



Brighton City Council Retreat

Community Center • 555 Brighton St. • Brighton, Michigan 48116
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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL RETREAT MEETING OF THE BRIGHTON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON OCTOBER 2, 2021

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pipoly called the Special Retreat Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Pipoly, Mayor Pro Tem Gardner, Councilmembers: Bohn, Muzzin, Pettengill, and Tobbe. Also present were City Clerk Tara Brown, Community Development Manager Mike Caruso, Chief Rob Bradford, Sergeant Brent Pirochta, Jill Bahm from Giffels Webster, Attorney Laura Genovich, Marcia Gebarowski, and Economic Development Coordinator Denise Murray. There were approximately 55 persons in the audience.

3. Consider Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Emaus to approve the agenda as presented. **The motion carried without objection.**

4. Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 8:03 a.m.

Janice Nier, Genoa Township, spoke regarding the benefits of cannabis to help with cancer symptoms but opposes sales in the downtown area.

Mike Hanzik, Green Oak Township, opposes marijuana establishments in the City.

Connie Robinson, Hartland Township, quoted studies from the Hudson Institute.

Tony Kasab, owner of Jameson's Pub, asked City Council to address parking issues now before it becomes a bigger problem.

Mac Miller, 307 W. Main, opposes marijuana establishments downtown Brighton but supports good planning and proper parking accommodations should City Council approve marijuana in the City.

Kristin Storey stated that parking is an issue but is supportive of marijuana in proper areas with enough parking.

Edward Loniewski spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments the City.

Megan Palmer spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Elizabeth Johnson spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Ken Johnson spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Soujoud Hamade, a cannabis attorney, spoke in support of marijuana. She stated marijuana purchased in establishments are highly regulated and safe.

Theresa Hanzik, Green Oak Township, spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Ron Spanko, Brighton Township, spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Brian Bradford spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Jennifer Smith, Genoa Township, spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City. She is also the chair of Moms for Liberty.

Nic Rossio, stated that the public should be asking why minors use versus taking marijuana away. He stated that exposure is not bad.

Ken Burke spoke in favor of a processing and growing facility in the City.

Michelle Marrficyk spoke in support of marijuana.

Sandra Parker, Stockbridge, spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Leslie Dinkleman spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Nicole Collars spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Susan Topoleski requested that marijuana establishments not be zoned in the downtown area.

Susan Bakhaus spoke in opposition of marijuana in the City. She stated there are LETS buses that can take people to purchase marijuana outside of the City.

Robert Carpenter, Brighton Township, opposes marijuana establishments in the City.

John Connelly, Genoa Township, spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Jerry Griffin spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Ashley Tucker spoke in support of marijuana establishments in the City.

Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public at 9:36 a.m.

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to take a break at 9:36 a.m. for ten minutes. **The motion carried without objection.**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gardner, seconded by Councilmember Tobbe to resume the meeting at 9:48 a.m. **The motion carried without objection.**

5. Discussion and Possible Staff Direction Regarding Marijuana Businesses and Related Land Uses

Community Development Manager Mike Caruso provided a brief introduction and then turned discussion over to the presenters.

Marcia Gebarowski, director for business development at SPARK provided a presentation on marijuana market interest and outlook with comparisons to similarly sized communities. A detailed look at jobs within the cannabis industry has grown significantly over within the United States since 2017, revenue across the states, excise tax distribution, a snapshot of Michigan so far. Ms. Gebarowski also highlighted marijuana licensing fees based on business type.

Jill Bahm, partner at Giffels Webster, examined types and necessary zoning for medical and recreational cannabis establishments. Legal cases, ballot initiatives, medical cannabis versus recreational marijuana requirements and regulations were also discussed. Ms. Bahm also provided considerations that municipalities should look at when deciding to opt-in to marijuana establishments.

Laura Genovich, Foster Swift, provided a detailed legal marijuana overview, described ballot initiatives, and legal challenges. Ms. Genovich provided Attorney General opinions on various Michigan court cases, overview and notable features of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of

Marihuana Act (MRTMA) provision. Ms. Genovich also spoke extensively on various ballot committees that experienced a ballot question and the extensive process that is involved.

City Council then discussed the options and opinions presented extensively. City Council specifically discussed the downtown area, what types of businesses, why do we want this in our community, considerations when zoning given the proximity to freeways as buffers.

6. Consider Possible Action Providing Staff Direction

Combined with the motion in item 7.

7. Consider Possible Action Providing Planning Commission Direction

Motion by Councilmember Bohn, Seconded by Councilmember Emaus to direct the Planning Commission to (1) investigate licensure requirements and zoning amendments to allow two adult-use marihuana retailers and two adult-use marihuana safety compliance facilities; (2) consider locational requirements for these establishments that are not in residential areas, not within 1,000 feet of schools, and not within 1,000 (or, alternatively, 500 feet) of the downtown business district; and (3) work with City staff, the City Attorney, and the City's consultants to refer proposed ordinances to City Council within 60 days after October 2, 2021. **The motion carried by roll call vote; Mayor Pro Tem Gardner voted no.**

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Pettengill to take a break for five minutes at 12:20p.m. **The motion carried without objection.**

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Tobbe to resume the meeting at 12:26 p.m. **The motion carried without objection.**

8. Call to the Public

Mayor Pipoly opened the Call to the Public at 12:27 p.m.

Susan Topoleski stated it is best to be proactive in case of a ballot initiative so the City can limit the number of businesses.

Francis Givens stated that a majority has been represented at the meeting and is a fair representation of the will of the people.

Mike Hanzlik spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Theresa Hanzik spoke in opposition of marijuana establishments in the City.

Michelle Marrficyk spoke in support of marijuana establishments in the City.

Nic Rossio asked City Council to find congruence when deciding what the next steps should be and consider that some use marijuana to cope with traumatic or mental issues.

Mayor Pipoly closed the Call to the Public at 12:37 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Emaus, seconded by Councilmember Muzzin to adjourn the meeting at 12:38 p.m.