

Birmingham City Commission Minutes
July 8, 2024
Municipal Building, 151 Martin
7:30 p.m.
Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/980944784>

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
--

Elaine McLain, Mayor, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Bingham called the roll.

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

Absent: None

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

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

Announcements

Happy Birthday Commissioner Therese Longe

Appointments

Jay Shell applied for an appointment to the Museum Board but was unavailable for an interview.

07-475-24 Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board

Laura Schreiner was unavailable for an interview. The Mayor noted this would be a reappointment.

The Commission interviewed Linda Peterson and Paul Connell for appointments.

MOTION: Nomination by Commissioner Long:
To appoint Laura Schreiner, Linda Peterson, and Paul O'Connell to the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board as regular members to serve three-year terms to expire July 6, 2027.

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

Nays, None

07-476-24 Museum Board

The Commission interviewed Beverly Erickson for the appointment.

MOTION: Nomination by Commissioner Host:
To appoint Beverly Erickson to the Museum Board as a regular member to serve a three-year term to expire July 6, 2027.

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

Nays, None

07-477-24 Museum Board

The Commission interviewed Eva Kirkman for the appointment.

MOTION: Nomination by Commissioner Longe:
To appoint Eva Kirkman to the Museum Board as a regular member to serve a three-year term to expire July 6, 2027.

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

Nays, None

07-478-24 Alternate Hearing Officer

The Commission interviewed Alexander Simpson for the appointment.

MOTION: Nomination by Commissioner Longe:
To appoint Alexander Simpson as the alternate Hearing Officer to serve a three-year term to expire June 30, 2027.

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

Nays, None

CC Bingham swore in the appointees.

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

Diane Anderson commented regarding ongoing issues with her landlord at 1468 Southfield Road.

Peter Hyler commented regarding road conditions in Birmingham.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

07-479-24 Consent Agenda

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Longe, seconded by Commissioner Long:
To move the Consent Agenda excluding Items B and D.

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

Nays, None

- A. Resolution to approve the City Commission/Planning Board meeting minutes for the meeting held on June 10, 2024.

- C. Resolution to approve the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated June 27, 2024 in the amount of \$924,916.56.

- D. Resolution to set a public hearing date of August 12, 2024 to consider the Special Land Use Permit Amendment for 260 N. Old Woodward to transfer ownership and update the Special Land Use Permit with the new owner, Old Woodward STA, LLC (Terra).

Birmingham City Commission Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2024 (Item B)

Commission Host pulled Item B. Two corrections to the minutes were recommended. It was noted that the minutes would be returned for approval at the next meeting.

07-480-24 SLUP Amendment for 260 N. Old Woodward (Item D)

Commissioner Haig pulled Item D. PD Dupuis and Joseph Shallal, attorney representing the Terra applicant team, answered an informational question from the Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Haig, seconded by Commissioner Longe:
To set a public hearing date of August 12, 2024 to consider the Special Land Use Permit Amendment for 260 N. Old Woodward to transfer ownership and update the Special Land Use Permit with the new owner, Old Woodward STA, LLC (Terra).

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

Nays, None

VI. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

07-481-24 Public Hearing for 115 Willits – Sprazzo – Special Land Use Permit (SLUP) Amendment (Ownership Change)

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

PD Dupuis presented the item.

Joseph Shallal, attorney, Yousif Kakos, co-owner, and Paulina Faranso, co-owner, spoke on behalf of the request.

Seeing no public comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.

Staff and the applicant team answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner comment on the item was as follows:

- Residents of the Willetts were concerned about the potential for evening noise, and the applicant was asked to keep those concerns in mind.
- If there were violations of the SLUP, the Commission would be within its rights to not recommend renewal of the liquor license.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Haig:
To approve the Special Land Use Permit Amendment for 115 Willits to transfer ownership and update the Special Land Use Permit to the new owner, Birmingham Omni Hospitality, LLC (Sprazzo).

AND

To authorize the City Clerk to complete the Local Approval Notice at the request of Birmingham Omni 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 Hospitality Birmingham, LLC located at 115 Willits, MI to Birmingham Omni Hospitality, LLC that will be located at the same address.

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

Nays, None

07-482-24 Public Hearing for 219 Elm St. – All Seasons 2 – SLUP Amendment

The applicant's request to postpone the item was noted.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 8:26 p.m.

PD Dupuis noted it would be the applicant's preference to postpone the item to August 12, 2024.

Seeing no public comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:26 p.m.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Baller, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To postpone to August 12, 2024.

Patrick Howe, attorney for the applicant, answered an informational question from the Commission.

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

Nays, None

07-483-24 Public Hearing of Necessity for Sewer and Water Lateral Special Assessment District (SAD) - N. Adams Road Resurfacing, Contract #12-24(P)

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 8:31 p.m.

CE Coatta presented the item.

Public Comment

Staff and the Commission answered informational questions from Thomas December, Gary Laskowsky, Jeff Knight, Cheryl Mayor, and Lisa McFarland.

Mr. Laskowsky commented on the noticing timing and on concerns from senior residents of the SAD.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:45 p.m.

Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Longe, seconded by Commissioner Haig:
WHEREAS, Notice was given pursuant to Section 94-7 of the City Code, to each owner or party-in-interest of property and lots to be assessed, by first class mail, and by publication in a newspaper generally circulated in the City; and

WHEREAS, The City Commission has conducted a public hearing and has determined it is necessary to proceed with the project replacing sewer services 50 years of age or older or constructed of material that is not acceptable for City standards on N. Adams near the intersection of Putney Street and replacing water services that are 60 years or older or less than 1 inch in diameter on N. Adams Road from Mohegan Street to Putney Street; and

WHEREAS, The City has previously established a policy requiring replacement of sewer services 50 years of age or older or constructed of materials that are not acceptable for City standards and water services less than 1 inch in diameter and the City street is open for repairs; and

WHEREAS, The City Commission, after the public hearing, has determined that the N. Adams Road Project, including the replacement of sewer services that are 50 years of age or older or of material that is not acceptable for City standards, the replacement of water services that are 60 years or older or less than 1 inch in diameter, is a necessity and is in the best interest of the City; and

WHEREAS, The Commission has approved the detailed plans and estimates of cost prepared by the City Engineer; and

WHEREAS, The City Engineer has determined the boundaries of sewer service lateral and water service laterals located within the limits of the following streets shall be installed as part of the N. Adams Road Project (Contract #12-24(P)):

Sewer Lateral – N. Adams Road - Near the intersection of Putney; and

Water Lateral – N. Adams Road – Mohegan Street to Putney Street

WHEREAS, The formula used in making the assessment is 100% of the contractor's charge for replacing the lateral service that is 50 years of age or older or constructed of materials that are not acceptable and water service that is 60 years of age or older or less than 1 inch in diameter within the public right-of-way between the utility and the property line (calculated at the rate of \$250.00 per foot of 8" diameter sewer service pipe, \$115.00 per foot of 1-inch water service pipe, and \$125.00 per foot of 2-inch water service pipe).

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, The City Commission has determined that the scope of the public improvement as described is in the best interest of the City and will benefit the properties listed in the assessment roll, and is a necessity, and the City Commission directs the City Manager to prepare a Special Assessment Roll and present the same to the City Commission for confirmation and further set a Public Hearing of Confirmation on July 22, 2024, and give notice of same.

This applies to the water and sewer laterals with sidwell numbers, street addresses, water special assessment, district costs, and sewer special assessment district costs as shown in Section 8C of tonight's Commission agenda on pages three, four, five, and six and map on page seven.

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

Nays, None

07-484-24 Public Hearing - Confirmation of SAD Roll 910 Arlington, Shirley, and Brandon Street Project

Commissioner Baller's recusal from the item was noted at 8:52 p.m. and he exited the room at that time. The Mayor opened the public hearing at 8:52 p.m.

DT Katz and CA Kucharek presented the item.

Public Comment

David Mendelson commented about appreciating the open discourse, and that although he signed a previous petition regarding the item, he and his wife were not participating in the lawsuit to which the petition was attached.

Jim Mirro also commented about appreciating the open discourse and the accuracy of the Engineering Department's work on the item.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:59 p.m.

Commissioner comment on the item was as follows:

- The comments about open discourse from the public were appreciated. This project was understood as necessary, especially given the Fire Chief's previous presentation on the conditions in the area.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Haig, seconded by Commissioner Long:
WHEREAS, Special Assessment Roll, designated Roll No. 910S and Roll No. 910W, has been heretofore prepared for Collection; and

WHEREAS, notice was given pursuant to Section 94-7 of the City Code, to each owner or party-in-interest of property to be assessed; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has deemed it practicable to cause payment of the cost thereof to be made after the time of construction; and

WHEREAS, the Commission Resolution 06-469-24 provided it would meet this 8th day of July, 2024 for the sole purpose of reviewing the assessment roll; and

WHEREAS, at said hearing held this July 8, 2024, all those property owners or their representatives present have been given an opportunity to be heard specifically concerning costs appearing in said special assessment roll;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Special Assessment Roll No. 910S and Roll No. 910W be in all things ratified and confirmed, and that the City Clerk be and is hereby instructed to endorse said roll, showing the date of confirmation thereof, and to certify said assessment roll to the City Treasurer for collection at or near the time of construction of the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special assessment shall be payable in ten (10) payments as provided in Section 94-10 of the Code of the City of Birmingham, with an annual interest rate of nine and one half percent (9.50%) on all unpaid installments.

Sidwell numbers, street addresses, sewer lateral SAD assessments as specified on pages three, and four, and water lateral SAD assessments as specified on page five of Section 8D of tonight's package.

Commissioner comment on the motion was as follows:

- This motion was about the water and the sewer, which was 100 years old and needed to be replaced.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, MPT Schafer
 Commissioner Haig
 Commissioner Host
 Commissioner Longe
 Commissioner Long
 Mayor McLain

Nays, None

07-485-24 Public Hearing - Confirmation of SAD Roll 910 Arlington, Shirley, and Brandon Street Project – Paving

Commissioner Baller's recusal continued through this item. The Mayor opened the public hearing at 9:04 p.m.

DT Katz presented the item.

Public Comment

Staff answered an informational question from a resident of 218 Arlington.

CA Kucharek noted that Judge Martha D. Anderson of the Sixth Circuit Court struck the complaint and corresponding summons referenced in Item 8DE from the court record pursuant to MCR 2.115, subsection B.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 9:12 p.m.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Longe:
WHEREAS, Special Assessment Roll, designated Roll No. 910, has been heretofore prepared for Collection; and

WHEREAS, notice was given pursuant to Section 94-7 of the City Code, to each owner or party-in-interest of property to be assessed; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has deemed it practicable to cause payment of the cost thereof to be made after the time of construction; and

WHEREAS, the Commission Resolution 06-470-24 provided it would meet this 8th day of July, 2024 for the sole purpose of reviewing the assessment roll; and

WHEREAS, at said hearing held this July 8, 2024, all those property owners or their representatives present have been given an opportunity to be heard specifically concerning costs appearing in said special assessment roll;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Special Assessment Roll No. 910 be in all things ratified and confirmed, and that the City Clerk be and is hereby instructed to endorse said roll, showing the date of confirmation thereof, and to certify said assessment roll to the City Treasurer for collection at or near the time of construction of the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special assessment shall be payable in ten (10) payments as provided in Section 94-10 of the Code of the City of Birmingham, with an annual interest rate of nine and one half percent (9.50%) on all unpaid installments for the sidwell numbers, street addresses, and paving assessment amounts listed in today's agenda packet under Section 8E on pages three, four, and five.

Individual Commissioner comments on the motion were as follows:

- This motion would mandate a change that many homeowners in the project area did not want. Some residents were concerned about cost, disruption, and risks to the tree canopy.
- This motion represented a necessary health, safety, and welfare improvement as well as an infrastructure improvement. There has been a significant amount of public and expert participation in this process.
- Resident concern regarding this project was largely driven by concerns about sidewalks and overall costs. While the Unimproved Streets methodology may be imperfect, a better one has not yet been presented. This motion reflected the wishes of the majority of the residents who have provided feedback. The costs in the contract award came in under the City Engineer’s estimates from 2023, which was welcome news. Those figures might be used as benchmarks for future work.
- Staff earned commendation for their work in negotiating the costs for this project.
- This motion was appropriate for many of the aforementioned reasons. The Commission compromised in its direction by not requiring sidewalks on both sides of the street. The project has been discussed in public many times. This was a welcome resolution to the project discussions.

Public Comment

Mr. Mirro commented regarding the motion and the aforementioned complaint and corresponding summons.

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

Nays, Commissioner Host

07-486-24 Award of the Arlington, Shirley, and Brandon Project #6-24 (W) to DiPonio Contracting, LLC

Commissioner Baller’s recusal continued through this item.

CE Coatta presented the item.

Public Comment

Mr. Mirro commented further regarding the aforementioned complaint and corresponding summons.

MOTION: Motion by MPT Schafer, seconded by Commissioner Long:
 To award the Arlington, Shirley, and Brandon Project #6-24 (W) to DiPonio Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$5,596,814.90 plus a 10% construction contingency for a total of \$6,156,496.39. In addition, to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City contingent upon execution of the agreement and meeting all insurance and bond requirements by DiPonio Contracting, LLC. Funding for this project has been budgeted in the following accounts for the following years, as represented in the packet 8F,

AND

To approve the appropriation and amendment of the fiscal year 2024/2025 budget as follows, under the sidewalk fund and that which follows in the packet under 8F including local street fund, sewer fund, and water fund, pages three and four.

Public Comment

Mr. Mirro commented further regarding the motion and the aforementioned complaint and corresponding summons.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Host
 MPT Schafer
 Commissioner Haig
 Commissioner Longe
 Commissioner Long
 Mayor McLain

Nays, None

07-487-24 **Birmingham 2040 Plan Next Steps**

Commissioner Baller rejoined the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

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

Commissioner comment on the item was as follows:

- Noting easier-to-achieve goals in some way would be beneficial.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Longe, seconded by Commissioner Haig:
To assign each prioritization matrix related to the Birmingham 2040 Plan to the corresponding board/commission. In addition, to authorize the Planning Board to provide oversight of the prioritization matrices, with the understanding that the Planning Board would provide annual updates to the City Commission of progress and any changes.

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

Nays, None

07-488-24 **E. Lincoln Street, east of S. Eton Street**

CE Coatta presented the item. Staff answered informational questions from the Commission.

Commissioner discussion of the item was as follows:

- Staff deserved thanks for putting together the presentation. The road is in poor condition and is heavily-used. The road should be improved. It could be added to improvements of Eton. Drivers sometimes drive through the parking lot in order to avoid the road. The condition represents a health and safety concern. Putting the electrical underground could be beneficial.
- The road condition has been raised at meetings of the Torry Community Association. The design of the improvements should be considered.
- A number of roads might benefit from being milled and overlaid.
- Given the PASER ratings, an appropriate reprioritization of road repairs was not immediately apparent. It might be possible to keep costs low by adding this asphalt order to the Arlington and Shirley asphalt order. It would be necessary to determine how the project might be funded.
- Many roads in the community are also in poor condition. Repairing this road outside of the Engineering Department's ranked order may not be beneficial. The condition of the road can also encourage drivers to proceed at lower speeds.
- Repairing this road outside of the rankings may establish a detrimental precedent.
- It may be appropriate to repair this road more immediately due to the safety concerns and the volume of traffic.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Long, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To direct staff to reconfigure or reprioritize funding to allow us to look at whether we can add this as an existing change order into one of our other mill and overlay contracts, and if so, how we would do that financially, and to bring it back.

Commissioner comment on the motion was as follows:

- Speed bumps could be added to the parking lot to lower speeds.
- The PASER rating is low, and milling and overlaying may not have the desired longevity. Staff may be able to propose alternate solutions that would cost less than these repair would. The costs of this project may also not be presently warranted based on the limited accounts of the issues in the area.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Long

Nays, Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Host
MPT Schafer
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Longe

07-489-24 E. Lincoln Street, east of S. Eton Street (Part II)

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Host, seconded by Commissioner Long:
To direct the City Manager and staff to come up with a creative solution.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes, Commissioner Long
Mayor McLain
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Host
MPT Schafer
Commissioner Longe

Nays, Commissioner Haig

07-490-24 Closed Session Pursuant to MCL § 15.268, Sec.8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Host, seconded by Commissioner Long:
To adopt a resolution to meet in closed session to discuss the potential purchase of real property pursuant to MCL § 15.268, Sec.8(1)(e) of the Open Meetings Act.

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

Nays, None

The Commission went into closed session at 11:46 p.m.

The Commission returned from closed session at 12:07 a.m.

Commission Items for Future Discussion

07-491-24 Ban Broad Spectrum Insecticide

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Haig, seconded by Commissioner Baller:
To discuss banning all broad spectrum insecticide use within Birmingham as soon as possible.

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

Nays, None

Commission Discussion On Items From A Prior Meeting

07-492-24 Golf Courses

Commissioner comment on the topic was as follows:

- A presentation on the golf courses should include the history of the acquisition, the sizes, whether they are included in the City’s total park acreage, any restrictions on use of the properties, financials, whether the money spent on the golf courses would be coming out of the enterprise fund, the status of the enterprise fund, future planned maintenance or improvements, information about the users, and whether it would be appropriate to contract out the administration of the golf courses.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Baller, seconded by Commissioner Haig:
To have a review of the golf courses.

Commissioner comment on the motion was as follows:

- The golf courses are presently self-sustaining, which indicates regular use of the courses.

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

Nays, None

It was noted the review would be conducted as a workshop.

VIII. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Shirley & Arlington letters from a prior meeting

Public Comment
Mr. Mirro commented further regarding the motion and the aforementioned complaint and corresponding summons.

- B. Westwood letter from a prior meeting
C. YMCA/NEXT Letters

X. REPORTS

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

The Mayor commented regarding a visit from residents of Birmingham, England, a meeting with Birmingham’s State Senator and Representative, the condition of the cape seal on Westwood, and efforts to reduce noise on Woodward.

Commissioners Long and Host commented regarding prior discussions of cape seal projects.

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

Commissioner comment on the report was as follows:

- It would be helpful to know what other communities do and whether there would be room for improvement.
 - Improving the way dumpsters are managed in the City would be worthwhile. Doing so would also increase the appeal of the alleyways. It would also be important to have information on the constraints.
2. Expanding Special Event Offerings

ACM Fairbairn summarized the report.

Commissioner discussion related to the report was as follows:

- The City’s present events are well-organized and well-attended. Exploring additional opportunities for events would be welcome. Closing some streets to vehicular traffic occasionally to allow for dining and walking in the roads might be a good event option.
- Social districts were explored and no establishments expressed interest. Adding more family-friendly events might be of interest.
- Social districts might work better if the City takes steps to promote the option first.
- Events should be for the benefit of Birmingham residents.
- Increasing City events could result in security concerns.
- Additional events could further enhance Birmingham’s appeal. Determining the appropriate administrative structure would be necessary. The Commission would have to decide whether it would be willing to invest in additional events. Events should benefit the Birmingham community and the surrounding community. The events could be selected in order to mitigate the risk of security concerns. One of the significant benefits would be building community.
- Family-friendly events could help attract younger families to the City. Building community is worthwhile. Events also help promote the financial health of the City’s businesses, which benefits the City overall.
- Surveys indicate that people move to Birmingham because of its parks and recreational offerings, and the vibrancy of the downtown. Birmingham is unusual in that home prices are higher the closer they are to the downtown. Supporting the City’s businesses supports the neighborhoods and maintains the City’s ability to collect taxes, remain desirable, and provide services.
- Lunchtime events and youth-oriented events in the afternoons could help expand the variety of events offered.
- Brother Rice is currently holding discussions on safe socialization opportunities for youth in the community, and it might be appropriate for Birmingham to participate.
- The senior and community center should provide opportunities for youth-oriented activities.
- It would be beneficial to receive an informational presentation from a contractor that organizes this type of program for other municipalities.
- The City should explore expanding the concerts in the park, closing streets temporarily for buskers or other attractions, specialty dinners at appealing City locations, ticketed food events, a Birmingham homecoming for former residents, collaborations between restaurants, Le Dinner en Blanc, a chalk festival, something to feature Birmingham’s automotive history, a blues festival, a weekly food truck day, a public art mural event, ethnic festivals, health-focused events, outdoor recreation focused events, and/or film or writers festivals.

3. Grant Update

ACM Fairbairn summarized the report.

Commissioner discussion related to the report was as follows:

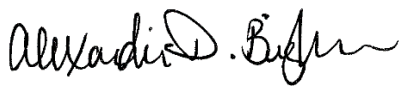
- Staff earned thanks for their grant-related efforts.

INFORMATION ONLY

XI.

ADJOURN

The Commission motioned to adjourn at 12:07 a.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist