. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 7:46 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 7:46 p.m. **The motion carried, 6-0.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk