Birmingham City Commission Minutes
November 17, 2025 Municipal
Building, 151 Martin 7:30 p.m.
Vimeo Link: https://vimeo.com/1137852685

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clinton Baller, Mayor, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Bingham called the roll.

Present: Mayor Baller
MPT Long
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Kolb
Commissioner Kozlowski
Commissioner Longe

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Ecker; Birmingham Shopping District Manager Bassett, City Clerk Bingham, Assistant City Manager Clemence, Planning Director Dupuis, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, City Attorney Gaudenzi, Police Chief Grewe, City Attorney Kucharek, Parks and Recreation Manager Laird, Department of Public Services Director Zielinski

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

Announcements Appointments

The appointment for an alternate to the Design Review Board was pended to a future meeting.

11-323-25 Board of Zoning Appeals

In Carl Kona's absence, it was noted this would be a reappointment.

MOTION: Motion by Longe:
To appoint Carl Kona to continue in his position as a regular member to the Board of Zoning Appeals to serve the remainder of a three-year term to October 10, 2028.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Kolb, Baller, Haig, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

11-324-25 Board of Zoning Appeals

Susan Shacket was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Host:
To appoint Susan Shacket as an alternate member to the Board of Zoning Appeals to serve the remainder of a three-year term to October 10, 2026.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Kolb, Baller, Haig, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

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11-325-25 Board of Review

William Watkinson was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Long:
To appoint William Watkinson to the Board of Review as a regular member to serve the remainder of a three-year term to expire December 31, 2027.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Kolb, Baller, Haig, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

11-326-25 Birmingham Shopping District

William Roberts and Beth Hussey were interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Haig:
To concur with the City Manager's appointment of Beth Hussey and William Roberts to the Birmingham Shopping District Board, as a regular member, a business representative with interest in property located in district, to serve a four-year term to expire November 16, 2029.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Kolb, Baller, Haig, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

Staff Introductions
Hannah Faye Nassar – City Clerk Intern

CC Bingham swore in the present appointees.

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

David Bloom commented regarding the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem election process.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

11-327-25 Consent Agenda

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Haig:
To move the consent agenda Items A through F.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Kolb, Baller, Haig, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

A. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated November 12, 2025 in the amount of $2,406,244.79.

B. Resolution authorizing Birmingham to accept a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), accepting the terms of the project agreement, and further directing the City Clerk to sign the resolution.

C. Resolution to approve a special event permit as requested by the Birmingham Shopping District to hold the Brrmingham Blast on January 24, 2026 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.

D. Resolution to accept the resignation of Bill Kolb from the Advisory Parking Committee, to thank him for his service and to direct the City Clerk to begin the process of filling the vacancy.

E. Resolution to accept the resignation of Kevin Kozlowski from the Advisory Parking Committee, to thank him for his service and to direct the City Clerk to begin the process of filling the vacancy.

F. Resolution to approve an amended agreement with ASI Signage Innovations to extend the term through June 30, 2026 for wayfinding signage fabrication and installation services and to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the extension on behalf of the City.

VI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CM Ecker presented the report.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

11-328-25 Public Hearing - 2026-2027 Community Development Block Grant Application

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:59 p.m.

FD Chavez presented the item.

Seeing no public comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

Staff answered an informational question from the Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Longe, seconded by Long:
To approve the Program Year 2026 Community Development Block Grant application with the following projects and respective allocations:

		Approved 2026-2027**
1.	Public Services – Yard Services	$ 5,107
2.	Remove Architectural Barriers – Museum Park	$ 28,945
	TOTAL	$ 34,052

and to authorize the City Manager to sign the application, conflict of interest certification, affidavit of compliance, sub recipient agreement (when available), and other documents resulting from this application on behalf of the City and submit the documents to Oakland County.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Kolb, Baller, Haig, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

11-329-25 Poppleton Park Playground Improvements

PRM Laird, Lance Shipman of Penchura, and DPSD Zielinski presented the item and answered informational questions from the Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Longe, seconded by Haig:
To approve the playground layout design for Poppleton Park and purchase of playground equipment through Landscape Structures, Inc. with Sourcewell cooperative purchase pricing in

the amount of $516,164.35, and the installation of the equipment, accessible pathways and site furnishings by Penchura, LLC in the amount of $1,194,957.08 for a total purchase price not to exceed $1,711,121.43.

Commissioners raised the following points during discussion of the motion:

- This was a beautiful design, and this project would help deliver on the promises made as part of the Parks bond in 2020.
- Costs for this project rose since they were projected in 2019.
- In order to reduce costs, a proposed splashpad has been removed from Parks programming, and the Springdale Golf Course irrigation improvements were paid for out of the golf courses' enterprise fund.
- While this is higher than was budgeted, there is room within the Parks bond funds that can go towards this project. Other opportunities to reallocate funds may be available as well.
- The Parks and Recreation Board (PR Board) and staff did an excellent job of appropriately integrating community feedback into the plans. It was appropriate to go with the colors preferred by the residents.
- These plans are very inclusive.
- The visual aspect should not be a concern, as a number of trees in Poppleton are significantly taller than the intended structure.
- The restrooms would be serviced regularly, staff evaluated the best location options, and the restrooms would likely be screened.

Public Comment
Patty Blair commented regarding the structure and the proposed restroom location.

In addition, to appropriate and amend the 2025-2026 budget as follows:

Park System Construction Fund		
Revenues		
Draw from Fund balance	408.0-000.000-400.0000	$711,121.43
Expenditures		
Park System Construction Fund, Land Improvements	408.2-901.751-979.0000	$711,121.43

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Kolb, Baller, Haig, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

11-330-25 Poppleton Park Playground Improvements (Part II)

Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Longe:
To adopt a resolution to approve the design and installation of the five (5) parallel ADA parking spaces "Option D" along Oxford Street, as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board. Funding is available in the Parks, Other Contractual Services account #101.0-751-000.811.0000 for a not to exceed amount of $80,000.

Commissioners raised the following points during discussion of the motion:

- The PR Board elected to prioritize accessible parking as part of these plans. Individuals able to use regular parking would likely be sufficiently served by the on-street parking along Oxford.
- Parallel spaces are a better option than angled spaces because they are less destructive and do not require the removal of trees.
- Alternatively, angled parking spaces may be more appropriate to accommodate the potential popularity of the park.
- Since all of the proposed angled parking would be accessible, it would not increase the amount of parking available to able-bodied park visitors. Angled parking was also less popular with the neighborhood residents and the PR Board. There was concern that angled parking would impact the residential experience of the park as well.

- It might be possible to increase the amount of parallel parking as a compromise. It might also be appropriate to explore extending the nearby sidewalk to the parking area.
- While there was some concern about parking for the park spilling over onto nearby residential streets, the most appropriate initial approach would likely be to increase signage and monitor the conditions.
- Providing a drop off space and wayfinding signage due to the park's potential popularity would likely also be appropriate.
- Creating parallel parking spaces could create the visual experience of a widened street, which may encourage increased driving speeds.
- Commission consensus was that a drop off space should be explored.
- The Multi-Modal Transportation Board's input on these plans are necessary, and so the City should expedite its reinstatement.
- Poppleton presently has a fair amount of available parking.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Kolb, Baller, Haig, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

11-331-25 Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 2 – Administration, Article II. - City Commission, Sec. 2-29. – Time and location of meetings

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

Commissioners raised the following points during discussion:

- It could be appropriate to shift the start time to 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.
- Making the meetings any earlier than 7:00 p.m. could limit time for workshops, and could make it more difficult for Commissioners with full time jobs.
- Birmingham Public School Board meetings begin at 7:00 p.m., and presumably are scheduled with younger and working families in mind. If they are able to begin at 7:00 p.m., that may be an appropriate time for the Commission to start as well.
- Meetings should run as long as necessary as it takes to complete business.
- Allowing Commission meetings to run into the early morning hours may impact resident participation. It also negatively impacts applicants and other community members speaking later in the meeting.
- Changing the start time will not make a significant difference. Limiting each agenda topic to a certain amount of time may do more to shorten meetings.
- If Commissioners pursue answers from staff about items before meetings, that could help shorten meetings.
- Sometimes it will still be necessary to ask questions and discuss items during a meeting. Discussions often allow different ideas to emerge.
- Making motions before entering into discussion can help focus the discussion on the item.
- The Commission is usually tasked with approving or denying a proposed motion. Doing more could be seen as micromanaging the City administration.
- Staff are impacted by late meetings. Staff are allowed to attend Commission meetings via Zoom.
- Commissioners could focus on being more efficient in their comments.
- An end time of 11:30 p.m. or 12 a.m. with the option to extend by majority vote could be appropriate.

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Haig:
To adopt an ordinance amendment to Chapter 2 – Administration, Article II. - City Commission, Sec. 2-29. – Time and location of meetings, which will now change regular City Commission meetings to be from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. with the option of a majority vote of the Commission to extend past midnight in 30 minute increments.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Kolb, Baller, Haig, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

Commission Items for Future Discussion

11-332-25 Minutes

MOTION: Motion by Host, seconded by Kolb:
To discuss at the next reasonable opportunity directing staff to use AI to help with the minutes for our meetings.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Kozlowski, Haig, Kolb, Host
Nays: Longe, Baller

Commission Discussion On Items From A Prior Meeting

None

11-333-25 Closed Session Pursuant to MCL § 15.268, Sec.8(1)(d) of the Open Meetings Act

Commissioner Haig noted his recusal from discussion of the item.

MOTION: Motion by Longe, seconded by Long:
To meet in closed session pursuant to MCL § 15.268, Sec.8(1)(d) of the Open Meetings Act to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Haig, Kolb, Baller, Kozlowski, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

11-334-25 Closed Session Pursuant to MCL § 15.268 Sec. 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act

Commissioner Haig noted his recusal from discussion of the item.

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Host:
To meet in closed session pursuant to MCL § 15.268 Sec. 8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss a written attorney/client privileged communication.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Haig, Kolb, Baller, Kozlowski, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

11-335-25 Closed Session Pursuant to MCL § 15.268, Sec.8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act

MOTION: Motion by Longe, seconded by Long:
To meet in closed session pursuant to MCL § 15.268, Sec.8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss pending litigation entitled Paul Wells v City of Birmingham, et al, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Court Case No. 2:25-cv-13640-TGB-APP.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Haig, Kolb, Baller, Kozlowski, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

The Commission went into closed session at 10:07 p.m.

The Commission returned from closed session at 11:19 p.m.

IX. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

X. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Communication regarding Community House
B. Communication regarding Teuta

XI. REPORTS

A. Commissioner Reports
   1. Notice of intention to appoint to the Advisory Parking Committee
B. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Haig thanked Commissioner Longe for her service as Mayor.

Commissioner Host advocated for leaving the 48th District Court.

The Mayor affirmed the Commission's intent to utilize every available means to ensure that the Community House building remains a community asset.

C. Advisory Boards, Committees, Commissions' Reports and Agendas
D. Legislation
E. City Staff
   1. 1Q Financial

FD Chavez answered an informational question from the Commission.

   2. 1Q Investment
   3. 34350 Woodward Avenue – Fred Lavery – Preliminary Construction Schedule

Commissioner Haig noted that the provided information did not entail when construction would close particular streets.

INFORMATION ONLY

XII. ADJOURN

The Commission motioned to adjourn at 11:22 p.m.

Alexandria D. Bingham

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist