Birmingham City Commission Minutes
July 28, 2025
Municipal Building, 151 Martin
7:30 p.m.
Vimeo Link: https://vimeo.com/1105238718

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 Emerine
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Long
Commissioner Schafer

Absent: Commissioner Haig

Staff: City Manager Ecker; City Clerk Bingham, Assistant City Manager Clemence, City Engineer Coatta, Planning Director Dupuis, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, Police Chief Grewe, City Attorney Kucharek

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

Announcements
Appointments

07-233-25 Museum Board

Kamala Cummings was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Long:
To concur with the City Manager's appointment of Kamala Cummings to the Museum Board, as a regular member who is a business owner, to serve a three-year term to expire July 5, 2028.

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

It was noted that Judith Keefer's application for the Museum Board would be postponed to the next meeting.

07-234-25 Board of Review

William Watkinson was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Host:
To appoint William Watkinson to the Board of Review as an alternate member to serve the remainder of a three-year term to expire December 31, 2025.

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

07-235-25 Historic District Study Committee

Margie Duncan was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Long:
To appoint Margie Duncan as a regular member to the Historic District Study Committee to serve a three-year term to expire June 25, 2028.

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

07-236-25 Historic District Study Committee

Jenny Roush was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Host:
To appoint Margie Duncan as a regular member to the Historic District Study Committee to serve a three-year term to expire June 25, 2028.

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

Introduce Staff
Kelda London - Election Coordinator

CC Bingham swore in the present appointees.

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

V. CONSENT AGENDA

07-237-25 Consent Agenda

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Schafer:
To move the consent agenda including all items.

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

A. Resolution to approve the City Commission regular meeting minutes of July 14, 2025.

B. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated July 17, 2025 in the amount of $4,229,977.47.

C. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated July 24, 2025 in the amount of $4,786,211.66.

D. Resolution to delegate to the Birmingham City Clerk and her authorized assistants, those being the members of her staff, the following duties of the Election Commission for the November 4, 2025 election:
   i. Preparing meeting materials for the Election Commission (ballots proof for approval, list of election inspectors for appointment, etc.)
   ii. Preparing, printing and delivering ballots
   iii. Providing candidates and the Secretary of State with proof copies of ballots
   iv. Providing notice to voters in the case of precinct changes/consolidations
   v. Providing election supplies and ballot containers
   vi. Preliminary logic and accuracy testing
   vii. Notifying major political parties of certified precinct Inspector appointments (Federal and State elections only)

E. Resolution designating Assistant City Manager Mark Clemence, Director of Public Services Scott Zielinski, Planning Director Nick Dupuis, Assistant Building Official Mike Morad, Director of Engineering Melissa Coatta, Director of IT Eric Brunk and Acting Fire Chief Matt

Bartalino as proxy representatives of Election Commissioners Mayor Therese Longe, Mayor Pro Tem Clinton Baller, Commissioner Katie Schafer, Commissioner Andrew Haig, Commissioner Brad Host, Commissioner Anthony Long, and Commissioner Jason Emerine, to conduct the Public Accuracy Test on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in room 205 to test the electronic tabulating equipment which will be used to count votes at Birmingham precincts during the November 4, 2025 local election.

F. Resolution to approve the purchase of a Wolverine Freightliner, Single Axle, per the Rochester Hills Co-op RFP-RH-20-023 contract, in an amount not to exceed $268,607.00, upon the completion of a signed contract by Wolverine Freightliner. In addition, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City. Funds for this purchase are available in the FY 25-26 Auto Equipment Fund account #661.0-441.006.971.0100.

G. Resolution to approve the purchase of a Wolverine Freightliner, Tandem Axle, per the Rochester Hills Co-op RFP-RH-20-023 contract, in an amount not to exceed $277,672.00, upon the completion of a signed contract by Wolverine Freightliner. In addition, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City. Funds for this purchase are available in the FY 2025-2026 Auto Equipment Fund account #661.0-441.006.971.0100.

H. Resolution to appropriate and amend the 2025-2026 Information Technology budget as follows to fund the City's print management equipment and management:

Revenues:		
636.0-000.000-400.0000	Draw from Fund Balance	$35,841.59
Expenditures:		
636.0-228.000-742.0000	Computer Software	$35,841.59

I. Resolution to approve the contract for 2025-26 handwork pavement markings with Royalty Pavement Markings in the amount of $277,092.50; further to approve the contract for 2025-26 long/center lines with PK Contracting, Inc. for $18,350.00; and further to fund both contracts from account 202.0-316.000-937.0200. In addition, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreements on behalf of the City.

J. Resolution to approve an amendment to the 2022-2024 Concrete Sidewalk Trip Hazard Elimination Program #10-22 (SW) for the 2025 Concrete Sidewalk Trip Hazard Elimination Program #3-25 (SW) in the amount not to exceed $320,000.00. In addition, to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

VI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CM Ecker presented the City Manager's report.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

07-238-25 Public Hearing for 298 S. Old Woodward – Daxton Hotel – Special Land Use Permit Amendment and Final Site Plan & Design Review (REQUEST TO POSTPONE)

Mayor Longe opened the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

PD Dupuis presented the requested postponement.

Seeing no public comment, Mayor Longe closed the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

MOTION: Motion by Long, seconded by Host:
To postpone the Special Land Use Permit Amendment and Final Site Plan & Design Review application for 298 S. Old Woodward to permit the modification of the existing required off-street loading facility to make room for new in-house laundry facilities and a new trash compactor to a date certain of August 25, 2025.

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

07-239-25 Voting Delegates for Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting

CM Ecker presented the item.

MOTION: Motion by Baller, seconded by Long:
To appoint ACM Fairbairn as the City of Birmingham's official voting delegate and Commissioner Host as the alternate delegate, for the Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on September 17, 2025.

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

07-240-25 Closed Session Pursuant to MCL § 15.268 of the Open Meetings Act

CA Kucharek presented the item.

It was noted the Commission would adjourn to closed session after all other business had been addressed in open session, and would reconvene into open session after the closed session for the purposes of taking formal action resulting from the closed session and for the purposes of adjourning the meeting.

MOTION: Motion by Baller, 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 Nicole Stone v City of Birmingham, et al, Oakland County Circuit Court Case No.: 2024-208376-NZ, Honorable David M. Cohen, and to discuss two (2) written attorney/client privilege communications pursuant to MCL § 15.268, Sec.8(1)(h) of the Open Meetings Act.

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

The Commission went into closed session at 8:32 p.m.

The Commission returned from closed session at 9:31 p.m. No action was taken.

Commission Items for Future Discussion

07-241-25 Infrastructure Master Plan

MOTION: Motion by Baller, seconded by Host:
To discuss the possibility that we formulate an infrastructure master plan.

Commissioner comments were as follows:
- It was requested that staff provide the Commission with notice before the item returns for further discussion.

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

Commission Discussion On Items From A Prior Meeting

The Use of Public Property Adjacent to Storefronts

Commissioners raised the following points during discussion:

- Presently, there are some conditions in which private businesses might make agreements about using public property for outdoor dining. This practice should be further reviewed by staff.
- The policy was created in order to ensure that one business could not locate its outdoor dining in front of another business without an agreement.
- It should be the Commission's purview to grant or deny proposed agreements between businesses for the use of public property.

IV. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

X. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Communication regarding trees
B. Communication regarding trucks on Melton
C. Communication regarding the Community and Senior Center

XI. REPORTS

A. Commissioner Reports
B. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Long recommended that the City increase its attention to the quality of the road patching work being done by contractors.

Commissioner Host recommended increasing the required bond amount for said contractors.

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

INFORMATION ONLY

XII. ADJOURN

The Commission motioned to adjourn at 9:31 p.m.

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist