

Birmingham City Commission Minutes

Public Hearing on

2022-2023 Recommended Budget

May 7, 2022

8:30 A.M.

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/703118549>

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

II. ROLL CALL

Alexandra Bingham, City Clerk, called the roll.

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

Absent: None

Administration: City Manager Markus, City Clerk Bingham, IT Manager Brunk, Police Chief Clemence, Library Director Craft, Assistant City Manager Ecker, Planning Director Dupuis, Assistant to the City Manager Fairbairn, Finance Director/Treasurer Gerber, City Attorney Grochowski, Building Official Johnson, Human Resources Manager Lambert, Museum Director Pielack, Consulting City Engineer Surhigh, Parking Systems Manager Weingartz, Fire Chief/Emergency Manager Wells, DPS Director Wood

III. PUBLIC HEARING – 2022-2023 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

CM Markus recommended that the public be given an opportunity to comment after every numbered section of the budget was presented.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 8:33 a.m.

CM Markus then gave the introductory comments for the budget hearing.

For the General Fund, ACM Ecker presented the the Commission and the Manager's Office budgets, ATCM Fairbairn presented the City Hall & Grounds and the Property Maintenance-Library budgets, HRM Lambert presented the Human Resources budget, CC Bingham presented the Clerk's Office budget, FD Gerber presented the Finance Department budget, CM Markus and CA Grochowski presented the Legal budget, and FD Gerber presented the General Administration budget.

In reply to Commissioner Host, HRM Lambert and CM Markus described how non-union employees' pay rates are calculated. CM Markus said there is a pay-scale for non-union employees, and years of service and performance evaluations are used to calculate non-union employees' pay rates based on that pay scale. CM Markus stated that HRM Lambert also evaluates the market regularly to determine what those positions pay.

In reply to Commissioner Host, FD Gerber stated that the City provides reports to approximately 16 grant-making entities at this time.

In reply to Commissioner Host, CM Markus stated that a unilateral severance option exists in the contract between the City and Beier Howlett. He also confirmed that invoices from Beier Howlett are broken down by case and time spent, to the quarter-hour.

In reply to Commissioner Baller, CM Markus said there would not likely be any unforeseen impacts of moving the Building Department to Public Safety's budget. He stated that the process of moving water and sewer billing to fees instead of taxes is currently in its second year of a three-year transitional period. He said he anticipated updating the 'Performance Goals, Objectives, and Measures' portion of each departmental report within the next year as part of the implementation of the City's Strategic Plan.

FD Gerber added that the 'Performance Goals, Objectives, and Measures' portion of each departmental report is required by the Government Finance Officers Association Budget Award. He concurred that those could be updated to reflect the Strategic Plan once it is devised and implemented.

Commissioner Baller said that section should be treated as an opportunity to discuss the City's genuine accomplishments.

ACM Ecker presented the Judicial Budget.

For Public Safety, PC Clemence presented the Police and Dispatch budgets, FC Wells presented the Fire and Emergency Preparedness budgets, and BO Johnson presented the Building Department budget.

For Public Works, CCE Surhigh presented the Engineering budget and DPSD Wood presented the Public Services budget.

In reply to Commissioner Host, CCE Surhigh estimated that approximately 400 feet of water main and approximately 3,000 feet of sewers would be updated as part of the S. Old Woodward project. He explained that in the next two fiscal years the City would have the opportunity to install storm sewers that would drain into the river, and in FY 24-25 the Engineering Department will be working on other parts of the City.

In reply to MPT Boutros, CCE Surhigh confirmed that the City postponed its work on Pierce Alley because of the construction at 277 Pierce. CM Markus noted that the City required 277 Pierce to re-do its alley frontage as part of its construction.

The Commission took a brief recess at 10:06 a.m.

The Commission reconvened at 10:14 a.m.

FD Gerber and CM Markus presented the Health and Welfare budget.

PD Dupuis presented the Community and Economic Development budget.

For Recreation and Culture, DPSD Wood presented the Parks & Recreation budget, the Ice Arena budget, and the Community Activities budget. MD Pielack presented the Birmingham Historical Museum budget.

In reply to Commissioner Host, DPSD Wood stated that the new Ice Arena Superintendent position would be necessary to successfully support the year-round operation of the Ice Arena.

Commissioner Baller said he would like to see someone skilled in promoting the Ice Arena hired as the Ice Arena Superintendent.

CM Markus concurred.

FD Gerber presented the Transfers Out budget and the Special Revenue Funds budget.

For Enterprise Funds, PSM Weingartz presented the Automobile Parking System budget, FD Gerber presented the Water Supply System budget and the Sewage Disposal budget, and DPSD Wood presented the Municipal Golf Courses budget.

In reply to Commissioner Baller, CM Markus stated that the City is moving towards a decision on how to staff the City's parking system, with a contractor, new City-hired parking personnel, or a hybrid of both. He explained that the budget currently double-counts expenditures for both City parking personnel or a contractor, and that the budget would be adjusted appropriately once a decision is made. If a transition is made to staffing the parking system with City-hired parking personnel, there would be an overlap in expenditures for SP+ and City parking personnel during the transition phase, and then the budgeted expenditures for SP+ would cease.

Commissioner Baller commented that there would be increased transparency with City-hired parking personnel versus a parking contractor.

ITM Brunk presented the Information Technology budget.

CM Markus recommended that LD Craft present the Baldwin Public Library budget before lunch, with the remainder of the Component Unit budgets to be presented after lunch.

LD Craft presented the Baldwin Public Library budget.

In reply to Commissioner Baller, CM Markus explained that while the Baldwin Public Library's budget is reviewed by himself, the budget and proposed millages are done by Library Staff. He said he had a lot of confidence in the Library Director's recommendations.

LD Craft explained that the Library's construction would be pre-funded by the Library using about \$800,000 from the Library Trust that is either not earmarked or earmarked for building improvements. She said those funds would be used to ensure that the Library's fund balance would not go into the red. She said the funds would be spent as-needed.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 11:00 a.m.

The Commission reconvened at 11:14 a.m.

For the remainder of the Component Units, ACM Ecker presented the Principal Shopping District budget and FD Gerber presented the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority budget and the Triangle District Corridor Improvement Authority budget.

FD Gerber presented the Greenwood Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund budget, the Debt Service Fund budget, and the Capital Projects Fund budget.

In reply to Commissioner Baller, DPSD Wood stated that the approximately \$100,000 to be spent on the Rouge Trail in the next year would be for signage, wayfinding, and entry features. She explained that the initial Parks and Recreation bond issue was mostly spent on improvements to the Ice Arena and initial design work for projects. She stated that implementation and construction of those projects would come out of the next bond issue. She stated that the first bond issue was approximately \$4.25 million with an additional \$100,000 grant from Oakland County, and that a little over \$250,000 remains of those funds. She said those remaining funds might be used for pickleball courts next year.

The Mayor thanked Staff for all of their work on the 2022-2023 Recommended Budget presentation.

IV. ADJOURN

Mayor Longe adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.



Alexandria Bingham
City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn
City Transcriptionist