

Birmingham City Commission Minutes
December 16, 2024
Municipal Building, 151 Martin
7:30 p.m.
Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/1037694745>

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 (sworn in and seated at 8:43 p.m.)
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Schafer

Absent: Commissioner Long

Staff: City Manager Ecker; City Clerk Bingham, City Engineer Coatta, Planning Director Dupuis, Assistant City Manager Clemence, Assistant City Manager Fairbairn, 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

12-621-24 Birmingham City Commission

Of the applicants who spoke during the evening’s prior workshop, Pamela Graham, Jason Emerine, Kevin Kozlowski, Doug White, and William Kolb were selected by Commissioners and interviewed for the appointment.

Mr. Emerine was then nominated for the appointment by the Mayor and Commissioners Schafer and Haig.

Ms. Graham was nominated for the appointment by Commissioner Host.

Mr. Kolb was nominated for the appointment by MPT Baller.

MOTION: Motion by Schafer:
To nominate Mr. Emerine for the Birmingham City Commission one-year appointment to expire November 30, 2025.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
MPT Baller
Mayor Longe

Nays, Commissioner Host

Since votes on the nominations proceeded in order of the nominations, and the vote on Mr. Emerine’s appointment carried, the nominations for Ms. Graham and Mr. Kolb did not proceed to a vote.

Commissioners thanked the applicants, and encouraged the applicants to either continue or seek out board and committee opportunities with the City.

12-622-24 Board of Review

Michael Killalea was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Host:
To nominate Michael Killalea as a regular member to the Board of Review to serve the remainder of a three-year term to expire December 31, 2027.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
MPT Baller
Mayor Longe

Nays, None

12-623-24 Environmental Sustainability Board

Jessica Newman was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Schafer:
To appoint Jessica Newman as a regular member to the Environmental Sustainability Board to serve a three-year term to expire February 1, 2028.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
MPT Baller
Mayor Longe

Nays, None

12-624-24 Environmental Sustainability Board

Joe Mercurio was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Baller:
To appoint Joe Mercurio as a regular member to the Environmental Sustainability Board to serve a three-year term to expire February 1, 2028.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
MPT Baller
Mayor Longe

Nays, None

12-625-24 Environmental Sustainability Board

Harvey Bell was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Host:
To appoint Harvey Bell as a regular member to the Environmental Sustainability Board to serve a three-year term to expire February 1, 2028.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine

Commissioner Host
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
MPT Baller
Mayor Longe

Nays, None

12-626-24 Environmental Sustainability Board

Debra Horner was interviewed for the appointment.

MOTION: Motion by Haig:
To appoint Debra Horner as a regular member to the Environmental Sustainability Board to serve a three-year term to expire February 1, 2027.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
MPT Baller
Mayor Longe

Nays, None

It was recommended that members of the prior Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Board be notified of the remaining open positions on the Environmental Sustainability Board.

CC Bingham swore in the present appointees.

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

V. CONSENT AGENDA

12-627-24 Consent Agenda

MOTION: Motion by Baller, seconded by Haig:
To move the Consent Agenda with the exception of Items C, D, and G.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Schafer
MPT Baller
Mayor Longe

Nays, None

- A. Resolution to approve the regular City Commission meeting minutes of November 25, 2024.
- B. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated December 12, 2024 in the amount of \$1,030,101.42.
- E. Resolution to install a stop sign on westbound Vinewood Ave. at Lakeview Ave. as recommended by the Multi-Modal Transportation Board.
- F. Resolution to approve Amendment 2 to the Agreement for Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Distribution with Oakland County to extend the term to February 28, 2025. In addition, to authorize the City Engineer to sign Amendment 2 on behalf of the City, and to direct the City Clerk to witness the amendment.
- H. Resolution to amend the Schedule of Fees, Charges, Bonds and Insurance as presented and to adopt the revised Public Records Policy, effective January 1, 2025.

- I. Resolution to accept the resignation of Jacqueline L. Patt from the Greenwood Cemetery Board, to thank her for her service and to direct the City Clerk to begin the process of filling the vacancy.
- J. Resolution to accept the resignation of Joseph Vercellone from the Greenwood Cemetery Board, to thank him for his service and to direct the City Clerk to begin the process of filling the vacancy.

12-628-24 Special Event Application: 2025 City of Birmingham In The Park Concert Series (Item C)

MPT Baller pulled the item. Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Baller, seconded by Host:
To move the suggested resolution.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine
 Commissioner Host
 Commissioner Haig
 Commissioner Schafer
 MPT Baller
 Mayor Longe

 Nays, None

12-629-24 Sheffield Rd. Traffic Calming (Item D)

MPT Baller pulled the item. MPT Baller and Commissioner Host concurred that more information on the Multi-Modal Transportation Board’s deliberation would have been useful.

MOTION: Motion by Baller, seconded by Haig:
To move the suggested resolution.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine
 Commissioner Host
 Commissioner Haig
 Commissioner Schafer
 MPT Baller
 Mayor Longe

 Nays, None

12-630-24 Birmingham Wayfinding & Gateway Signage Fabrication and Installation – ASI Signage Innovations Agreement Extension (Item G)

MPT Baller pulled the item, staff answered informational questions from the Commission, and MPT Baller asked that the Commission be presented with the models in the future.

MOTION: Motion by Baller, seconded by Haig:
To move the suggested resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine
 Commissioner Host
 Commissioner Haig
 Commissioner Schafer
 MPT Baller
 Mayor Longe

 Nays, None

VI. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

CM Ecker presented the report. Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioners comments on the report were as follows:

- Matters of parking capacity should continue to be monitored and discussed.
- Possible options for celebrating the City’s upcoming 250th anniversary could be explored.
- It is worth considering whether increased publicity for the Commission vacancy led to increased applications, and whether that effect could be replicated with other board and committee vacancies.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

12-631-24 Booth Park Entry Plaza & Trail Improvements

DPSD Zielinski introduced the item. Representatives from the Grissim Metz Andriese Associates team (GMAA) presented the item. Staff and GMAA answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioners raised the following points during their discussion:

- There was support for using bond funds to replace some of the playground equipment in neighborhood parks, since that was a promise made to voters during the bond vote.
- There was support for delaying the project in order to receive the \$400,000.
- It would likely be important to residents that the restroom building be aesthetically pleasing and also congruent with the surrounding residential area.
- Given the attention to accessibility considerations in other aspects of the park, it would be appropriate if the furniture also aligned with that effort.
- While the delay of the project to fiscal year 2025-2026 would result in some opportunity cost, foregoing a \$400,000 grant would be challenging to justify.

MOTION: Motion by Haig, seconded by Emerine:
To direct staff to proceed with an agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$400,000 for the Booth Park entry plaza and trail improvements project.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Emerine
 Commissioner Host
 Commissioner Haig
 Commissioner Schafer
 MPT Baller
 Mayor Longe

Nays, None

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

IV. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Kristy Barrett communication from December 3, 2024 regarding NEXT/YMCA
- B. Kristy Barrett communication from December 3, 2024 regarding the Senior/Recreation Center Committee comments from December 2, 2024

XI. REPORTS

- A. Commissioner Reports
 - 1. Notice of Intention to Appoint to the Birmingham Shopping District Board
 - 2. Notice of Intention to Appoint to the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board
- B. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Host supported signage on Arlington that indicated that a deaf child lives in the area, and also supported traffic calming measures for Arlington, Shirley, and Wimbleton.

Commissioner Baller concurred with Commissioner Host that traffic speeds remain a concern, adding that speed remains an issue throughout the City. He supported more enforcement and traffic calming measures as well.

Commissioner Haig supported asking the Multi-Modal Transportation Board to select a street on which the City could trial some traffic calming measures not presently in use within the City.

Residents’ preference towards keeping Arlington and Shirley wider than the City standard contributed to faster vehicle speeds, the Mayor noted. She suggested that residents may not be in favor of painting Arlington to reduce speeds. She recommended that the Commission wait for the Multi-Modal Transportation Board to have the opportunity to study the issue and make recommendations.

Commissioner Schafer emphasized that narrow streets with sidewalks encourage slower vehicle speeds. She noted that the Commission remained aware of this fact, and that implementing the City’s recommended street designs and limits would increase safety.

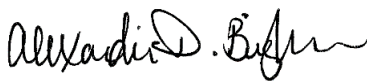
Commissioner Haig said that Sheffield still posed concerns even though it was a narrower street with sidewalks.

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

INFORMATION ONLY

XII. ADJOURN

The Commission motioned to adjourn at 10:47 p.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist