

**Birmingham City Commission
Special Meeting Minutes - Workshop
Monday, October 2, 2023
6:15 p.m.**

Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/870466920>

This will be considered a workshop session of the City Commission. No formal actions will be taken. The purpose of this workshop is to participate in a discussion on Unimproved Streets.

I. Call to Order

Therese Longe, Mayor

II. Roll Call

City Clerk Bingham called the roll.

Present: Mayor Longe
Mayor Pro Tem McLain
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Boutros
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Schafer

Absent: None

Staff: Assistant City Manager Fairbairn; Assistant City Manager Mark Clemence, City Clerk Bingham, City Engineer Coatta, Finance Director Gerber, City Attorney Gojcaj

III. Presentation & Discussion

CE Coatta presented the topic. Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner discussion was as follows:

- Commission priorities were to accelerate the process of improving roads and to consider different payment options;
- The City could afford to improve about a mile of road per year since the City pays entirely for the costs of updating the water and sewer infrastructure;
- Based on how costs are presently distributed, an individual resident would not experience a cost breakeven to improve their road versus cape sealing until approximately 40 years in the future;
- In reply to the previous comment, it was noted that individual financial considerations were not the only basis for determining the value of improved roads. Improved roads provide a number of benefits to the residents, and are more representative of Birmingham as a community;
- A decrease in State revenue sharing led to a decrease in infrastructure maintenance in the City. The City should reprioritize investments in infrastructure. Political will would be required to do so, and bonds would likely be part of the required funding;
- In reply to the previous comment, it was noted that the City has made regular multimillion dollar investments into its infrastructure, and that bonds may or may not be appropriate per the work done by the Ad Hoc Unimproved Street Study Committee (AHUSSC);
- The ranking system should be clarified based on the particularities of individual neighborhoods;
- Most residents with concerns about streets are concerned about the street surfaces;
- In reply to the previous comment, it was noted that, even though it may not be well-known, the underlying infrastructure of the roads impacts the quality of the road surfaces;
- The Commission and City administration must address residents' concerns about infrastructure safety and functioning;
- This topic has been studied at a number of levels for a number of years at this point. The Commission should move forward with some kind of implementation;
- The most effective way for the Commission to expedite this process would be to make the budgetary changes necessary to increase the allocation for road improvements in the City budget;
- The roads should be improved per the AHUSSC's recommendations regarding infrastructure,

- longevity, and surface quality;
- While improving the roads would not alleviate all of the drainage issues in the City, it would help reduce them;
 - Large infrastructure projects in the City would likely be limited by available contractors and available materials. Staging issues would also have to be addressed; and,
 - A well-developed plan on this topic, optimized to facilitate ease of communication with the residents, would be a boon.

IV. Public Comment

Andrew Baran made a comment attesting to public awareness of, and support for, road improvements.

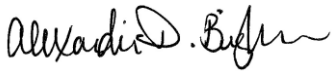
Herb Lawson made a comment in support of the personal, financial, and communal benefits of road improvements.

Staff answered informational questions from Mr. Baran.

The Mayor told Mr. Lawson that Staff would follow up regarding Lakeside's ranking.

V. Adjourn

Mayor Longe adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist