

Birmingham City Commission Minutes
October 16, 2023
Municipal Building, 151 Martin
7:30 p.m.
Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/874942723>

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Therese Longe, Mayor, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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: City Manager Ecker; City Clerk Bingham, Assistant City Manager Clemence, City Engineer Coatta, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, Finance Director Gerber, Police Captain Kearney, City Attorney Kucharek, Department of Public Services Director Zielinski

III. PROCLAMATIONS, CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS, ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS, INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

- Moment of silence for Israel
- Registered voters in the City of Birmingham will be receiving a postcard soon with information about early voting.

Early Voting Dates:

Saturday	10/28	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	10/29	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday	10/30	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	10/31	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	11/1	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	11/2	12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday	11/3	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	11/4	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	11/5	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early Voting Locations:

- Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
- Waterford Oaks Activities Center, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available at the City Clerk’s office by mail until Friday, November 3, 2023 or in person until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2023.

Extra Office Hours for Voters

The City Clerk’s Office will be open on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. for your last minute absentee voting needs.

Election Day – Tuesday, November 7, 2023

All Birmingham voting locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Voters with questions about their polling location and registration status should visit mi.gov/vote, email elections@bhamgov.org, or call the Clerk’s Office at 248-530-1880.

- Springdale Golf Course has closed for the season. Discounted fall rates are in effect at Lincoln Hills Golf Course, which is now open to everyone – no membership required. Visit bhamgov.org/golf for more information.

Appointments

10-237-23 Birmingham Shopping District

MOTION: Nomination by Commissioner Boutros:

To concur with the City Manager’s appointment of returning board members Zachary Kay (business representative in the BSD), Michael McKenzie (resident from adjacent neighborhood) and Sam Surnow (nominee of a business located with the BSD and with an interest in property located in the BSD), as well as the City Manager’s appointment of a new board member, Michele Taddei, (representative of a business that owns greater than 5% of the total square footage of assessed property located in District 1 of the BSD), with each to serve a 4 year term expiring November 16, 2027.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
 Commissioner Host
 Mayor Longe
 Commissioner Haig
 Commissioner Boutros
 Commissioner Schafer
 Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

10-238-23 Ad Hoc Aging in Place

MOTION: Nomination by MPT McLain:

To appoint Jay Reynolds to the Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee as alternate member to serve a term consistent with regular members to expire January 31, 2025.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
Commissioner Host
Mayor Longe
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Boutros
Commissioner Schafer
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

10-239-23 Public Arts Board

The Commission interviewed Elaine Carey for the appointment.

MOTION: Nomination by Commissioner Host:

To appoint Elaine Carey to the Public Arts Board as an alternate member to serve the remainder of a three-year term to expire January 28, 2026.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
Commissioner Host
Mayor Longe
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Boutros
Commissioner Schafer
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

10-240-23 Board of Zoning Appeals

The Commission interviewed Nicole Braddock for the appointment.

MOTION: Nomination by Commissioner Host:

To appoint Nicole Braddock as an alternate member to the Board of Zoning Appeals to serve the remainder of a three-year term to expire February 18, 2026.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
Commissioner Boutros
Commissioner Schafer

Nays, MPT McLain

Mayor Longe
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Baller

CC Bingham swore in the present appointees. It was noted that absent appointees would be sworn in at a later date.

IV. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

V. CONSENT AGENDA

10-241-23 Consent Agenda

The following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda:

Commr. Haig:	Item I – Cole Street Parking
Commr. Schafer:	Item L – Redding Road Project #9-23 (S) Set Public Hearing Dates for Notice of Necessity and Confirmation of Roll for Sidewalk Special Assessment District (S.A.D.)
Commr. Baller:	Item K – Street Sweeper Purchase
MPT McLain:	Item G – Credit Limit – City Credit Card

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Boutros, seconded by MPT McLain:
To move the Consent Agenda excluding Items G, I, K, and L.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
Commissioner Host
Mayor Longe
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
Commissioner Boutros
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

- A. Resolution to approve the City Commission Workshop meeting minutes of October 2, 2023.
- B. Resolution to approve the City Commission meeting minutes of October 2, 2023.
- C. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated October 5, 2023 in the amount of \$1,114,020.01.
- D. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated October 12, 2023, in the amount of \$1,403.677.43.
- E. Resolution to approve the FY 2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant Work Agreement and approve the awarded FY 2023 EMPG/ARPA funds totaling \$30,454.00. Further, to direct the Mayor to sign the agreements on behalf of the City and any required quarterly reports or surveys associated with the EMPG grant and to authorize the Fire

Chief as the sub-recipient authorized representative in order to sign any related EMPG documents on the City's behalf.

- F. Resolution to approve the Oakland County Incident Management Team Interlocal Agreement between Oakland County and the Birmingham Fire Department. In addition, to authorize the Fire Chief to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Birmingham Fire Department.
- H. Resolution to set November 27, 2023 as the public hearing date for the Program Year 2024 Community Development Block Grant Program.
- J. Resolution to install a yield sign on Brandon St. at the Shirley Rd. approach.

10-242-23 Credit Limit – City Credit Card (Item G)

The Commission summarized the item for the public.

MOTION: Motion by MPT McLain, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To approve an increase to the City's credit card limit to \$45,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
Commissioner Host
Mayor Longe
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
Commissioner Boutros
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

10-243-23 Cole Street Parking (Item I)

It was stated that painting the curbs yellow could be considered and that Staff could determine why yellow is used instead of red.

Commissioner Baller stated the City should have a policy regarding how it indicates no parking areas in mixed used districts.

The Mayor indicated that such a policy would be worth consideration.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Haig, seconded by Commissioner Boutros:
To prohibit parking on the south side of Cole St. between S. Eton St. and Commerce St. and to direct staff to install no parking signs in this area.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
Commissioner Host
Mayor Longe
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer

Commissioner Boutros
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

10-244-23 Street Sweeper Purchase (Item K)

Commissioner Baller said he wanted to make note of the expenditure for the public, given the amount.

It was determined that there would be a naming competition for the street sweeper.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Baller, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To approve the purchase a 2023 Street Sweeper from Bell Equipment Company, located at 78 Northpointe Drive, Lake Orion, MI 48359, through the MI-Deal Contract #071B7700091, in an amount not to exceed \$303,647.00, upon the completion of signed contract by Bell Equipment. In addition, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City. Funds for this purchase are available in the FY 2023-2024 Auto Equipment Fund account #661.0-441.006.971.0100.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
Commissioner Host
Mayor Longe
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
Commissioner Boutros
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

10-245-23 Redding Road Project #9-23 (S) Set Public Hearing Dates for Notice of Necessity and Confirmation of Roll for Sidewalk Special Assessment District (S.A.D.) (Item L)

Commissioner Schafer noted this project would be filling in a sidewalk gap on Redding and said the City would continue in its efforts to reduce sidewalk gaps in the City.

Commissioner Baller questioned whether listing items regarding road improvements on the consent agenda was appropriate. He said that increased awareness and discourse around similar items would be beneficial.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Schafer, seconded by Commissioner Boutros:
To set a Public Hearing of Necessity for installing sidewalk, meeting the requirements for assessment, for all properties within the project area on Redding Road between Lake Park Drive and Woodward Ave. on Monday, November 27, 2023, at 7:30 P.M.;

And,

If necessity is determined on November 27, 2023, to meet on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:30 P.M., for the purpose of conducting the Public Hearing to Confirm the Assessment Roll for sidewalk installation meeting the requirements for assessment, for all properties within the project area on Redding Road between Lake Park Drive and Woodward Ave.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
 Commissioner Host
 Mayor Longe
 Commissioner Haig
 Commissioner Schafer
 Commissioner Boutros
 Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10-246-23 Baldwin House Parking Costs to Tenants

CA Kucharek presented the item and answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Baller recommended that Staff’s research on the Baldwin House be shared with the Birmingham Museum.

It was decided that Staff would communicate the outcome of these efforts directly to Baldwin House resident representatives.

The Mayor explained that this effort demonstrated that Staff takes residents’ concerns seriously and endeavors to address issues equitably and with great care when they arise. She noted that \$66,800 would be returned to residents as a result of this work.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Boutros, seconded by Commissioner Haig:
To direct the City Attorney to work with the Finance Director to issue checks to the Baldwin House residents who paid for parking at the Chester Street deck when parking should have been provided free of charge.

Commissioner Boutros thanked CA Kucharek.

Commissioner Host said the equitable resolution was worth the wait.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
 Commissioner Host
 Mayor Longe
 Commissioner Haig
 Commissioner Schafer
 Commissioner Boutros
 Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

10-247-23 Birmingham Towers Construction Staging and Construction Coordination Agreement

CE Coatta presented the item and Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Boutros said he was comfortable with how the agreement was written. He noted that the agreement would also not adversely affect drivers or any nearby businesses.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Boutros, seconded by MPT McLain:
To approve a Construction Staging Area and Construction Coordination Agreement with Markus Management Group, LLC and The Alan Group for the coordination of construction activities related to 479 S. Old Woodward on Hazel Street and S. Old Woodward and to authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

Public Comment

A member of the development team thanked City Staff for their work on the item.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, MPT McLain
Commissioner Host
Mayor Longe
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
Commissioner Boutros
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

Green Infrastructure: Sustainable and Biodiverse Landscaping

DPSD Zielinski presented the item showcasing the city's sustainability efforts on our public property and Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- It would be beneficial to consider a longer-term, natural way of increasing water drainage along Lot #6;
- There might be opportunities to recruit volunteers to work on some of the City's sustainability projects;
- The rain garden in Adams Park is a good example of collaboration between City Departments and Boards on sustainability efforts;
- Providing residents with information on sustainable landscaping and encouraging developers to landscape more sustainably would both be useful;
- This presentation could be adapted for the next DPS Open House and for Birmingham newsletters;

- It might be useful for the City to hire more part-time Staff to increase the City’s capacity for sustainability projects; and,
- The City should enter into dialogue with religious institutions, private schools, and the public school district to encourage more sustainability-minded decisions.

Commission Items for Future Discussion

The Commission asked that Staff and/or the Planning Board consider potential regulations for the newly installed sports court on Lakeside as described in an email by resident Kip Cantrick.

The Commission asked Staff to bring up yellow curbs as part of a future discussion regarding crosswalk standards.

Commission Discussion On Items From A Prior Meeting

VIII. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

X. REPORTS

A. Commissioner Reports

MPT McLain shared that she and Commissioner Haig’s family attended the Fire Department’s Open House.

Commissioner Schafer noted that the Fire Department was selling shirts to benefit breast cancer charity and encouraged residents to purchase the shirts.

Commissioner Haig recommended the City film the Fire Department’s CPR process for residents to watch. He also recommended the City find a way to demonstrate the capabilities of the Police Department drone.

B. Commissioner Comments

MPT McLain stated she would be attending the upcoming MML conference and noted that Maple, the City’s therapy dog, had graduated from training.

C. Advisory Boards, Committees, Commissions’ Reports and Agendas

D. Legislation

E. City Staff

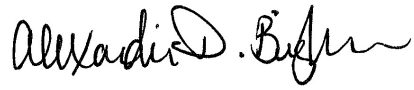
1. City Manager’s Report

CM Ecker presented the report and explained the draft agenda for the upcoming joint Commission-Planning Board meeting.

INFORMATION ONLY

XI. ADJOURN

Mayor Longe adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist