Birmingham City Commission Minutes
May 19, 2025
Municipal Building, 151 Martin
7:30 p.m.
Vimeo Link: https://vimeo.com/1085857355

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

II. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Bingham called the roll.

Present: Mayor Longe
MPT Baller
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Schafer

Absent: Commissioner Emerine
Commissioner Haig

Staff: City Manager Ecker; City Clerk Bingham, Police Sergeant Bouchard, Detective Sergeant Buttigieg, Parking Enforcement Officer Castillo, Finance Director Chavez, Assistant City Manager Clemence, Police Records Clerk Davis, Planning Director Dupuis, Police Lieutenant Faes, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, Parking Services Manager Ford, City Attorney Gaudenzi, Police Chief Grewe, Dispatcher Hicks, Police Sergeant Husted, Parking Operations Manager Jay, Parking Enforcement Kashouty, Police Captain Koch, Police Officer Krumm, Police Lieutenant Linke, Police Officer Macumber, Police Sergeant McCanham, Task Force Officer McIntyre, Dispatcher Misiak, Police Sergeant Parades, Police Officer Pranger, Police Auxiliary Officer Sanfilippo, Police Lieutenant Springer, Police Sergeant Syts, Police Officer Toma, Police Captain Wald, Police Officer Whipple, Police Officer Williams, Detective Sergeant Zale

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

Announcements

Senator McMorrow - Legislative Update

Proclamation in recognition of National Public Works Week

Proclamation in recognition of National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Congratulations on the successful DPS Open House, Ice Show, and Birmingham Hometown Parade.

Appointments

Introduction and Swearing in of New Police Department Personnel and Promotions / 2024 Departmental Awards and Citations

1. Introduction of new members to the Police Department
    i. Parking Enforcement Gary Kashouty
    ii. Parking Enforcement Jocelyn Castillo
    iii. Dispatcher Taylor Hicks
    iv. Police Officer D'Lawrence Williams
    v. Police Officer George Toma
    vi. Auxiliary Officer Anthony Sanfilippo
2. Promotions
    i. Sergeant Stefan Syts
    ii. Lieutenant Rebekah Springer
3. Certificate of Merit
    i. Capt. Christopher Koch
    ii. Det. Sgt. David Buttigieg
    iii. Sgt. Anthony Parades
    iv. Ofc. Brent Macumber
    v. Sgt. Joshua Husted
    vi. Sgt. Joshua Bouchard
    vii. Ofc. Michael Pranger
    viii. Disp. Joseph Misiak
    ix. Lt. Rebekah Springer
    x. Sgt. Kyle McCanham
    xi. Lt. Alex Linke
4. Community Service Award
    i. Lt. Raymond Faes
    ii. Disp. Joseph Misiak
5. Departmental Citation
    i. Ofc. Jeffrey Whipple
    ii. Det. Sgt. Jordan Zale
    iii. Ofc. Michael Pranger
6. Chief's Recognition Award
    i. Capt. Greg Wald
    ii. Ofc. Michael Pranger
    iii. Ofc. Nicholas Krumm
7. Civilian of the Year
    i. Jennifer Davis
8. Officer of the Year
    i. TFO. Scott McIntyre

05-183-25 Board of Building Trades Appeals

Bradley H. Klein was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Long:
To appoint Bradley H. Klein to the Board of Building Trades Appeals as a regular member to serve a three-year term expiring May 23, 2028.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

05-184-25 Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Mr. Awdey was absent. It was noted this would be a reappointment.

MOTION: Motion by Baller:
To concur with the Mayor's appointment of Harry Awdey as a regular member to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to serve a three-year term to expire May 23, 2028.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

05-185-25 Housing Board of Appeals

Robert E. Taylor, Jr. was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Long:
To appoint Robert E. Taylor, Jr. as a regular member to the Housing Board of Appeals to serve a three-year term to expire May 4, 2028.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

CC Bingham swore in the present appointees.

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

V. CONSENT AGENDA

05-186-25 Consent Agenda

MOTION: Motion by Baller, seconded by Long:
To move the consent agenda.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long

Nays: None

A. Resolution to approve the City Commission meeting minutes for the April 26, 2025 Budget Hearing.

B. Resolution to approve the City Commission workshop meeting minutes of May 5, 2025.

C. Resolution to approve the City Commission regular meeting minutes of May 5, 2025.

D. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated May 8, 2025 in the amount of $949,886.90.

E. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated May 15, 2025 in the amount of $1,579,210.78.

F. Resolution to set a public hearing date of June 23, 2025 to consider the Special Land Use Permit Amendment, Final Site Plan & Design Review application for 185 N. Old Woodward, to permit the modification of the current approved outdoor dining facility in front of the building and increase the number of seats from 4 to 22.

G. Resolution to set a public hearing date of June 23, 2025 to consider the lot division of 1829 Norfolk resulting in two new parcels.

H. Resolution to set the public hearing to Confirm the Assessment Roll for the installation of cape seal treatment within the project area on Wimbleton Drive from Woodward Ave. to Oxford Road, Abbey Street from Wimbleton south to the dead end, and Twin Oaks Lane from Wimbleton north to the dead end on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 7:30 P.M.

I. Resolution to authorize the City Clerk to complete the Local Approval Notice at the request of Big Rock Chophouse Ventures, LLC, and to approve the transfer of the Class C Liquor License, with Sunday Sales (AM and PM) Permit, 3 additional bar permits, outdoor service area permit (4 areas), and Dance/Entertainment permit from MLCC, LLC. to Big Rock Chophouse Ventures, LLC. that will be located at 245 S. Eton St., Birmingham, Oakland County, MI.

J. Resolution to accept the resignation of Charles Heid from the Architectural Review Committee, to thank him for his service and to direct the City Clerk to begin the process of filling the vacancy.

VI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

May City Manager's Report

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

05-187-25 Public Hearing for 115 Willits – e Fiore (Formerly Mare Mediterranean) – Special Land Use Permit Amendment (Ownership Change)

Mayor Longe opened the public hearing at 8:43 p.m.

PD Dupuis presented the item. Staff answered informational questions from the public.

Kelly Allen, attorney, spoke on behalf of the application.

Seeing no public comment, Mayor Longe closed the public hearing at 8:48 p.m.

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Host:
To approve the Special Land Use Permit Amendment for 115 Willits – e Fiore – to transfer ownership and update the Special Land Use Permit with the new owner, Abruzzese Hospitality, LLC.

AND

To make a motion adopting a resolution to authorize the City Clerk to complete the Local Approval Notice at the request of Abruzzese Hospitality, LLC. To approve the request for a transfer of ownership of the Class C liquor license, with Sunday sales, outdoor service area, dance and entertainment permit from Birmingham Omni Hospitality, LLC to Abruzzese Hospitality, LLC that will be located at the same address.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

05-188-25 Public Hearing for Renewal of Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement with Comcast

Mayor Longe opened the public hearing at 8:51 p.m.

CA Gaudenzi presented the item.

Seeing no public comment, Mayor Longe closed the public hearing at 8:52 p.m.

MOTION: Motion by Baller, seconded by Long:
To make a motion adopting a resolution after the public hearing has been conducted to approve the Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement with Comcast; and further to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

05-189-25 2025-2026 Budget Appropriations Resolution

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

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- Staff's work on this item was appreciated, and the changes based on Commission feedback were also appreciated.
- A number of roads in the City have poor surfaces, even if they have adequate underground infrastructure.
- It is an upcoming Commission agenda item to discuss the road improvement algorithm.
- Cole is a commonly used road, and has a particularly bad surface. Repairing Cole's surface will demonstrate to residents that the City is working to address poor road surface conditions while maintaining fiscal responsibility.
- The repairs to Oakland Ave will be welcome. More visible signage or warnings of the construction need to be provided both heading to and coming from Woodward, because presently the situation seems to be confusing to some drivers.

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Host:
To make a motion to adopt the following budget appropriations resolution and establishing the total number of mills for ad valorem property taxes to be levied for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, which includes the budget appropriations set forth on pages four through 11 of the agenda packet.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- The City Manager has submitted the budget for FY 2025-2026, the Commission has reviewed it, the Commission held a public hearing on the budget, and has now made a motion to approve it.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

05-190-25 Water/Sewer Rate Changes for 2025-2026

FD Chavez presented the item and answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- It would be helpful to know how much total money the $1.34 increase/month for infrastructure improvements will generate in total.
- The cost increase to fund infrastructure is beneficial because it does not move the City towards the Headlee limit. It also aligns with present legal requirements.
- Since a good deal of the City's water and sewer infrastructure is aged enough to cause safety concerns, rate increases beyond 6-7% may be appropriate in order to increase the speed with which water and sewer improvements can be undertaken.
- Residents should understand that rate increases may or may not be limited in the future, as the City is not receiving money from the federal government to conduct these repairs.

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Host:
To amend the Schedule of Fees, Charges, Bonds and Insurance for changes in water, sewer, storm water, industrial surcharge, and industrial waste control charge rates effective for bills with read dates on or after July 1, 2025.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

05-191-25 Parking Garage Schematic Design Review – Chester Garage

PSM Ford introduced the item. The team from BCT Design Group and staff presented the item. Informational questions from the Commission were answered.

Commissioner comments were as follows:
- It would be necessary to ensure that murals be added to Chester around the same time the other aesthetic improvements are made. If this does not occur, the walls should be painted to align with Chester's color scheme in the interim.
- Once a schematic design is approved, artist submissions should be solicited.
- It should be determined who in the City would have the final decision on the mural designs.
- The specific mural locations need to be clarified.
- It will be important to continue regular cleaning of the garages in order to maintain the aesthetic experience.
- Each parking deck's murals could have a different theme.
- The Public Arts Board would have to undertake soliciting the murals and possibly designating each parking deck with a theme.
- Banner location should be selected based on the amount of visibility.
- These plans were very well done.
- The lighting plan would need to be adjusted based on the number of selected mural locations.
- Some value engineering could possibly occur. The entry, first floor, stairwells, and exterior may be higher priorities than having murals in more remote parts of the garage.
- It would have been helpful if the presentation had more illustrations.
- There is trust, generally, in the team's recommendations because the Commission has been impressed with the team thus far.
- The Commission generally approved of the designs. Staff would guide the next steps in the implementation process. Implementation should be carried out promptly and cost-effectively.
- A proposed mural plan with location, size, lighting, and alternate color should be provided.
- 10-20 murals per deck is likely too many.

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Schafer:
To approve BCT Design Group to complete the Schematic Design phase of the Interior/Exterior Parking Garage Design Services Project with the inclusion of the City Commission's feedback and direction.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

05-192-25 Birmingham Wayfinding & Gateway Signage Fabrication and Installation – ASI Signage Innovations Agreement Extension & Phase 1 Electrification

PD Dupuis presented the item.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- Lit signs are important.

MOTION: Motion by Baller, seconded by Host:
To approve an amended agreement with ASI Signage Innovations to extend the term through November 10, 2025 for wayfinding signage fabrication and installation services and to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the extension on behalf of the City. In addition, to approve a modification to the agreement with ASI Signage Innovations for wayfinding electrification in an amount not to exceed $42,312 from account # 101.0-701.000-981.0100 and further, to approve the appropriations and amendment to the General Fund budget as follows:

Revenues:
Draw from Fund Balance 101.0-000.000-400.0000
$42,312

Expenses:
Capital Outlay (Public Improvements) 101.0-701.000-981.0100
$42,312

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

Condemnation of Oakland County Board of Commissioners Resolution #2025-5051

CM Ecker presented the item.

Commissioners raised the following points during discussion:

- The language used was based on a template offered by another impacted community. Birmingham made some edits for its own recommended version.
- It would be appropriate to wait until the reasoning was explained.
- The Commission had time to pend any potential action until it could hear from County Commissioner Cavell on June 9, 2025.

The City Commission took no action.

Commission Items for Future Discussion

05-193-25 Subsidized Parking for Employees of Certain Categories of Businesses

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Host:
To provide some kind of subsidy for people who are working in the City.

Commissioner comments were as follows:

- It would be necessary to discuss how to distinguish between different types of employees and employers within the City.

VOICE VOTE
Ayes: Schafer, Baller, Host, Longe, Long
Nays: None

Commission Discussion On Items From A Prior Meeting

1. Resident Survey - pended to the next meeting

IV. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

X. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Communications regarding the Birmingham Community and Senior Center
B. Communications regarding Wimbleton
C. Communications regarding Bird
D. Communication regarding Leaf Blowers

XI. REPORTS

A. Commissioner Reports
   1. Notice of intention to appoint to the Architectural Review Committee
   2. Notice of intention to appoint to the Historic District Study Committee
   3. Notice of intention to appoint to the Board of Zoning Appeals

B. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Baller reported back from the 'How Water Works' seminar given by the office of the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner, noted Commissioner Emerine was also in attendance, and recommended that the office offer a public presentation on the water infrastructure in Linden Park.

C. Advisory Boards, Committees, Commissions' Reports and Agendas
D. Legislation
E. City Staff
   1. 3rd Quarter Budget Report
   2. 3rd Quarter Investment Report

INFORMATION ONLY

XII. ADJOURN

The Commission motioned to adjourn at 10:50 p.m.

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist