

Birmingham City Commission Special Meeting Minutes - Workshop
December 16, 2024
Municipal Building, 151 Martin
6:00 p.m.
Vimeo Link: <https://vimeo.com/1037694745>

This will be considered a workshop session of the City Commission. No formal actions will be taken. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss candidates for the vacant City Commission seat.

I. Call to Order

Therese Longe, Mayor

II. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Longe
MPT Baller
Commissioner Haig
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Schafer (arrived 6:33 p.m.)

Absent: Commissioner Long

Staff: City Manager Ecker; City Clerk Bingham, City Attorney Kucharek

III. Presentation and Commission Discussion

The Mayor provided introductory remarks.

In this order, the following candidates made their prepared statements to the Commission:

- Kevin Hart
- Louie Khouri
- John Fricke
- Ervin Kalaj
- Jerome Dixon
- Jeffrey Neilson
- Kevin Kozlowski
- Jason Emerine
- Pamela Graham
- William Kolb
- Philip Neville
- Doug White
- Kathy Remski
- Matthew Shaw

Commissioners made the following comments during discussion:

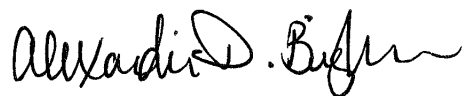
- Candidates’ prior community service within Birmingham helped demonstrate their commitment to the City. Prior service on City boards or committees would be looked on particularly favorably.
- Alternatively, this could be an opportunity to benefit from the expertise and experience of individuals who have not yet been involved in City government.
- All the applicants should consider other ways of potentially getting involved with City governance.
- Those who applied, and considered applying, merited thanks.
- The quality of the candidates was impressive.
- Whichever candidate is appointed should expect to seek re-election in the fall.
- The cadence of municipal government is different from that of private enterprise, and there is some benefit to an applicant having had experience with municipal government.
- Candidates’ written answers were informative and well thought-out.
- It would be useful for all to understand that the council-manager form of government that Birmingham has is most analogous to a business that has a Chief Executive Officer and a governing Board, with the City Manager being akin to the CEO and the Commission being akin to the Board. Some of the powers applicants ascribed to the Commission were not actually within the Commission’s purview.
- The Birmingham electorate tends to look favorably upon candidates that have previously served on a City board or committee.

- Candidates were encouraged to stay for the regular meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m., where interviews, nominations, and the final appointment would occur.

IV. Public Comment

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk



Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist