

Birmingham City Commission Minutes
March 4, 2024
Municipal Building, 151 Martin
7:30 p.m.
Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/912465280>

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Elaine McLain, Mayor, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Bingham called the roll.

Present: Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Longe

Absent: MPT Schafer

Staff: City Manager Ecker; City Clerk Bingham, Assistant City Manager Clemence, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, City Engineer Coatta, Parking Systems Manager Ford, Police Chief Grewe, City Attorney Kucharek

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

The Commission motioned to have Commissioner Longe serve as temporary Mayor Pro Tem (tMPT) for the evening's meeting.

Announcements

- Happy Birthday Commissioner Baller

Appointments

Paul A. Eddleston was interviewed for potential appointment to the Multi-Modal Transportation Board (MMTB). While he was not nominated for a regular position, he was encouraged to apply for an alternate position on the Board.

03-054-24 Multi-Modal Transportation Board

The Commission interviewed Patrick Hillberg for the appointment.

MOTION: Nomination by Commissioner Host:
To appoint Patrick Hillberg as a regular member to the Multi-Modal Transportation Board to serve a three-year term to expire March 24, 2027.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, tMPT Longe
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Host
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

03-055-24 Multi-Modal Transportation Board

The Commission interviewed Gordon Davies for the appointment.

MOTION: Nomination by tMPT Longe:
To appoint Gordon Davies as a regular member to the Multi-Modal Transportation Board to serve a three-year term to expire March 24, 2027.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, tMPT Longe
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Host
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

Commissioner Baller commented on the MMTB's charge and on the City's project review process and on the City's good fortune to have Messrs. Hillberg and Davies on the MMTB.

CC Bingham swore in the present appointees.

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

Jim Mirro and Lauren Buttazzoni spoke in support of horizontal directional drilling on Arlington and Shirley.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

03-056-24 Consent Agenda

MOTION: Motion by tMPT Longe, seconded by Commissioner Long:
To move the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item J.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
tMPT Longe
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Haig
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

- A. Resolution to approve the City Commission Workshop meeting minutes of February 5, 2024.
- B. Resolution to approve the City Commission regular meeting minutes of February 5, 2024.
- C. Resolution to approve the City Commission regular meeting minutes of February 12, 2024.
- D. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated February 15, 2024 in the amount of \$3,273,834.74.
- E. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated February 23, 2024 in the amount of \$1,544,386.34.
- F. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated February 28, 2024 in the amount of \$6,148,060.15.
- G. Resolution to approve a special event permit as requested by the Birmingham Shopping District to hold the Day on the Town event on July 27, 2024 contingent upon compliance with all permit and insurance requirements and payment of all fees and, further pursuant to any minor modifications that may be deemed necessary by administrative staff at the time of the event, or event cancellation that may be deemed necessary by administrative staff, leading up to or at the time of the event.

- H. Resolution to approve a special event permit as requested by the Birmingham Shopping District to hold the Birmingham Farmers Market on Sundays from May 5 – October 27, 2024 contingent upon compliance with all permit and insurance requirements and payment of all fees and, further pursuant to any minor modifications that may be deemed necessary by administrative staff at the time of the event, or event cancellation that may be deemed necessary by administrative staff, leading up to or at the time of the event.
- I. Resolution to approve a special event permit as requested by the Birmingham Shopping District to hold Birmingham Movie Nights on Friday June 7, July 19, August 9, and September 6, 2024 contingent upon compliance with all permit and insurance requirements and payment of all fees and, further pursuant to any minor modifications that may be deemed necessary by administrative staff at the time of the event, or event cancellation that may be deemed necessary by administrative staff, leading up to or at the time of the event.

03-057-24 Edgewood Road Project — Contract #6-24(S) Contract Award (Item J)

Item J was pulled by Commissioner Haig. CE Coatta answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- The City uses horizontal directional drilling when the application is appropriate and dispelled the notion that staff was uninformed regarding the method.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Haig, seconded by tMPT Longe:
 To award the Edgewood Road Project #6-24(S) to Eminent Excavating LLC in the amount of \$2,225,421.50 and a 5% construction contingency for a total of \$2,336,692.58. In addition, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City contingent upon execution of the agreement and meeting all insurance and bond requirements by Eminent Excavating LLC. Funding for this project has been budgeted in the following accounts:

Fund Account	Fund ID Number	Project Award	5% Contingencies	Total
Local Street Fund	203.0-449.001-981.0100	\$1,306,002.78	\$65,300.14	\$1,371,302.92
Sewer Fund	590.0-537.000-981.0100	\$703,716.92	\$35,185.85	\$738,902.76
Water Fund	591.0-544.000-981.0100	\$245,701.80	\$12,285.09	\$257,986.89

AND

To approve the appropriation and amendment of the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget as follows:

Local Street Fund:

Revenues:
 203.0-000.000-400.0000 Draw from Fund Balance \$691,310
 Total Revenue \$691,310

Expenditures:
 203.0-449.001-981.0100 Public Improvements \$691,310
 Total Expenses \$691,310

Sewer Fund:

Revenues:
 590.0-000.000-400.0000 Draw from Net Position \$528,910
 Total Revenue \$528,910

Expenditures:
 590.0-537.000-981.0100 Public Improvements \$528,910
 Total Expenses \$528,910

Water Fund:

Revenues:

591.0-000.000-400.0000	Draw from Net Position	<u>\$127,990</u>
Total Revenue		<u>\$127,990</u>
Expenditures:		
591.0-544.000-981.0100	Public Improvements	<u>\$127,990</u>
Total Expenses		<u>\$127,990</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
tMPT Longe
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Haig
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

VI. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

The Commission asked that each Commission agenda include the date of the upcoming report if no report is included in the present agenda packet.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

03-058-24 North Adams Road Traffic Study

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

Commissioner comment was as follows:

- Three Commissioners shared support for the project;
- Correspondence from Russell Dixon was noted as received;
- A sidewalk over the west side of the bridge should be considered.

MOTION: Motion by tMPT Longe, seconded by Commissioner Host:

To direct the Engineering Department to proceed with the final design of the North Adams Road Project from Madison Street to the northern City limits to reduce the existing 4 lanes to 3 lanes, and to investigate installing a sidewalk on the west side of Adams Road to the northern City limits.

Commissioner comment was as follows:

- The City must consider how the project would address the potential sidewalk’s end at the northern City limits.
- An island could be considered.
- Staff should factor in those concerns when creating its project recommendations.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
tMPT Longe
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Haig
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

03-059-24 2023-24 On-Street Parking Changes (Part I)

PSM Ford presented the item and answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- People should be encouraged to park in the decks if they were seeking to park for two hours or longer.
- The first two hours in the parking decks are free. Wayfinding should be used to

encourage people parking for longer than two hours in the decks. The City should also ensure that the decks are inviting. The City should use policy to encourage parking behaviors that are beneficial to the City;

- Ticketing and signage should be used to discourage parking over 15 minutes in the 15 minute spaces. Signage should be used to deter parking in the striped areas on the road;
- While the 15 minute spaces could be trialed, the meters at those spaces should still require payment in order to encourage compliance. To evaluate the 15 minute spaces, the City could look at the number of citations written in those spaces, could see if there is a reduction in the number of instances and citations of inappropriate parking in the center turn lane, moped parking, and accessible parking areas, and observations can be made whether it seems there is less inappropriate parking. Since illegal parking in inappropriate areas is dangerous, adding 15 minute spaces would also possibly reduce an ongoing safety issue;
- There was a concern about the loss of revenue if the 15 minute spaces were provided free of charge. The bollards in the striped areas need to be permanent installations. Given some concerns about present parking enforcement challenges, it may be difficult to add the enforcement of the 15 minute spaces as well. The signage for the trial would cost money and the trial would reduce revenue;
- This was a reasonable pilot program and the Commission would have further opportunity for evaluation in the future;
- The City should maintain easy parking access whenever possible in order to be consumer-oriented.

Public Comment

Jim Arpin, APC member, said the BSD members should be encouraged to provide feedback during the trialed changes.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Baller, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To expand the 15-minute short-term pilot program through downtown, between Brown St. and Harmon, and Woodward and Chester, to the designated 16 parking spaces, to include the parking meters, to make the meters 15 minutes, and for it to be a six month pilot program once implemented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
tMPT Longe
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Haig
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller

Nays, None

03-060-24 2023-24 On-Street Parking Changes (Part II)

MOTION: Motion by tMPT Longe, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To convert all one (1) hour parking meters to two (2) hour meters, except those on Maple between Old Woodward and Chester, and those on Old Woodward between Willits and Brown St., for a six month pilot program from implementation.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
tMPT Longe
Commissioner Long
Mayor McLain

Nays, Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Haig

03-061-24 Establishment of an Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee

CM Ecker presented the item and answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- The committee should have two Commissioners and two NEXT representatives.

- Mr. Koseck's recommended committee structure should be adopted.
- There should be young people on the committee in addition to seniors.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Baller, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To establish the Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee for a term of 3 years, with the duties as outlined in the memorandum from February 21, 2024 from City Manager Jana Ecker 'Establishing the Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee' and the duties defined therein, recommending the use of consultants for design and/or build services and/or the use of an owner's representative as soon as possible, and to direct the City Manager to serve as an ex-officio member of the committee to facilitate the oversight and provision of input on the planning and development of a senior/recreation center at 400 E. Lincoln.

Said Ad Hoc Committee to include nine members or their designee representing two Commissioners, one NEXT representative, one YMCA representative, one architect, one construction contractor, one member of the Parks and Recreation board, one member of the Planning Board, one engineer, and one non-voting student member.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- A report-back to the Commission should occur after every Committee meeting.
- The Commission, NEXT, YMCA, Planning Board, and Parks and Recreation to select their own representatives. The Commission would review the applicants for, and appoint, the contractor, engineer, architect, and student positions on March 18, 2024.

Public Comment

Mr. Rinschler made a comment regarding the Ethics Ordinance requirements for board and committee service.

Mr. Dilgard concurred with Mr. Rinschler, commented on appointing a committee chair, and spoke in support of hiring an owner's representative as soon as possible.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
tMPT Longe
Commissioner Long
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Haig

Nays, None

Commission Items for Future Discussion

03-062-24 APC Letter

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Host, seconded by Commissioner Haig:
To place the discussion of the APC letter and the issues they raise on a Commission meeting agenda as soon as possible.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- This motion would be more appropriately considered subsequent to the discussion of the APC letter.
- Support was offered for the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
tMPT Longe
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Haig

Nays, Commissioner Long

03-063-24 Advertising Board Vacancies

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Haig:
To put onto the next reasonable agenda how to better advertise board positions.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
tMPT Longe
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Long

Nays, None

Commission Discussion On Items From A Prior Meeting

The Commission motioned to review 'Cameras On Vehicles' and 'City Run Events and Sponsors' at a future meeting since meetings are not supposed to run much longer than 10 p.m. on nights with workshops.

VIII. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Advisory Parking Committee Letter

It was noted this letter would be discussed at a future meeting per motion 03-062-24.

B. Shirley Arlington Letters

Commissioners noted they read all of the letters. Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- It was unclear if the Ad Hoc Unimproved Street Study Committee had considered the Army Corps of Engineers' road specifications from the 1940s when conducting its study;
- Shirley and Arlington are unimproved by City standards, and will be improved after the conclusion of the project;
- The Commission and staff know the difference between an improved and unimproved road and the appropriate applications of horizontal directional drilling. Implying otherwise because one is dissatisfied with the Commission's decisions is irresponsible and engenders mistrust.

X. REPORTS

A. Commissioner Reports

1. Notice of intention to appoint to the Martha Baldwin Park Board
2. Notice of intention to appoint to the Housing Board of Appeals
3. Notice of intention to appoint to the Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee

B. Commissioner Comments

The Mayor congratulated a couple on their wedding and noted that Birmingham allows non-resident couples to be married by the Birmingham Mayor.

The Mayor and Commissioners Baller and Haig shared their responses to the Community House's recent survey.

Commissioner Longe noted that parking along Woodward had been changed to 15 minutes, and said it was an excellent step towards reducing Woodward noise.

The Mayor encouraged people to pay close attention at crosswalks.

- C. Advisory Boards, Committees, Commissions' Reports and Agendas
- D. Legislation

The Mayor noted ongoing efforts to pass legislation regarding Woodward, and credited the City Manager and the Police Chief for their efforts on the topic thus far.

E. City Staff

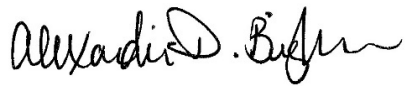
1. 2nd Quarter Budget
2. 2nd Quarter Investment
3. Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority Quarterly Report
4. Torry and Haynes Yield Sign Review

The Mayor recommended balloons for the sign, and said the sign was already benefiting the neighborhood.

INFORMATION ONLY

XI. ADJOURN

The Commission motioned to adjourn at 10:28 p.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist