

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2013 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 151 MARTIN
8:30 A.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

George Dilgard, Mayor, called the meeting to order and opened the public hearing at 8:34 AM.

II. ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL:	Present,	Mayor Dilgard Commissioner Hoff Commissioner McDaniel Mayor Pro Tem Moore Commissioner Nickita Commissioner Rinschler Commissioner Sherman
	Absent,	None

Administration: City Manager Bruner, Attorney Currier, Clerk Broski, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Finance Director Ostin, Assistant Finance Director Gerber, Interim IT Director Gemmell, Police Chief Studt, Deputy Police Chief Clemence, Fire Chief Metz, Assistant Fire Chief Connaughton, Fire Marshal Bigger, City Engineer O'Meara, Building Official Johnson, DPS Director Wood, Planning Director Ecker, PSD Director Heiney, Museum Director Pielack, Library Director Koschik, Assistant Library Director Church

III. BUDGET PRESENTATION

A video was presented regarding the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013-2014.

Mr. Bruner commented that the budget maintains the previous levels of capital spending, continuing to transfer funds to major and local streets, and maintaining current services. He explained that the anticipated increases are due to increases in employee health care, retiree health care, and pension contributions.

Commissioner Rinschler suggested a public review and discussion on employee health care, retiree health care, and pension contributions. The Commission agreed. Commissioner McDaniel suggested a review of revenues as well.

Mr. Bruner confirmed for Commissioner Hoff that the City is funding its pension and healthcare obligations; however the obligations are not yet fully funded.

**IV. DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION
COMMISSION**

Mr. Valentine noted the printing and publishing has increased to include color printing of the Quarterly and the computer equipment rental decrease due to changes in the IT department.

Commissioner Hoff questioned what items are included in the miscellaneous account. Ms. Ostin explained that the various functions which the Commission attends are taken out of the account.

The Commission discussed the amount budgeted for conferences and workshops.

MANAGER'S OFFICE

Mr. Bruner commented that the funding for conferences and workshops has increased as the cost to attend has increased.

Commissioner Sherman questioned whether the building projects could be split over several years rather than deferring them further. Mr. Valentine explained that projects include installation of new lockers for the police department, painting and carpeting of the building department and replacement of the front exterior lights and a section of gutters at the library. Mr. Bruner noted that the goal in the building department is to reorganize to set it up to run more efficiently. He stated it is not an urgent need, more of an operational stand point.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. Valentine explained that the department will be reorganized from two part-time positions to one full time position, which will result in a decrease in salaries. He noted the reduction in other contractual services and in recruitment and exams.

Mr. Valentine confirmed for Commissioner Hoff that the public relations position is divided between the Principal Shopping District and Department of Public Services.

CITY CLERK

Ms. Broski explained that the actual costs for the Elections Equipment Maintenance account will be reduced from \$6,000 to \$2,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Ms. Ostin explained the amount budgeted under assessing covers the contract with Oakland County which is due to expire at the end of the year.

Commissioner McDaniel suggested performance against budget be tracked. He noted the projected numbers are not useful as they are old. Commissioner Sherman agreed it would be helpful to have the actual amount to date with the percentage used.

Ms. Ostin confirmed that the LED lights on Pierce and Merrill have not been factored into the street lights and wage adjustment account. She confirmed for Commissioner Sherman that the employee parking fund has increased as there are more employees.

The Commission discussed the increase to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Corridor Improvement Authority. Mr. Gerber explained that the Brownfield reflects numerous new projects coming on board of which the City is capturing the tax money. The money is reimbursed to the developer for his costs to develop the land. Mr. Bruner explained that the net effect on the City is zero.

Mr. Gerber explained that the developer of 2400 East Lincoln could not develop the land. The City is not receiving the funds from the tax incremental financing to pay the debt, so the general fund has to contribute the amount needed to pay that debt as the City guaranteed the loan. Ms. Ostin stated that the City can reimburse the general fund once the property is developed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Ecker explained that the Master Plan for the City is planned for 2014-2015. She explained that the Historic District Windshield Survey was eliminated from the budget. The survey was a request from the Historic District Study Committee to pay a consultant to look for properties that may be historic and considered for designation.

Ms. Ecker discussed the results of the state review of the City's Certified Local Government (CLG) status. Mr. Bruner commented that he would be comfortable recommending a CLG grant fundable project to the Commission.

Commissioner Rinschler suggested items related to historical aspects be funded through the museum.

Nancy Thompson, chair of the Historic District Study Committee, stated that the Committee has requested a modest level of financial support to carry out its activities such as windshield

survey, plaques on historic buildings, education on maintaining historic homes, and celebrating history. The Commission agreed a discussion on this item would be beneficial.

In response to a question from Dorothy Conrad regarding the Troy transit center, Mr. Bruner explained that the Commission would have to take action to proceed with any transit related matters.

Mr. Johnson explained the changes in personnel include increasing the part-time inspector to a full-time inspector this fiscal year and adding a part-time clerical position in the next fiscal year. He noted that permit levels are increasing.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Commissioner McDaniel suggested the Birmingham Youth Assistance funding be increased as the case load has increased. Mr. Bruner stated his recommendation is to maintain the funding at the status quo. The Commission discussed funding of the outside agencies.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hoff regarding dispatch for Beverly Hills, Chief Studdt explained that he is still testing the waters regarding staffing levels. He explained the state mandated training of the complex operation.

Chief Metz explained that the EMS transport fees are starting to come in, thereby increasing revenue beyond the projected figures. He confirmed for Commissioner Hoff that the Chesterfield Fire Station is scheduled for renovation in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The Commission recessed at 10:44 AM.
The Commission reconvened at 10:52 AM.

ENGINEERING

In response to a question from Commissioner Sherman regarding brick paver removal in the downtown, Mr. O'Meara explained that brick pavers are being removed on Pierce and Merrill, and will be removed around the Park Street Structure. As projects proceed, the brick pavers will be removed. He confirmed that the brick pavers on Maple would be removed once there is a paving project as the curb will need to be adjusted.

Dorothy Conrad questioned the plan to complete the sidewalk on the north side of Cole. Mr. O'Meara explained that it is identified on the multi-modal plan.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Commissioner Sherman questioned what projects are anticipated under other contractual services. Ms. Wood explained that the mowing contract services and Woodward Ave tree planting. She confirmed that funding has been received for median enhancements.

Ms. Wood explained that the ice arena personnel costs are reduced and that the ice arena is closer to a break even. She commented that opportunities have been explored to increase revenue such as off season events. Commissioner Sherman suggested funds be available to continue to make improvements to the ice area. The Commission agreed that the sound system should be replaced in the upcoming fiscal year and the risers replaced in the next fiscal year.

Ms. Wood confirmed for Commissioner McDaniel that the Quarton Lake annual dredging should be added to the budget.

The Commission discussed irrigation at the parks. Mr. Bruner explained that staff is fine tuning the park watering system to ensure there is no unnecessary watering.

Commissioner Nickita commented that the trail system is underdeveloped and overlooked. He stated that it needs to be addressed.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

In response to a question from Dorothy Conrad regarding street funding, Mr. Bruner explained that the Commission must make the decision to raise more revenue or do fewer streets. The Commission discussed funding for local streets and major streets. Mr. Bruner expressed that the City is allocating its resources as efficiently as it can.

The Commission recessed at 11:58 AM.

The Commission reconvened 12:12 PM.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Mr. O'Meara explained that repairs at the Park Street Structure have begun, which will last approximately two years. He stated that the monthly permit demand is expected to increase. He noted that there was a large drop in the Pierce Parking Structure bill due to the LED lights.

Mr. Gerber discussed the increase for water as a result of an increase in the cost of water, personnel cost and depreciation. He confirmed for Commissioner Hoff that the increase in personnel costs is due to the fringe benefits.

Mr. Gerber discussed the increase for sewage costs as well as a significant increase in CSO maintenance. He stated that the drain commissioner has looked at the reserves and changed the categories resulting in additional increases. The Commission agreed a meeting with the drain commissioner would be beneficial.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Gemmell explained the addition of a disaster recovery plan and strategic IT plan. In response to a question from Commissioner Nickita, Mr. Gemmell explained that Wi-Fi is not available in areas of the City that do not have fiber optic lines.

BIRMINGHAM HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Ms. Pielack commented that the budget reflects issues identified from the strategic planning process. She noted the increase in hours for the director and museum assistant and additional items related to collections care and storage.

Commissioner Rinschler suggested separating historic activities as requested by the HDSC should be placed in the museum budget.

In response to a question from Commissioner Rinschler on the burden rate, Mr. Bruner explained that the burden rate will have to be reevaluated with the additional personnel hours.

PRINCIPAL SHOPPING DISTRICT

Mr. Heiney explained the new events and activities introduced while keeping expenses flat. Commissioner Rinschler suggested the Principal Shopping District ordinance be reviewed as it relates to the current mission statement.

BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. Koschik explained that the budget request is to keep the millage rate the same. He pointed out that the budget does not include costs for building renovation and expansion. He noted that the renewal of the contract with Bloomfield Hills will most likely go before the voters.

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Commissioner Hoff questioned the amount budgeted for Barnum Park Phase 2. Ms. Wood explained that the funding is for the continuation of Phase 2 improvements if donation dollars are raised.

Ms. Wood explained for Commissioner Hoff that the funding for the Rouge River Trails will include connectivity of the trails, fixing water ponding/puddling issues and signage.

In response to a question from Dorothy Conrad, Ms. Ostin explained that there is \$400,000.00 left in funds for park improvements.

The Mayor closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting at 1:39 PM.

Laura M. Broski
City Clerk