



Brighton City Council Meeting

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON APRIL 14, 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, Deputy Chief Chris Parks, and Attorney Sarah Gabis.

4. Consider approval of the agenda

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Gardner 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 items as presented. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

Consent Agenda Items

- a. **Approval of minutes: March 24, 2026, and March 30, 2026**
- b. **Approval to authorize the labor services agreement with Dewpoint in the amount of \$12,618 to complete the installation, cleanup, and implementation of the city's server and network modernization**
- c. **Approval of the 2026 LACASA October Glow civic event application**

Correspondence

6. Councilmember updates

Councilmember Gardner stated that during the April 9, 2026, Brighton Area Fire Authority meeting, members discussed employee benefits and reviewed the draft budget.

Councilmember Pettengill stated the Imagination Station Kick Off is scheduled for May 30, 2026. Volunteers will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will be spreading 70 yards as well as cleaning up in and around the Imagination Station.

Councilmember Schmenk noted that a new book, The Big Empty: A Sagebrush Survival Story by local author Kirbi Fagan will be along the Tridge in the Story Walk and will host a reading at 2 Dandelions with more details coming soon.

7. Staff updates

DPS Director Goch noted that the Kissane and Devonshire project started on April 13, 2026, the bids for the 7th Street project came in and the costs are as expected around 1.3 million.

City Manager Gomolka stated that the Millpond Cleanup is scheduled for April 25, 2026, beginning at 8:30 a.m. until 11: a.m. and then the Arbor Day annual tree planting ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m. at the Fairview Cemetery, located at 1001 Flint Road. Tree saplings will be available for attendees to take home.

8. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:39 p.m.

Dennis Nauss spoke regarding the alley behind Church Street, specifically the removal of the large tree that was in the alley and his access to his backyard.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call to the public was closed at 6:42 p.m.

9. Mayoral Proclamation : Eagle Scout Pierce Pettengill

Public Hearing

10. Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of a special land use permit 26-01 to allow assembly use and commercial office use in the IB-Intermediate Industrial Zoning District.

Community Development Manager Caruso provided an overview of the proposed use and Dan Oginsky, office owner, gave an insight as to the purpose of the office as a small business incubator with storage for those young businesses that are too large for home offices yet too small to have a dedicated warehouse.

The public hearing was opened at 7:05 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the public hearing was closed.

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to approve of a special land use permit 26-01 as presented along with the findings as presented. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 7-0.**

Discussion

11. Discuss options for community to provide call to the public during City Council meetings

City Council and staff discussed the recent resident request to allow remote public participation at City Council meetings. Staff discussed logistics and what enhancements would be necessary as well as concerns with "Zoom Bombing" that were experienced during Covid. City Council asked that a survey of like-sized municipalities be taken.

12. Presentation and discussion with the Economic Development Corporation of Livingston County

Janelle Smith from the Economic Development Council of Livingston County (EDCLC) provided a presentation regarding plans and gauge interest in developing a partnership between the EDCLC and the City of Brighton to support local businesses and economic development.

New Business

13. Consider awarding the contract for the rehabilitation of the Woodfield Square Lift Station to CSM Mechanical LLC in an amount not to exceed \$155,107.40

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to award the contract for the rehabilitation of the Woodfield Square Lift Station to CSM Mechanical LLC in an amount not to exceed \$155,107.40. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

14. Consider the approval to purchase chlorine components for the Challis Water Plant chlorine system from Solberg Knowles Associates (SKA) in an amount not to exceed \$61,000

Motion by Councilmember Schmenk, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to approve the purchase chlorine components for the Challis Water Plant chlorine system from Solberg Knowles Associates (SKA) in an amount not to exceed \$61,000. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

15. Consider approval of concrete replacement at City Hall and the Community Center in an amount not to exceed \$78,451.24, as well as the approval of \$250,000 for additional sidewalk R&R along with all necessary budget amendments

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve the concrete replacement at City Hall in an amount of \$49,552.59 and approval of additional sidewalk R&R in an amount of \$250,000 along with all necessary budget amendments. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

16. 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 Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Gipson to enter into closed session at 9:14 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 Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to come out of closed session at 10:32 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to ask the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in closed session. **The motion carried, 6-1. Mayor Pro Tem Bohn voted no.**

Other Business

17. Call to the public

18. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Schmenk, seconded by Councilmember Gipson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk