

BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 20, 2020
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 151 MARTIN
7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pierre Boutros, Mayor, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk Designee, called the roll.

PRESENT: Mayor Boutros
Mayor Pro-Tem Longe
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Hoff
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Nickita
Commissioner Sherman

ABSENT: None

Administration: City Manager Valentine, City Attorneys Currier and Kucharak, Finance Director Gerber, Planning Director Ecker, DPS Director Wood, BSD Executive Director Tighe, Museum Director Pielack, IT Manager Brunk, Assistant Planning Engineer Cowan, City Clerk Designee Bingham

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- All city offices remain closed to the public. All departments are accessible via phone and email. Payments may be dropped off using the convenient drop box, located behind City Hall and accessible via the Police Department parking lot off Henrietta Street.
- The Baldwin Library is open to the public. Building capacity is limited, and people are asked to limit their stay to 45 minutes. Public computer use is restricted to 30 minutes. Masks and social distancing are required. The Library is open on its regular schedule, seven days a week, and is also offering Curbside Pickup service to patrons during limited hours, which are listed on the Library's website. The expanded and renovated Youth Room will probably be opened to the public within the next several days. This will be the culmination of an eleven-month building project. The exterior landscaping will be completed in August.
- We encourage everyone to sign up for our email distribution system to receive the latest information from the City. You can do this by going to our website and clicking on the box in the lower right corner of your screen to sign up.

- The Clerk’s Office reminds all registered voters that you may request an application for an Absent Voter ballot for the August 4, 2020 Primary election by downloading the application found in the Voting section of the Clerk’s Office page at www.bhamgov.org/. You can return it to the Clerk’s office by mail, email, fax, or by dropping it off in the city’s drop box located behind City Hall in the Police Department parking lot. Please return your absentee ballot to the Clerk’s office no later than 8p.m. on Election Day but preferably earlier than the deadline. Finally, if you are interested in working as an Election Inspector in Birmingham in the upcoming elections, please contact our office at elections@bhamgov.org or 248-530-1880.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kathy Fusilier, 16400 Herman Road, Manchester, MI, a vendor to the Birmingham Farmers’ Market expressed her displeasure as a vendor and the displeasure of the customers with the current drive through farmers’ market. She further suggested that there is opportunity to host a walk-up market and be compliant with social distancing practices and other precautions recommended in containing the transmission of COVID19.
- Ms. Kate Bongiorno, resident, commented on the possibility of creating a public park in the space next to Fire Station #2 to accommodate the Quarton Lake Estate community with a park/playground.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and approved by a roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of the items unless a commissioner or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered under the last item of new business.

07-131-20 CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Hoff recused herself from Item A due to absence.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Commissioner Hoff: | Item F - Davey Resource Group, Inc. Professional Services contract. |
| | Item I – Project Award to L.G.K. Building, Inc. for the Hunter House renovation. |

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Host, seconded by Commissioner Hoff:
To approve the Consent Agenda excluding Items F and I; and recusing Commissioner Hoff from the vote on Item A.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas,	Commissioner Host Commissioner Hoff Mayor Pro-Tem Longe Commissioner Baller Commissioner Nickita Commissioner Sherman Mayor Boutros
Nays,	None

- A. Resolution approving the City Commission meeting of July 13, 2020.
- B. Resolution approving the warrant list, including Automated Clearing House payments, dated July 15, 2020 in the amount of \$1,316,111.01.
- C. Resolution setting Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7:30 PM for a public hearing date for August 10, 2020 to consider a Final Site Plan and Special Land Use Permit Amendment at 310 E. Maple to allow the change in name from Pernoï to Casa Pernoï.
- D. Resolution approving the service agreement with Next in the amount of \$120,380 for services described in Attachment A of the agreement for fiscal year 2020-2021, account number 101-299.000-811.0000, and further directing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City. (complete resolution in agenda packet)
- E. Resolution approving the CARES Act Interlocal Agreement between Oakland County and the City of Birmingham and authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.
- G. Resolution approving the purchase of one (1) 2020 GMC Sierra 2500 HD from Todd Wenzel Buick GMC through the Oakland County cooperative purchasing contract #005222 in the amount of \$32,549.00. Funds for this purchase are available in the Auto Equipment Fund, account #641-441.006.971.0100.
- H. Resolution approving free on-street parking July 22 - July 28, 2020 for the "Back to Birmingham" Sale promoted by the Birmingham Shopping District in replacement of the Day on the Town event, possibly foregoing approximately \$48,000 of revenue to the Automobile Parking System.
- J. Resolution awarding the contract for Restoration and Preservation of the Hunter House-Drainage and Masonry to L.G.K. Building, Inc., contingent upon meeting all insurance requirements, in the amount of \$51,750.00, to be charged to the Hunter House Capital Projects Account, 401-804.001- 977.0000 and further; to approve the appropriation and amendment to the fiscal year 2020-2021 General Fund budget as follows:

General Fund

Revenues:

401-000.000-400.0000	Draw from Fund Balance	<u>\$51,750</u>
	Total Revenue	<u>\$51,750</u>

Expenditures:

401-804.001-977.0000	Capital Projects-Hunter House	<u>\$51,750</u>
	Total Expenditures	<u>\$51,750</u>

07-132-20 (ITEM F) DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP, INC. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Commissioner Hoff removed this item from consent to determine who performed the tree inventory in 2012, and to request clarity on the price of the proposed service.

DPS Director Wood affirmed that the Davey Resource Group, Inc. performed the inventory.

DPS Manager Laird clarified the price.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Hoff, seconded by Commissioner Nickita: To approve the contract with Davey Resource Group, Inc. for Professional Services to develop a Tree Manual and Standards of Practice for a total project cost not to exceed \$11,950.00. Funds are available from the Parks - Other Contractual Services account #101-751.000-811.0000 for these services. Further, to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City upon receipt of required insurances.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas, Commissioner Hoff
Commissioner Nickita
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Sherman
Mayor Pro-Tem Longe
Mayor Boutros
Nays, None

07-133-20 (ITEM I) HUNTER HOUSE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

Commissioner Hoff removed this item from consent for clarity of the following:

- The lowest bidder was not awarded the contract for services.
- If window replacement was part of the project scope.
- Available funding.

Museum Director Pielack explained that the two lowest bids did not reflect the actual scope of work specified by the architects and therefore disqualified themselves from award. Director Pielack affirmed that window replacement was included in the project scope and the funding is available through the transfer of unused funds from the Allen House project.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Hoff, seconded by Commissioner Sherman: Resolution awarding the project for Restoration and Preservation of the Hunter House-Exterior Carpentry, Trim and Paint to L.G.K. Building, Inc., contingent upon meeting all insurance requirements, in the amount of \$62,950.00, to be charged to the Hunter House Other Contractual Services account, #101-804.001-811.0000 and further; to approve the appropriation and amendment to the fiscal year 2020-2021 General Fund budget as follows:

General Fund

Revenues:

101-000.000-400.0000	Draw from Fund Balance	<u>\$62, 950</u>
Total Revenue		<u>\$62, 950</u>

Expenditures:

101-804.001-811.0000	Hunter House – Other Contractual Service	<u>\$62, 950</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$62, 950</u>

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas,	Commissioner Hoff Commissioner Sherman Commissioner Host Commissioner Nickita Mayor Pro-Tem Longe Commissioner Baller Mayor Boutros
Nays,	None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

07-134-20 PUBLIC HEARING - SLUP AMENDMENT – LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEMER

Mayor Boutros opened the continuation of the public hearing at 7:56 P.M.

Assistant Planning Engineer Cowan presented this item.

Commissioner Nickita asked if the Planning Board considered alternative material for the façade, because EIFS is not usually allowed in downtown districts because of the lack of durability.

Assistant Planning Engineer Cowan replied no, because EIFS, a synthetic stucco, was used on other parts of the building and the architects were satisfied with the application and quality of the material.

Commissioner Hoff asked for clarification of the revised plan and how the square footage was calculated. She also pointed out that the Birmingham Police Department had some concerns/comments that were not included in the packet.

Assistant Planning Engineer Cowan explained that a pedestrian walk was added to the initial plan. He further explained that for purposes of measuring building footprints, the square footage of the first floor is used as opposed to the usable square feet of the building. Assistant Planning Engineer Cowan had not followed up with the Police Department regarding their concerns.

Commissioner Baller noted that the parking area is 60% of the site, providing over 200 parking spaces when only 80 parking spaces are required. He asked why so many parking spaces, and if the Church would be amenable to allowing the City to use spaces when there are scheduled events that need additional parking.

Assistant Planning Engineer Cowan affirmed that the parking spaces provided meet the ordinance requirement.

City Manager Valentine expressed that the City had conversations with all the churches in town regarding excess capacity and this church is not interested in sharing due to wear and tear on their property.

Mayor Boutros expressed that there is a shared agreement for parking between the church and adjoining businesses and affirmed that the lots are utilized and full on Sunday.

Mr. Cieslak, architect, explained that parking is commonly an issue for churches to accommodate services and special events. He also affirmed that the landscaping meets parking lot requirements.

Commissioner Hoff noted that the Planning Board had concerns about the project scope.

Mr. Cieslak clarified that the existing sanctuary would be demolished and replaced with a larger space.

Mayor Boutros closed the public hearing at 8:30 p.m.

Commissioner Hoff asked if there had been any correspondence from the neighbors.

Assistant Planning Engineer Cowan replied that the church reached out with pamphlets and planned to host public meetings, which were cancelled due to COVID19. There was a correspondence from a West Bloomfield neighbor concerned about where the construction equipment would be staged.

Steve Scheidt, 1289 N Glenhurst, owner representative confirmed that the church is in contact with the neighbors.

Mayor Boutros confirmed that there were no objections for the project noted.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Hoff: Resolution approving the Special Land Use Permit Amendment and Final Site Plan and Design Review for 1800 W Maple – Lutheran Church of the Redeemer to expand the sanctuary and narthex and make related improvements as recommended by the Planning Board on April 22, 2020. (Complete resolution in agenda packet)

Commissioner Sherman noted that the church asked for SLUP amendments on a number of occasions and the Commission granted the request. He further commented that being dismissed on a shared agreement with the City for parking is troubling and hopes that the City would be able to rely on cooperation from the church in the future when the City has a need.

Commissioner Nickita noted the pedestrian connection from the community to the church in the site plans and was happy to see support for the City's desire to become a walkable city.

Steve Scheidt, owner representative, commented that as a leader of the church he would connect City Manager Valentine with the Pastor to revisit a shared parking agreement.

Mayor Boutros reiterated the need for the City and Community to work together.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas,	Commissioner Sherman Commissioner Hoff Commissioner Host Commissioner Nickita Mayor Pro-Tem Longe Commissioner Baller Mayor Boutros
Nays,	None

07-135-20 PUBLIC HEARING FOR REZONING 469 – 479 S. OLD WOODWARD FROM B3/D4 TO B3/D5

Mayor Boutros opened the continuation of the public hearing at 7:56 P.M.

Mayor Pro-Tem Longe recused herself due to a personal conflict of interest.

Rich Rattner, 380 N Old Woodward, Attorney and owner representative, commented on the time and effort put into this project. He requested a continuance of this hearing to allow time to expand on the current zoning request for approximately 30 days.

Commissioner Baller agreed with Mr. Rattner and commented further on the importance of developing a better project in service to the residents.

Commissioner Hoff asked how does this involve the City Commission; she views this as an issue between the developer and the adjoining residents.

Commissioner Sherman suggested that both parties try to agree to something that is amenable and supports the request for a continuance.

Commissioner Host suggested going forward with a sub-committee of commissioners.

Commissioner Nickita referred to examples where zoning had been in conflict in the past and SLUP's were requested. He further believes that it is a conflict of interest for the Commissioners to be involved in any type of negotiations with the parties because the Commissioners would be required to vote on the suggested resolution for this project.

Commissioner Baller argued that to meet the needs of City, the Commissioners and a mediator should be involved.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Baller, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To continue this hearing until September 14, 2020 to allow time to appoint a sub-committee of three commissioners to meet with representatives of Birmingham Place and developers to work out an agreement to bind the parties and determine the terms of a SLUP and a rough site plan.

Commissioner Hoff, a mediator, expressed that the two parties must try to come to an agreement before involving a mediator. She would like to hear from representatives of Birmingham Place.

Mayor Boutros requested clarification from the City Attorney on the appropriate process and agreed with Commissioner Hoff in terms of hearing from Birmingham Place representatives.

Patrick Howe, Birmingham Place representative, expressed that meetings had been requested to no avail. He further referred to previous correspondences supporting existing zoning. Birmingham Place representatives are available for additional discussions.

Commissioner Hoff reminded everyone that the suggested resolution is still on the table and there should be a vote on that issue before additional discussion is entertained.

Commissioner Sherman is in support of granting the continuance only.

Commissioner Nickita commented that involving the City at this point is inappropriate.

Public Comment

- David Bloom explained the purpose of the zoning request, and suggested that the developer give something back to the City and residents in consideration for the revenue that he would be allowed to generate from this project. He also expressed that provisions should be included in the rezoning, if granted, to retain control over what is built by the next owner in that space.
- Mr. Schwartz, 411 S Old Woodward, reiterated that the Residents of Birmingham Place have spoken, and are ready to move forward with the D4 plan.
- Duraid Marcus, developer, recognized the current zoning and that the opportunity for a D5 building existed. He believes that a D5 would be better for Birmingham Place and affirmed that he is willing to negotiate in good faith.

Commissioner Host suggested that the motion on the table is to make sure that the City and Community have input in the final project.

Mayor Boutros does not support the current motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Yeas,	Commissioner Baller Commissioner Host
	Nays,	Commissioner Nickita Commissioner Sherman Commissioner Hoff Mayor Boutros
	Recused,	Mayor Pro-Tem Longe

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Host To postpone the hearing for rezoning of 469 – 479 S. Old Woodward from B3/D4 to B3/D5 as recommended by the Planning Board on May 27, 2020 to September 14, 2020.

Commissioner Sherman asked that the two parties sit down and evaluate what they desire.

Commissioner Hoff does not support the motion of postponement because she believes there is enough information to vote on the suggested resolution presented by the Planning Board.

Commissioner Baller does not support the motion because Birmingham Place is not interested in negotiations; he would like to vote on the suggested resolution.

Commissioner Nickita suggested that based on community interest, he supports the motion to postpone.

Commissioner Host also would like to give the two parties the benefit of coming together.

Public Comment

- Patrick Howe expressed that Birmingham Place does not feel a postponement is necessary given the time that has been put into this project to date.

- Mr. Coulter is in favor of postponing, arguing that this is not a decision to be made by Birmingham Place. The suggested resolution is for the City Commission to decide.
- Dan Teahan observed that there has not been any dialogue in several months between the two parties and does not agree with postponing the vote.
- Chris Longe and Duraid Marcus expressed that the developer reached out and there had been no cooperation from Birmingham Place. They went on to suggest that the City recommend a D5 to the residents because a D4 would not be in the best interest of everyone.
- Mr. Schwartz confirmed reviewing D5 plans and concluded that the D4 plan was the best plan.

Commissioner Hoff argued that an agreement was reached between the two parties. The applicant got approval for a four-story building that was accepted by Birmingham Place.

Commissioner Nickita expressed in light of the above comments, there is no interest in postponing the vote by either party and would like to vote on the suggested resolution.

Motion withdrawn by Commissioner Sherman, second withdrawn by Commissioner Host.

Planning Director Ecker presented the background and history of the original suggested resolution.

Commissioner Nickita clarified that the vote to approve D5 was a split vote accompanied by a lot of dialogue by the Planning Board. Concerning the input and recent petitions, he asked for an explanation of the criteria used for the Planning Board vote.

City Manager Valentine acknowledged receiving valid petitions from residents at Birmingham Place. With the petitions in place, approval would require six votes by the Commission as outlined in the zoning ordinance.

Commissioner Hoff noted that there was not a clear vote in March of 2019 on this issue.

Planning Director Ecker confirmed that there was a lot of discussion resulting in a motion to deny that did not pass, a motion to approve that did not pass, and a motion to send back to the Planning Board that did not pass. There was no formal action taken.

Commissioner Sherman addressed the heights of the neighboring buildings.

Mayor Boutros asked for the distinction between the number of stories allowed with D4 zoning and D5 zoning.

Planning Director Ecker explained that D4 would allow five stories with a maximum height of 80 feet and D5 allows for extensions to the height of Birmingham Place, 114 feet, with no restriction to the number of floors.

Commissioner Nickita noted that the proposed plan is 18 feet above the maximum zoning for D4.

Commissioner Hoff pointed out that there is only one option for the suggested resolution, and asked would a motion be required to deny the suggested resolution?

City Manager Valentine suggested that a motion be made to deny, if that is the desire of the Commission, to avoid the record reflecting that no action was taken.

Public Comment

- Mr. Chris Longe and Duraid Marcus requested a denial of the suggested resolution.
- Mr. Rattner referred to a prior Power Point presentation demonstrating the opportunity to improve the existing site by rezoning to D5. He believes that negotiations are still possible and would like for the Commission to approve the D5 zoning.

- Patrick Howe, responded that a new building is good and the question is whether it would be 5 or 9 stories. He pointed out that the proposed zoning request is in conflict with the Downtown Birmingham plan and would like for the City to enforce the ordinances currently on the book.
- Mr. Rattner clarified that the proposed plan does not specify 9 stories and would like to negotiate.

Commissioner Sherman pointed out that the discussion is based on a matter of 18 feet in height. The number of stories is irrelevant and asked why would they not be able to compromise on the height difference and asked for a site plan for D5 zoning model. Additionally, he asked if discussions were held with the tenants whose views would be affected.

Chris Longe affirmed that it is about height and added that the proposed model is a better building.

Planning Director Ecker noted that the D5 model was not included in the Agenda packet but was located in the previous Power Point presentation.

Commissioner Sherman led a discussion between the developer, architect, and the Birmingham Place Home Owners Association (Jim Arpen) to try to mitigate this issue.

Mr. Teahan, asked is there a mechanism to allow for D5 zoning with a conditional SLUP. Commissioner Sherman clarified that the request would need to come from the applicant.

Mayor Boutros closed the public hearing at 11:00 p.m.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Hoff, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To deny the rezoning of 469 – 479 S. Old Woodward from B3/D4 to B3/D5 as recommended by the Planning Board on May 27, 2020.

Commissioner Hoff made the motion based on the following:

1. Rezoning is not necessary for the preservation and usage of the property.
2. The existing zoning is appropriate as identified in the 2016 Plan and Downtown Overlay.
3. The initial intent of D5 zoning was to allow for renovation of three existing buildings and not to create new buildings.

Commissioner Host commended Commissioner Hoff for the basis of her decision and is in support of Birmingham remaining zoned at D4.

Commissioner Sherman expressed disappointment with the applicant and the residents of Birmingham Place and their unwillingness to reach a solution; therefore, he will support the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas, Commissioner Hoff
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Nickita
Commissioner Sherman
Mayor Boutros
Nays, Commissioner Baller
Recused, Mayor Pro-Tem Longe

Motion Passed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

07-136-20 ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – PART II OF THE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 62, ARTICLE II

Museum Director Pielack presented this item which simply adds an alternate member to the board which is consistent with other museums.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Hoff, seconded by Commissioner Host:
To adopt an ordinance to amend Part II of the City Code, Chapter 62-Historical Preservation, Article II.- Museum Board, Sec. 62-26 establishment; composition, to include an alternate member, and directing the City Clerk to certify and publish the amended ordinance on behalf of the City.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas, Commissioner Hoff
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Nickita
Commissioner Sherman
Mayor Pro-Tem Longe
Mayor Boutros
Nays, None

07-137-20 PARKS AND RECREATION BOND PROPOSAL

City Manager Valentine presented this item.

Commissioner Nickita recalled that there have been discussions about this in the past, most recently at the Long Range Planning meeting and the bond amount was estimated at \$5,000,000.

City Manager Valentine confirmed that \$5M was discussed. He added that the number did not include all of the work on the priority list, the ice arena, and other public facilities.

Mayor Pro-Tem Longe referred to the supplemental material provided by the administration and noted that the Parks and Recreation Board approved a bond amount of \$12M in March that

includes all of the projects outlined in this proposal and derived from the Master Plan. She added that many residents have reached out to her and expressed their support for the bond.

Commissioner Host expressed that this bond is overdue, and supports the suggested resolution.

Commissioner Hoff agrees with the projects presented, however she noted that the topic of bonding just arose in the last two weeks and does not believe that there is enough time to present a bond issuance for the voters to consider. She suggested that the timing may not be right due to the tax increase that will impact residents in this COVID19 environment. She suggested postponing until next year.

Commissioner Baller expressed his support for the bond, and suggested that the community is on board with the proposal.

Commissioner Sherman concurs with Commissioner Hoff and expressed that residents have communicated to him that while they would like to see improved parks, due to the current economy they are not looking forward to increased taxes.

Commissioner Nickita acknowledged new information, with the ice arena receiving over half of the bond. His main concern is with the City budget, and asked will the tax rate continue to decrease over the next year. While he recognizes the importance of the work, and have received input from residents on the financial impact, he would like to be fiscally responsible and postpone bonding to a more secure economic time.

Mayor Pro-Tem Longe would like City Manager Valentine to confirm that there would not be a tax increase because of this bond proposal. She further expressed that this is about the quality of life for Birmingham residents and passing the bond does not mean that the bonds have to be issued. She wants the residents to voice their decision at the ballot box.

Mayor Boutros expressed that he would like to hear from the bond consultant on the following:

- Would there be a tax increase, if so, when?
- If postponed, would voter turnout be poor in a special election.

Mr. McGow, Bond Consultant, responded as follows:

- This proposal would authorize issuance of bonds.
- The City would be entitled to levy millage to pay for debt services.
- The millage would be levied each year to meet debt for that year.
- A new tax would be levied, but debt retirement is expected to offset the new millage and debt service rates would be less than the current amount levied.
- First principal payment is due in 2024.
- The timing of the election is a policy question and up to the municipality; some municipalities prefer to have local elections with only local issues on the ballot. In an election with other issues, local items are placed on the bottom of the ballot.

Mayor Boutros suggested moving the item forward and let the residents decide.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Longe, seconded by Commissioner Baller:
To submit a Parks and Recreation Bond Proposal in the amount of \$11,250,000 at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020

AND

To engage VanDyke*Horn to perform communication services as outlined in their July 1, 2020 communication bond proposal in the amount of \$30,000 charged to Other Contractual Services Account #101-170.000-811.00.

Commissioner Hoff argued that the timing is wrong, the information provided is unfamiliar, rushed, and advised that it is not wise to push a bond through without the total support of the City Commission.

Public Comment

David Bloom supports spending for the benefit of residents. He also noted the importance of enhancing the parks during the COVID19 environment and supports getting the proposal on the ballot in November.

Mayor Pro-Tem Longe attempted to present a text from the Parks and Recreation Board Chair, Heather Carmona.

Commissioner Sherman called a point of order because it is against policy to accept public comment via text or third parties.

Mayor Boutros reiterated that the bond is being rushed because it has been discussed for a long time and if it does not appear on the November ballot, an opportunity will be missed.

Commissioner Hoff continued to argue that timing is not the only issue; the priorities seem to have been set without Commission input, specifically her own. She had not been contacted on any of the priorities. Approving a bond without clear specifications is irresponsible and poorly planned.

Commissioner Nickita expressed that passing the bond and figuring it out later is not how this Commission operates. He acknowledged that he would not be able to promote the bond proposal without clarity on the priorities and a plan for issuance.

Commissioner Host commented that this is about the citizens and he is happy to support the item.

Commissioner Sherman pointed out that the ice arena is used by approximately 40% of residents and begs to differ that this bond is for the benefit of Birmingham residents. He further pointed out that he and other Commissioners are not opposed to the bond, just opposed to pushing it through without performing the proper due diligence.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas,	Mayor Pro-Tem Longe
	Commissioner Baller
	Commissioner Host
	Mayor Boutros
Nays,	Commissioner Hoff
	Commissioner Nickita
	Commissioner Sherman

VIII. REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

X. REPORTS

- A. Commissioner Reports
- B. Commissioner Comments
 - Commissioner Nickita commented that it is Midnight and the Rules of Procedure specify that the meetings would not continue past 11:00 p.m.
 - Commissioner Baller noted that the Rules of Procedures are suggestions and not mandates. He expressed that he is willing to work overtime for the community and is looking forward to the scheduled workshops to address some of these issues.
 - Commissioner Host complimented City Manager Valentine on his response to COVID19. He further stated that wearing masks in public would pay off in combating this virus.
 - Commissioner Hoff commented that she was rushed to the hospital last week and was unable to attend the Commission meeting. She acknowledged Birmingham EMTs and commended them on the level of service that they provide to Birmingham residents.
- C. Advisory Boards, Committees, Commissions' Reports and Agendas
- D. Legislation
- E. City Staff

INFORMATION ONLY

XI. ADJOURN

Mayor Boutros adjourned the meeting at 12:05, Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

Alexandria Bingham, City Clerk Designee
/vc