

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2020
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 151 MARTIN
12:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pierre Boutros, Mayor
12:00 PM

II. ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Boutros
Mayor Pro Tem Longe
Commissioner Baller
Commissioner Hoff
Commissioner Host
Commissioner Sherman
Absent: Commissioner Nickita

Administration: City Manager Valentine, Assistant City Manager Gunter, City Attorney Currier,
Acting City Clerk Arft

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The City of Birmingham welcomes public comment limited at the Mayor's discretion on items that do not appear in the printed agenda in order to allow for an efficient meeting. The Commission will not participate in a question and answer session and will take no action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. The public can also speak to agenda items as they occur when the presiding officer opens the floor to the public. When recognized by the presiding officer, please step to the microphone, state your name for the record, and direct all comments or questions to the presiding officer.

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

01-030-20 N. OLD WOODWARD PARKING STRUCTURE REPAIRS

City Manager Valentine presented this item explaining the need to move forward with the suggested resolution in a timely manner. Options have been evaluated and the primary objective, at this time, is to repair the façade and preserve public safety.

Assistant City Manager Gunter provided additional detail of the structure failure and repair options available to the City. She also assured the commission that the contractor is prepared to move forward and is able to mobilize immediately.

Commissioner Hoff asked if any commissioners went over to look at the failing structure and asked if it is unusual that chunks of concrete would fall off.

Mayor Boutros did drive by the structure and witnessed the fallen concrete.

Assistant City Manager Gunter affirmed

- That the driveways and parking spaces are solid; she went on to say that,

- The façade system surrounding the structure is a vehicle barrier and safety design feature that is not a part of the structure, but a substructure.
- The facade has been subject to erosion from precipitation in its individual pieces, which are held together by steel components that are failing due to accumulated rust, and expansion and contraction from the elements.

Commissioner Hoff asked are any of the City's other structures constructed in this way.

Assistant City Manager Gunter replied that the façade on this structure is unique and is not used anywhere else.

Commissioner Hoff asked about taking the structure down as an option.

City Manager Valentine stated:

- The time frame required to plan a demolition project is months and perhaps years away.
- In the current environment and interest of public safety, it would be prudent to act now.

Commissioner Baller asked:

- How long would the project be expected to be completed.
- How many parking spaces would be taken out of service during the construction.

Assistant City Manager Gunter offered:

- The best-case scenario of 2 months, and worst case would be 3 months depending on The extent of difficulty anticipated in removing the corroded brackets.
- That approximately 120 parking spaces out of service at any given time.

Mayor Pro Tem Longe asked:

- If the cabling system is intended to be a temporary or permanent fix.
- Will it prohibit us from doing something down the road to the exterior façade.

City Manager Valentine affirmed:

- That it is intended to be a permanent fix being done on the inside.
- Options to improve the exterior façade down the road are available and a separate project.

Commissioner Sherman commented that:

- By way of an emergency meeting being held today, this is a public health, safety and welfare issue.
- It is the administration's duty to protect the community. Therefore, there is not a lot to discuss as far as what has to be done.
- He would expect that more information, as it becomes available, would be circulated to the commission and appear on upcoming agendas whether it is a regular meeting or special meeting.
- This is not a meeting to discuss aesthetics.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Sherman, seconded by Commissioner Host: To authorize the agreement with DRV Contractors to replace the existing barrier façade system surrounding the N. Old Woodward parking structure and install a new cable barrier system for an amount not to exceed \$591,000 from account #585-538.005-977.0000. Further, directing the City Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

AND

To authorize the agreement with WJE Engineers and Architects, PC to design the barrier cable system for the N. Old Woodward parking structure and to provide construction observation services for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from account #585-538.005-977.0000. Further directing the City Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

Commissioner Baller commented that:

- He has a problem moving the resolution quickly because design authority is not included in the resolution.
- He could only support the resolution if architects are involved and the City Commission has input.

Assistant City Manager Gunter shared:

- That the contractor, WJE, is a team of engineers and architects, and has the capacity to advance the full team.
- That there have been discussions on the awareness of aesthetics and the goal is to develop a scalable design.

Commissioner Hoff agreed:

- That the suggested resolution is a safety issue and does not include design; so it should not be a part of the discussion.
- That the focus should be the emergency at hand.

Commissioner Baller expressed that there are many instances where cable systems are the façades; and it is possible that the City could end up with this type of façade. In order to support this motion, he wants to make sure that the façade ultimately is aesthetically pleasing.

City Manager Valentine went on to say that, nothing would be installed until the commission has an opportunity to review it.

Public Comment:

- Michael Poris, Architect, commented on the cost of installing facades, and stabilizing the structure in the meantime.
- Chris Longe, Architect, commented on Mr. Poris' statements and the current condition of the parking structure.
- Cindy Rose commented on securing the sculpture purchase on the site before beginning construction.

Commissioner Hoff commented on additional options to create a barrier.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
 Nays, 0
 Absent, 1 (Nickita)

V. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Arft
Acting City Clerk