



Brighton City Council Meeting

200 N First St • City Hall Council Chambers • Brighton, Michigan 48116
(810) 227-1911 • www.brightoncitymi.gov

September 8, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call
4. Consider approval of the agenda
5. Consider approval of consent agenda items

Consent Agenda Items

- a. [Consider approval of minutes: August 25, 2026](#)

Correspondence

6. Councilmember updates
7. Staff updates
8. Call to the public

New Business

9. [Consider authorizing the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission to relocate sculptures as needed to accommodate installation requirements](#)
10. [Consider approving Severance Electric to upgrade the fiber network for the city's Grand River traffic signal interconnection, for a total of \\$64,575, including all necessary budget amendments](#)
11. [Consider appointments to the Planning Commission and Downtown Development Authority](#)
12. [Consider accepting a private donation in the amount of \\$55,208.84 earmarked for the purchase of four sets of night vision goggles and authorizing the said purchase in an amount not to exceed \\$55,208.84 from Steele Industries, Inc. along with all necessary budget amendments.](#)

Other Business

13. Call to the public
14. Adjournment



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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON AUGUST 25, 2026

1. Call to order

Mayor Tobbe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. 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, City Clerk Tara Brown, DPS Director Marcel Goch, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Chief Brent Pirochta, and Attorney Sarah Gabis.

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to switch items 8 and 9. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve the amended agenda. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

4. Consider approval of consent agenda items

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

Consent Agenda Items

- a. Consider approval of minutes: August 11, 2026
- b. Consider approving the purchase of a 2027 John Deere Gator™ TX Utility Vehicle from Hutson Inc. In the amount of \$11,172.76

Correspondence

5. Councilmember updates

Councilmember Gardner provided an update on the newly renovated fire station. She reported that construction remains on schedule and noted that she recently toured the facility. The exterior work is nearly complete, and the remodel is expected to be completed in November 2026.

The September 11 commemoration is planned to be held at Station 31, pending construction progress. Updates will be provided through social media as additional information becomes available.

Councilmember Gardner also reported that the search for a new Fire Chief is underway, with several qualified internal candidates being considered. The Brighton Fire Authority is also hiring full-time firefighters. The next Brighton Fire Authority meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2026, at the Old 23 Fire Station.

Councilmember Gipson provided an update on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). He reported that the DDA agreed not to capture the recent millage increase approved by voters, which will be used to support continued street projects. The DDA also heard a presentation from Karleen Shafer of Landscape Design and Associates regarding the trees planted as part of the streetscape project. Shafer reported that many of the trees are dead, dying, or severely damaged and recommended that several trees be replanted.

Councilmember Pettengill noted that the Brighton Arts and Culture Commission met and discussed the purchase of Shape of Home. She also thanked the DPW who met with the group to repair areas destroyed by skaters.

6. Staff updates

Director Goch stated that paving is complete on 7th Street, however, there are some light repairs still needed and the collars around the manholes still need to be completed. The contractor is hopeful that 7th Street is open by the start of school.

Manager Gomolka stated that financial auditors are on site at city hall and will be on site for up to three weeks. The Live at Millpond Park concert series will conclude September 3, 2026, with Detroit Drive.

7. Swear in of Officer Ty Fegan

8. Swear in of Officer John Ulmer

9. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 6:47 p.m.

Andrea Banfield spoke as one of the candidates for judge. Ms. Banfield provided an introduction and her history in the Livingston County area as well as her background as an attorney.

Eric Samborski spoke regarding various topics in the city, specifically, transportation, Flock cameras, and homelessness.

Hearing and seeing no further comment, the call the public was closed at 6:55 p.m.

Presentation

10. Pulte Homes presentation on financial impacts of requested amendment to Brownfield plan

Representatives from Pulte Homes provided an overall picture of the development, context and background on the current request to extend the brownfield plan, and next steps.

Motion by Councilmember Albert, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to deny the request made by Pulte Homes at 1010 S. State Street. **The motion failed by roll call vote, 3-4. Mayor Pro Tem Bohn, Councilmember Gipson, Mayor Tobbe, and Councilmember Schmenk voted no.**

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Schmenk to approve a subcommittee consisting of Councilmember Schmenk, Mayor Tobbe, and Mayor Pro Tem Bohn to work with the City Attorney to contemplate an amendment to the Pulte Homes consent judgement at 1010 S. State Street. **The motion carried by roll call vote, 5-2. Councilmembers Albert and Gardner voted no.**

Discussion

11. Consider Purchase of Shape of Home

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Schmenk to approve the purchase of Shape of Home. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

12. Discuss repealing ordinance Chapter 22 Article XIII Collection Containers

Community Development Manager Caruso reported on the increasing difficulty staff has experienced in enforcing the collection container ordinance due to frequent changes in business names, contact information, and addresses. He noted that several collection container businesses have provided incorporation addresses located on vacant lots, among other enforcement concerns.

Community Development Manager Caruso asked whether City Council wished to begin discussions regarding repeal of the ordinance. Council consensus was to move forward with language to repeal Chapter 22, Article XIII, Collection Containers. Proposed repeal language will be presented to City Council at a future meeting for consideration.

New Business

13. Consider approving the purchase of a 2027 John Deere 1575 multi-use utility tractor with broom attachment

from Hutson Inc. in the amount of \$52,466.42

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to approve the purchase of a 2027 John Deere 1575 multi-use utility tractor with broom attachment from Hutson Inc. in the amount of \$52,466.42. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

14. Consider adoption of CDBG Procurement Policy

Motion by Councilmember Gipson, seconded by Councilmember Gardner to adopt the CDBG Procurement Policy. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

Other Business

15. Call to the public

Mayor Tobbe opened the call to the public at 8:29 p.m. Hearing and seeing no comment, the call to the public was closed.

16. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Pettengill, seconded by Councilmember Albert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. **The motion carried, 7-0.**

Tara Brown, City Clerk



City of Brighton

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER TO CITY COUNCIL

September 8, 2026

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE BRIGHTON ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION TO RELOCATE SCULPTURES AS NEEDED TO ACCOMMODATE INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

BACKGROUND

City Council previously approved the installation of the 6 sponsored sculptures. One of the sculptures, *Guardian V* (the yellow feline) that was intended to be located on Main Street and West Street is too big for the existing concrete pad.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

The Brighton Arts and Culture Commission (BACC) along with city staff would like approval from City Council to take a look at our existing sculptures to determine which sculptures can be relocated to accommodate this sponsored sculpture to highly visible area downtown without having to bring a recommendation back to City Council for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends a motion to grant authority to the BACC and city staff to determine sculpture relocation as it relates to the installation of sponsored sculpture, *Guardian V*.

Prepared by: Gretchen Gomolka, City Manager



City of Brighton

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER TO CITY COUNCIL

September 8, 2026

SUBJECT: **CONSIDER APPROVING SEVERANCE ELECTRIC TO UPGRADE THE FIBER NETWORK FOR THE CITY'S GRAND RIVER TRAFFIC SIGNAL INTERCONNECTION, FOR A TOTAL OF \$64,575, INCLUDING ALL NECESSARY BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

BACKGROUND

The current fiber network for the Grand River traffic signal interconnection controls traffic flow on Grand River from Challis Road to the Planet Fitness / Caretel Inn intersection. It is over 30 years old and beyond its useful life.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

The Grand River Traffic Signal interconnection network has recently experienced critical equipment failures, leading to localized operational downtime and timing desynchronization. These failures not only cause traffic delays along all of Grand River and the adjacent side streets but are a public safety concern. Many times DPW crews are unable to make the repairs, which requires our contractor to come on site. We have spent almost \$6,000 on these repairs in the past year. Additionally, some repairs are unable to be made because the existing equipment is obsolete. The new equipment is not able to communicate and coordinate with our existing equipment.

After the completion of the I-96 Interchange Project, staff was planning to request approval of a project to perform a traffic study for all of these traffic signals to upgrade the hardware, possibly install more left turn arrows, etc.

Because of the failures we have experienced over the past few months, staff requested a quote from our traffic signal contractor, Severance Electric, to upgrade the hardware portion of the project. Upgrading this equipment will replace our failing infrastructure with modern traffic signal controls and re-establish stable network architecture via the existing multimode fiber footprint. The upgrade will also allow the contractor and city crews to monitor live intersections and diagnose issues remotely, adjust signal timings in real time based on traffic pattern changes due to accidents, road construction, increased holiday traffic, etc. It also allows us to proactively mitigate future system failures.

We would like to have this portion of the work completed now to help to avoid additional failures as well as have it installed and operating before the planned traffic study is completed.

BUDGET INFORMATION

These upgrades were not included in the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year Budget, so staff is requesting City Council approve a budget amendment from the fund balance of the General Fund for this project.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Severance Electric to upgrade the fiber network for the city's Grand River traffic signal interconnection, for a total of \$64,575, including all necessary budget amendments

Prepared by: Patty Thomas, Asst. to the DPS Director

Reviewed by: Brad Shrader, DPW Superintendent
Marcel Goch, DPS Director

Reviewed by: Elizabeth Gaines, Finance Director
☐ Within Budget
☒ Budget Amendment Necessary and In Proper Form
☐ Other _____

Reviewed &
Approved by: Gretchen Gomolka, City Manager



City of Brighton

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER TO CITY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

**SUBJECT: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

The Planning Commission currently has two vacancies

- Jim Johnston - Seeking reappointment
- Jerry Hincka – Seeking first-time appointment
- George Seif – Seeking first-time appointment

The Downtown Development Authority currently has three vacancies

- Andrea Banfield – Seeking reappointment
- Jon Emaus – Seeking first-time appointment (was previously on as a City Council liaison)
- Marty Smith – Seeking first-time appointment

Prepared by: Gretchen Gomolka, City Manager



City of Brighton

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER TO CITY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

SUBJECT: CONSIDER ACCEPTING A PRIVATE DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,208.84 EARMARKED FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOUR SETS OF NIGHT VISION GOGGLES AND AUTHORIZING THE SAID PURCHASE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,208.84 FROM STEELE INDUSTRIES INC. ALONG WITH ALL NECESSARY BUDGET AMENDMENTS

BACKGROUND

In the early 1990s, the City of Brighton established its own stand-alone Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. As the need for officers trained in special weapons and tactics increased, so did the size and capabilities of the team.

Recognizing the importance of collaboration and the need to better serve the communities throughout Livingston County, the City of Brighton joined forces with several other local agencies in the mid-2000s. The regional team currently includes the City of Brighton Police Department, Livingston County Sheriff's Office, Livingston County EMS, Hamburg Township Police Department, Green Oak Township Police Department, and Howell City Police Department. The team has grown to a total of 25 operators and is governed by a board consisting of the Chiefs of Police from each participating law enforcement agency.

Each participating agency is responsible for providing its operators with the equipment necessary to safely and effectively perform their duties in high-stress, dynamic situations. As technology and equipment continue to advance, there is an ongoing need to evaluate and acquire equipment that allows SWAT operators to perform at the highest level possible while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers we serve.

One piece of equipment that the City of Brighton Police Department has continually evaluated is night vision technology. Night vision goggles provide SWAT operators with a significant tactical advantage during low-light and no-light operations. This equipment assists operators in positively identifying suspects and operational targets, navigating safely in dark environments, maintaining situational awareness, and reducing the likelihood of being detected while operating during nighttime or low-light incidents.

The City of Brighton Police Department was recently approached by a private donor who wishes to remain anonymous. This donation is earmarked specifically for the purchase of 4 sets of night vision goggles. At the donor's request, a quote was obtained from Steele Industries, Inc. for the purchase of night vision goggles in the amount of \$55,208.84.

If approved, the donor has indicated that they will provide a donation sufficient to cover the full cost of the night vision goggles for use by the City of Brighton Police Department's SWAT Team operators.

This donation would provide the Department and the regional SWAT Team with enhanced capabilities while minimizing the financial impact on City taxpayers. The acquisition of this equipment would directly support the safety and effectiveness of SWAT operators and further enhance their ability to protect and serve the communities of Livingston County during critical and high-risk incidents.

BUDGET

Night vision goggles were not included in the City of Brighton Police Department's fiscal year budget. If approved, all donated funds would be dedicated exclusively to the purchase of night vision goggles from Steele Industries, Inc.

Any foreseeable ongoing costs associated with the equipment, including batteries and other necessary supplies, will be incorporated into future fiscal year budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the acceptance of the donation in the amount of \$55,208.84 and the purchase of night vision goggles from Steele Industries Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$55,208.84 along with all necessary budget amendments to the general fund.

Prepared by: Brent Pirochta, Chief of Police

Reviewed by: Gretchen Gomolka, City Manager

Reviewed by: Elizabeth Gains, Finance Director (Required for all financial related agenda items)

- ☐ Within Budget
- ☒ Budget Amendment Necessary and In Proper Form
- ☐ Other _____

Approved by: Gretchen Gomolka, City Manager