

**Birmingham City Commission Minutes  
August 25, 2025  
Municipal Building, 151 Martin  
7:30 p.m.  
Vimeo Link: [vimeo.com/1113004315](https://vimeo.com/1113004315)**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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| <b>II. ROLL CALL</b> |
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City Clerk Bingham called the roll.

Present: Mayor Longe  
tMPT Long  
Commissioner Haig  
Commissioner Host

Absent: MPT Baller  
Commissioner Emerine  
Commissioner Schafer

Staff: City Manager Ecker; City Clerk Bingham, Human Resources Manager Cilluffo, Assistant City Manager Clemence, Planning Director Dupuis, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, City Attorney Kucharek

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

## Announcements Appointments

**08-253-25 Temporary Mayor Pro Tem**

**MOTION:** Motion by Longe:  
To nominate Commissioner Anthony Long to do that again.

VOICE VOTE  
Ayes: Haig, Host, Longe, Long  
Nays: None

**08-254-25    Advisory Parking Committee**

Michelle Moody was interviewed for the appointment.

**MOTION:** Motion by Long:  
To appoint Michelly Moody to the Advisory Parking Committee as a regular member, a resident, to serve a three-year term to expire September 4, 2028.

VOICE VOTE  
Ayes: Haig, Host, Longe, Long  
Nays: None

**08-255-25    Advisory Parking Committee**

Kevin Kozlowski was interviewed for the appointment.

**MOTION:** Motion by Haig:  
To appoint Kevin Kozlowski to the Advisory Parking Committee as a regular member, a resident shopper, to serve a three-year term to expire September 4, 2028.

VOICE VOTE  
Ayes: Haig, Host, Longe, Long  
Nays: None

**08-256-25    Advisory Parking Committee**

James Esshaki was interviewed for the appointment.

**MOTION:**                    Motion by Haig:  
To appoint James Esshaki to the Advisory Parking Committee as a regular member who is a retail owner to serve the remainder of a three-year term to expire September 4, 2026.

VOICE VOTE  
Ayes: Haig, Host, Longe, Long  
Nays: None

**08-257-25    Museum**

Robert Moll was interviewed for the appointment.

**MOTION:**                    Motion by Haig:  
To appoint Robert Moll as a regular member to the Museum Board to serve the remainder of a two-year term to expire July 5, 2027.

VOICE VOTE  
Ayes: Haig, Host, Longe, Long  
Nays: None

CC Bingham swore in the present appointees.

**Introduction Of Staff**  
Department of Public Services – Clinise Kirkwood

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

Kristy Barrett commented regarding 400 E. Lincoln and supported asking Birmingham taxpayers what they would like to see on the site.

Ben Hubert supported prioritizing road improvements in the Quarton Lake neighborhood.

**V.    CONSENT AGENDA**

**08-258-25    Consent Agenda**

**MOTION:**                    Motion by Long, seconded by Host:  
To approve the consent agenda, including Items A through H.

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

- A. Resolution to approve the City Commission workshop meeting minutes of August 11, 2025.
- B. Resolution to approve the City Commission regular meeting minutes of August 11, 2025.
- C. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated August 13, 2025 in the amount of \$8,332,879.52.
- D. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated August 20, 2025 in the amount of \$1,584,967.68.
- E. Resolution to approve a request from the Birmingham Shopping District to hold the 2025 Winter Markt special event on Friday, December 5, 2025 – Sunday, December 7, 2025 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.

- F. Resolution to approve a request by the Birmingham Shopping District to hold the 2025 Santa House special event beginning the weekend of November 29, 2025 through December 24, 2025 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.
- G. Resolution to approve a Special Event Permit as requested by the City of Birmingham to hold the Celebrate Birmingham Hometown Parade on May 17, 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.
- H. Resolution to eliminate two part-time dispatch positions and add one full-time dispatch position within the Birmingham Police Department Dispatch Operating Budget.

**VI. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

CM Ecker presented the report.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**08-259-25    Adjourn 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. In addition, to require the applicant to cover the cost of the additional noticing that will be required to reset the public hearing**

Mayor Longe opened the public hearing at 8:14 p.m.

PD Dupuis presented the item.

Mayor Longe closed the public hearing at 8:18 p.m.

Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

**MOTION:**                      Motion by Long, seconded by Haig:  
To adopt a resolution to adjourn 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. In addition, to require the applicant to cover the cost of the additional noticing that will be required to reset the public hearing.

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

**08-260-25    Adjust Position Pay Ranges and Individual Wages of Non-Organized Administrative, Management and Permanent Part Time employees**

HRM Cilluffo presented the item and answered informational questions from the Commission.

- Commissioners raised the following points during discussion:
- The presented amount would include both the wages and fringe benefits for both the cost of living adjustment and the merit increases.
  - The 3% recommendation would be similar to the other City employee groups who have received raises this year under the organized labor, which is 3.5% for AFSCME, 3.5% for BFFA, and 3.5% for Teamsters.

**MOTION:** Motion by Long, seconded by Host:  
To adjust the position pay ranges and individual wages of Non-Organized Administrative, Management and Permanent Part Time employees by 3% effective July 1, 2025.

And, authorize the City Manager and Human Resources to apply merit adjustments for Non-Organized Administrative, Management and Permanent Part Time employees based on the outcomes of performance evaluations.

Further, to authorize the budget amendments from the wage adjustment to account 101.0-272.000-709.0000 to appropriate departments.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Ayes: Haig, Host, Longe, Long

Nays: None

**08-261-25 Community Survey**

ACM Fairbairn presented the item and answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioners raised the following points during discussion:

- It would likely be more appropriate to use a professional firm for the survey. The survey needs to be narrowed to a relevant set of questions.
- Out of a dollar in taxes, the City receives 34 cents. It would be helpful to further understand how those 34 cents are spent within the City. The Commission could then consider how to allocate the remainder of those funds based on resident priorities.
- Residents could also clarify through this process whether they might be interested in increased taxation in order to accomplish more of their priorities.
- This process would be well worth the investment of hiring a professional firm.
- Seeking to understand residents' needs from the survey, as opposed to wants, would likely produce more useful feedback.
- If a professional firm is hired, they should meet with the Commission to help define the scope.

**MOTION:** Motion by Haig, seconded by Long:  
To direct the City Manager to have staff design and distribute a community survey to residents electronically and by mail.

**VOICE VOTE**

Ayes: Haig, Host, Longe, Long

Nays: None

**Resolution to meet in closed session to discuss a written attorney/client privilege communication pursuant to MCL § 15.268 Sec. 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act.**

Since a supermajority of Commissioners would be required to vote to enter into closed session, and only four Commissioners were present, neither a vote on a closed session nor a closed session were held.

**08-262-25 Multi-Modal Transportation Board (MMTB) Ordinances**

CA Kucharek and CM Ecker presented the item.

Commissioners raised the following points during discussion:

- All volunteer board members are appreciated by the Commission. A number of Commissioners served on City boards before being elected to the Commission.
- The MMTB is an advisory board. That means the MMTB recommends actions to the Commission. Implementation is within the Commission's purview.
- Some MMTB members' concerns about the road improvement process was understandable. Some recent meetings on Arlington, Shirley, and Wimbleton have been challenging.
- Within the 2025 calendar year, the Commission has sought the MMTB's input on particular items.

- The City’s recent revisions to its road improvement process may have contributed to some of the challenges of the Arlington, Shirley, and Wimbledon road improvements.
- The upcoming Commission workshop on roads is part of the effort to refine the road improvement process.
- A potential meeting between the MMTB and the Commission could be further discussed.
- The Commission should act quickly to clarify the MMTB’s role, the Commission’s expectations of the MMTB, and how MMTB contributions are valued.
- The Commission should likely review the ordinances first, determine its perspective on the ordinances, and then communicate that perspective clearly to the MMTB.
- The last MMTB meeting was confusing to residents. One resident asked whether the meeting was for a public hearing or parliamentary procedure. The MMTB also discussed voting to disband themselves. It is not within the MMTB’s purview whether the MMTB continues to exist or not exist.
- There is some concern about messaging to residents and credibility of governmental processes arising from this issue and from some MMTB member comments.
- The Advisory Parking Committee also had challenges within the last few years that the Commission and staff worked through.
- The moratorium proposed in the motion would be to allow the Commission sufficient time to review the ordinance and act. This discussion should be occur within the next month.
- The MMTB should understand that the Commission hears its concerns and values its work.

**MOTION:** Motion by Haig, seconded by Long:  
Motion to place a moratorium on future Multi-Modal Transportation Board meetings in order for the City Commission to review and scrutinize Birmingham City Code Sections 110-30 and 110-31 in order to examine and clarify the scope of authority, purpose, duties, and purpose of the multimodal board to place this topic on a future agenda as determined by the City Manager.

Commissioners made the following comments on the item:

- Commissioners are interested in assisting the MMTB. The MMTB members should be informed this discussion took place.
- This could be scheduled for September 8, 2025.
- The moratorium should not be interpreted as being meant punitively.

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

**Commission Discussion On Items From A Prior Meeting**  
**Commission Items for Future Discussion**

**IV. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

**X. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. 400 East Lincoln
- B. 479 South Old Woodward
- C. Trees

**XI. REPORTS**

- A. Commissioner Reports
- B. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Host expressed feelings of urgency regarding addressing roads, infrastructure, the future of Next, the future of the YMCA, and the future of the 400 E. Lincoln site.

The Mayor noted that the September workshop would be on the water and sewer infrastructure and that Oakland County Water Commissioner Jim Nash was expected to provide information for that workshop. She noted that, tentatively, the October workshop would be on roads. She concluded that the City Manager was also working to return with potential next steps for the 400 E. Lincoln site.

Commissioner Haig commended everyone on the Dream Cruise event. He supported the submittal of a budget amendment to support emergency services equipment.

The Mayor also commended everyone on the Dream Cruise event.

tMPT Long noted the passing of Sameer Eid, proprietor of Phoenicia. He recommended the City consider a way of honoring Mr. Eid.

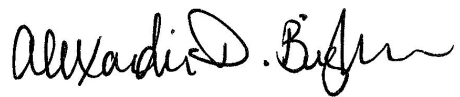
Commissioner Host noted the unveiling of the Pat Andrews Outdoor Children’s Reading Library would be occurring on August 31, 2025 at 11 a.m.

- C. Advisory Boards, Committees, Commissions’ Reports and Agendas
- D. Legislation
- E. City Staff
  - 1. Woodward Dream Cruise 2025

INFORMATION ONLY

**XII. ADJOURN**

The Commission motioned to adjourn at 9:06 p.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist