

**Birmingham City Commission
Special Meeting Minutes - Workshop
Monday, April 3, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/81227727>

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 regarding City Hall renovations.

I. Call to Order

Therese Longe, Mayor

II. Roll Call

Deputy City Clerk Woods called the roll.

Present: Mayor Longe
Mayor Pro Tem McLain
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Boutros (arrived 6:05 p.m.)
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Schafer

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Markus; Assistant City Manager Ecker, Police Chief Grewe, City Attorney Kucharek, Deputy City Clerk Woods

III. Presentation & Discussion

Commissioner Baller stated:

- When the prospect of City Hall renovations were raised in 2022, the Commission was advised that 'there would be no consideration of a new building or facility', while the second portion of the present workshop's report proposed a new \$27 million building;
- Had a new building been contemplated in 2022, he would have responded differently to the initial proposal;
- The topic should have been raised with the Commission once it became clear that the plans exceeded the initial intent and scope;
- The proposed design was the most elaborate of the three design schemes offered by the architect, and the Commission should learn more about the other design schemes;
- This topic, the W. Maple Fire Station, and the N. Old Woodward development proposal indicate that the Commission should discuss how the City should engage with architectural and other firms on public projects in the future; and,

- The phase one assessment report provided insight into the difficulties faced by City Hall Staff, and the Commission was committed to reducing those difficulties.

In reply to Commissioner Baller, CM Markus clarified:

- In the 1990s, City Administration renovated City Hall but did not pursue a new City Hall facility off-site due to a lack of public appetite for such a project; and,
- When it was said in 2022 that 'there would be no consideration of a new building or facility', that statement only referred to the lack of public appetite for a new, off-site facility. It did not preclude an addition onto, or renovations of, City Hall.

There was some discussion of whether both reports should be discussed during the evening's workshop. Four Commissioners commented: two Commissioners said they were willing to see how the conversation unfolded, and two Commissioners said they believed the present workshop's focus should be the phase one assessment report.

CM Markus provided the introduction to the evening's workshop.

PC Grewe introduced architect Aaron Olko, who created the design schemes for the project.

Staff and Mr. Olko took the Commission on a walking tour of the building issues identified in the phase one assessment report.

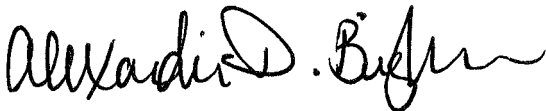
Once the walking tour concluded, the Mayor noted that there had not been sufficient time for Commission discussion. Consequently, she stated that a further workshop session on the topic would be scheduled.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment on the topic.

V. Adjourn

Mayor Longe adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist