

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

June 2024

Baldwin Public Library

Holiday Closures

The library will be closed on Thursday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

Library Board

The Library Board will meet on Monday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m. for its regular meeting. The Board will be voting to:

- Adopt a budget amendment for FY2023-24
- Adopt updates to the Library Card Policy, Fines and Fees Policy, Electronic Device, Network, and Internet Use Policy, Collection Development Policy, and Staff Development Policy
- Adopt a new Communications Policy
- Approve a 3% pay increase for staff and an updated Pay and Benefits Schedule for all staff

Phase 3 Construction Project

The Phase 3 addition and renovation is still in progress. We've run into several delays with the installation of the new tile stairs. A new tile installation team began installing tiles on the steps the week of June 17. Once tile installation is complete, we anticipate needing about 2 weeks to finish up last minute touches in the space before opening the new front entrance to the public. Our new earliest reopening date is early July.

We invite you to mark your calendars for our fall open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sunday, September 15, 2024, from 1 to 3 p.m. For further details about the project, please visit www.baldwinlib.org/renovation.

Grants Received

The library recently received nearly \$20,000 in grants. We are grateful to these three organizations for supporting library programs and services:

- Friends of the Baldwin Public Library \$17,600 to pay for programs and services at the library
- **Michigan Architectural Foundation** \$1,350 grant to purchase a new vinyl cutter and provide STEAM-based architecture programming in the Idea Lab
- Woman's National Farm and Garden Association, Bloomfield Hills \$1,000 to purchase native perennials for the garden's flower beds

Library Tours

If you'd like to learn even more about the library, join Director Rebekah Craft for a Behind the Scenes Tour. You'll visit staff areas, learn how items are added to the collection, and hear about new programs and services. The next tour will meet in the library's lobby on Wednesday, July 17, at 4 p.m. Idea Lab: The Grand Tour

Have you always wondered what the Idea Lab is all about, but were afraid to ask? On Wednesday, July 10 at 7 p.m., Jeff will take you on a tour of the Idea Lab, including a quick demo of our exciting equipment. Registration required.

Summer Reading Program

Our Summer Reading Kickoff was held on Friday, June 7 and we hosted over 400 people at the event. Summer Reading runs through August 2. You can register for the program online at <u>https://www.baldwinlib.org/summer-reading/</u>. We thank the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library for their generous support of this event. We were pleased to use our new plaza on the corner of Merrill and Bates to host this program.



Upcoming events of interest

VIRTUAL - NYT & WSJ from Home

Wednesday, July 10, at 7 p.m.

Learn how to access popular newspapers, including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal with your Baldwin Public Library card during this virtual program. Registration required.

VIRTUAL - Genealogy Series: Overlooked Resources that Rock

Thursday, July 11, at 7 p.m.

City Directories, Yearbooks, Sanborn Maps...there are many genealogy resources that are neglected. But no longer! In this virtual program, we'll explore lesser known resources that provide lots of information. Registration required.

Books and Blankets Outdoor Family Story Time at Barnum Park Saturday, July 13, at 10:30 a.m. Bring a blanket and enjoy a story time that is fun for the whole family. Story time will be canceled in case of inclement weather. No registration required. Please leave all pets at home.

Baffling Bill's Magic of Reading Show Tuesday, July 16, at 2 p.m. Join us for a magical adventure. Will Baffling Bill and Gus the Bunny read your mind? Hypnotize you? Or just amaze you with their astonishing magic? Come and see! Registration required.

Friends of the BPL Used Book & Media Sale Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Shop tons of great gently used inventory on the lower level of the Library.

Learn more about these events and other programs coming to Baldwin at <u>www.baldwinlib.org/calendar</u>.

The Birmingham Museum

School Tours

School tours have wrapped up at the museum. Every second grade class in the Birmingham School District visited for a total of 477 students and 182 adults. Both students and adults got a taste of what everyday life was like in the early 1800s in Birmingham. Our most popular artifacts among the second grade crowd? Number one is always the potty chair in the Hunter House followed closely by the "creepy" dolls with broken or chipped painted porcelain faces.

Still Time to See Underground Railroad Exhibit

The exhibit on the Underground Railroad located on the first floor of City Hall will be leaving at the end of June. This special traveling exhibit, which traces part of Oakland County's Underground Railroad network—including Birmingham abolitionists and freedom seekers—is making its way to various municipal buildings, libraries and museums around the county. Check it out and fill out a survey while it's still here!

"Birmingham Uncovered" Podcast

The latest episode of the museum's "Birmingham Uncovered" podcast dropped recently, and it is about two best friends who radically shaped Birmingham's commercial landscape in the 1800s. Over their 60+ year friendship, George Mitchell and Almeron Whitehead created three businesses together, held numerous public offices, joined a lot of clubs, almost committed manslaughter a couple of times, had impeccable mustaches and are buried side by side in Greenwood Cemetery. Our tried and true formula of drawing folks in with promises of true crime and Birmingham's history must be working as we just passed the 1,000 downloads mark! Download the podcast wherever fine podcasts are typically found or check out our <u>YouTube Channel</u> and <u>website</u>.

Birmingham Shopping District

Farmers Market

The Birmingham Farmers Market held its first annual Strawberry Jam-Boree on June 16, 2024, featuring strawberry-themed activities, giveaways and items for purchase from vendors. The market continues to draw impressive crowds and participation each week. This season's Second Sunday wellness activities in May and June were very successful.

Movie Nights

Hundreds of families gathered in Booth Park for our first movie night event of the season on Friday, June 7, 2024. Additional Movie Nights will follow on July 19, August 9 and September 6, 2024. To generate community engagement and collaboration, we've invited the community to vote for the August and September movie titles on Engage Birmingham. We're also giving away VIP packages that include reserved seating, reserved parking and some goodies via social media.

Marketing

The BSD is working on a variety of marketing initiatives to promote our local businesses and downtown. The Summer Style Guide and series of promotional social media videos featuring local CBS Anchor Sandra Ali and over 23 local businesses, is live and continues to generate engagement. The BSD also continues to work with Bureau Detroit on a series of videos focused on marketing and tenant recruitment.

New Business Welcome Packets

The BSD is developing an informational packet to help new businesses easily navigate City processes and guide them to City and local resources that may be useful as they open up shop. The BSD is collaborating with Building, Planning, Clerk's Office and other departments in this initiative.

Building Department

Board of Zoning Appeals

There were two cases on the agenda for the May 14, 2024 Board of Zoning Appeals regular meeting:

- 1. 849 Henrietta: The property owner requested a variance from the 30% maximum lot coverage requirement to construct a front porch on the existing home. The appellant demonstrated a practical difficulty and the variance was granted by a 6/0 vote.
- 2. 1011 Pierce: The property owner requested a variance from the 30% maximum lot coverage requirement to construct a roof over an existing rear patio in the rear open space. A practical difficulty was not established and the variance was denied by a 6/0 vote.

Online Permit Applications

In the month of May, we processed 412 permits online bringing this year's total permits processed electronically to 1,863.

Monthly Report

The Building Department's <u>monthly report</u> shows the previous month's permit activity, along with charts showing the building permit activity trend over the past year.

City Clerk's Office

Elections

Redistricting Update

A ruling by a panel of three federal judges in a lawsuit, <u>Agee v. Benson</u>, went to trial in November of 2023 alleging that the legislative boundaries drawn up by the <u>Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting</u> <u>Commission</u> (MICRC) violated the Voting Rights Act (VRA) by diluting Black voting power in more than a dozen Detroit-area legislative districts. The outcome of this decision has resulted in changes for many Birmingham voters. Birmingham Precincts 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 will see that the State House District has changed from District 5 to District 6 on their voter ID cards. Voter ID cards were mailed mid-June.

Election Inspectors

The City Clerk's Office is taking applications for Election Inspectors for the August 6, 2024 State Primary Election and the November 5, 2024 General Election. Individuals must be at least 16 years of age and a registered Michigan voter if over the age of 18.

At this time we are mostly staffed but hoping to add to our emergency backup inspector list. These inspectors would be on call to work in case a regularly scheduled inspector is no longer able to work. Visit <u>bhamgov.org/vote</u> for more information.

August 6, 2024 - State Primary Election

The initial mailing of absentee ballots is tentatively scheduled for the last week of June.

November 5, 2024 - General Election

The initial mailing of absentee ballots is tentatively scheduled for the last week of September.

Voters with an absentee ballot can...

- Return your ballot by mail or drop box.
 *Keep in mind the spoiling ballot deadlines listed below.
- 2. Vote your absentee ballot at one of your early voting sites (NEW with Prop 22-2)
- 3. Vote your absentee ballot at your precinct on Election Day (NEW with Prop 22-2)

Absentee ballots will be issued as requests are received up until the absentee ballot issuing deadlines.

Early Voting

Early Voting Dates for August and November 2024:

<u>Day</u>	August 6, 2024 Election	November 5, 2024 Election	Time
Saturday	7/27	10/26	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	7/28	10/27	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday	7/29	10/28	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	7/30	10/29	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	7/31	10/30	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	8/1	10/31	12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday	8/2	11/1	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	8/3	11/2	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	8/4	11/3	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early Voting Locations:

- Waterford Oaks Activities Center, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328
- Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd. Bloomfield Twp., MI 48302

Early voting is a component of proposal 2022-2 and includes a Constitutional right to no less than 9 days

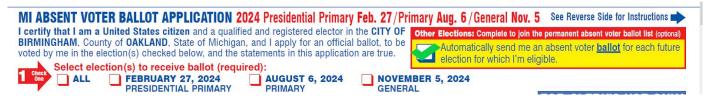
of early voting in each Statewide and Federal election (even year election) for no less than 8 hours per day. Early voting will look and feel just like voting on election day.

Important Election Deadlines November 5, 2024 August 6, 2024 **State Primary General Election** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 through Same-day voter registration with Tuesday, October 22, 2024 through Election Day your local clerk, proof of residency Election Day required. 5:00 p.m. deadline to spoil an Friday, October 25, 2024 Friday, July 26, 2024 absentee ballot that was already submitted to the clerk. Saturday, July 27, 2024 through Early Voting Saturday, October 26, 2024 Sunday, August 4, 2024 through Sunday, November 3, 2024 Friday, August 2, 2024 5 p.m. deadline for the clerk to Friday, November 1, 2024 send absentee ballots by first class mail. 4 p.m. deadline for voters to spoil Monday, August 5, 2024 Monday, November 4, 2024 their absentee ballot that was lost or destroyed in-person at the Clerk's Office. Tuesday, August 6, 2024 8 p.m. deadline for absentee Tuesday, November 5, 2024 ballots to be delivered to the clerk for tabulation. Friday, August 9, 2024 5 p.m. deadline for a voter to cure Friday, November 8, 2024 a signature on an AV ballot return envelope that was otherwise a valid ballot to be tabulated. Monday, August 12, 2024 Deadline to receive and count a Monday, November 11, 2024 ballot submitted by an Overseas Voter postmarked on or before election day.

For more information on early voting visit <u>bhamgov.org/vote</u>.

Becoming a Permanent Ballot Voter

Since the passage of Proposal 2022-2, clerks now maintain a Permanent Ballot List. Birmingham voters began opting into the Permanent Ballot List by checking a box on their November 7, 2023 absentee ballot application. This box is also available on the 2024 absentee ballot applications, pictured below.



Voters can opt in or out of the Permanent Ballot List at any time by sending a written request to the City Clerk's Office.

Voters on the Permanent Ballot List should make sure they keep current contact information on file with the City Clerk's Office including mailing address (especially for those who travel outside of Birmingham during times that ballots are being mailed) as well as phone and email contacts. Ballots may not be forwarded so the Clerk's Office will be contacting all voters whose absentee ballots bounced back to the Clerk's Office in the mail.

No Postage Necessary!

Absentee ballot applications and absentee ballot return envelopes for the entire State of Michigan are equipped with a business reply mail permit that will cover the cost of postage for any ballot or application mailed within the United States.

Return Envelopes - what to look for:

Outgoing absentee ballots (to the voter) are blue.

All absentee ballot return envelopes (coming back to the Clerk) are purple.

*Remember when using a drop box to only use drop boxes in your assigned jurisdiction.

Example: Birmingham voters should use the Birmingham ballot drop boxes. Birmingham voters should NOT place their ballot in a drop box from a neighboring jurisdiction such as Troy, Royal Oak, or Southfield Township.

Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board (GCAB)

The next meeting for the GCAB is scheduled for September 6, 2024. To view Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board agendas and minutes visit <u>www.bhamgov.org/GCAB</u>.

Also note that for those visiting the cemetery and placing decorations for loved ones it is important to be aware of the <u>Greenwood Cemetery Operational Procedures</u>, <u>Conditions & Regulations</u>, specifically sections II, III, and V.

Board of Ethics

The next Board of Ethics meeting has yet to be determined. To view the Ethics Board agendas and minutes visit <u>www.bhamgov.org/ethics</u>.

Board Appointments

The City of Birmingham is looking for dedicated individuals who want to give back to their community by serving on one of our many boards or committees. Birmingham's different boards and committees make recommendations that shape the City's future. Serving on a board or committee is a great way to get

involved in your community, meet new people and make a positive impact. Don't miss out on the chance to make a difference - visit <u>www.bhamgov.org/boardopportunities</u> to view all available openings and submit your application at <u>bhamgov.org/boardapplication</u>.

Board	Openings	Application due by noon Wednesday before the intended interview date	Interview/ Appointment at City Commission meeting
Advisory Parking Committee	1 regular member (retail) term ending 9/1/2026 1 alternate member term ending 9/1/2026	Until Filled	
Architectural Review Committee	1 regular member term ending 4/11/2025	Until Filled	
Birmingham Area Cable Board	 regular Birmingham resident, term ending 3/30/27 alternate Birmingham resident, term ending 3/30/26 alternate Birmingham resident, term ending 3/30/25 	Until Filled	
Birmingham Shopping District	1 member shall be a business operator or person with interest in property located within the district, 4-year term ending 11/16/2026	Until Filled	
Board of Building Trades Appeals	2 regular members (builder & engineer) terms ending 5/23/2027	Until Filled	
Board of Review	1 regular member to serve the remainder of a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2024 1 alternate member to serve the	Until Filled	
	remainder of a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2026 1 alternate member to serve the remainder of a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2025		

Board of Zoning Appeals	1 alternate member term ending 2/18/2026	Until Filled	
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	1 regular member term ending 5/23/2026	Until Filled	
	1 regular member term ending 5/23/2027		
Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board	3 regular member terms expiring 7/6/2027	7/3/24	7/8/24
Hearing Officer	1 alternate member term expiring 6/30/2027	6/19/24	6/24/24
Historic District Study Committee	2 regular member terms expiring 6/25/2027	6/19/24	6/24/24
Housing Board of Appeals	3 regular member terms ending 5/4/2026	Until Filled	
Martha Baldwin Park Board	2 regular member terms ending 5/1/2028	Until Filled	
Multi Modal Transportation Board	2 alternate members	Until Filled	
Museum Board	2 regular member terms expiring 7/5/2027	7/3/24	7/8/24
	1 regular member term ending 7/6/2026		
Stormwater Utility Appeals Board	2 regular member terms ending 1/31/2026	Until Filled	
	2 Alternate members 1/31/2025		
Triangle District Corridor Improvement Authority	1 resident of the developed area or area within 1/2 mile of the development area, term ending 12/15/2027	Until Filled	

Setting the Record Straight – Arlington/Shirley Street Project Mirro Email of 6-13-24

The City of Birmingham (City) is in receipt of an email sent to the City Manager's Office in reference to the Arlington/Shirley Water, Sewer and Road Project. After review of the email, the City would like to address the following misinformation:

Meetings:

1. The email states, "At those meetings we learned that the Engineering Department cannot support use of HDD or narrow trenching due to various obstructions under the street."

RESPONSE: This is not new information. The City has reported numerous times previously that this road project was not a candidate for horizontal directional drilling (HDD). To say that "we learned" that HDD was a not a viable option at either the June 3 (City Commission meeting) or the June 4 (Engineering Resident meeting) is not an accurate portrayal of facts.

2. The email states, "We also learned that the slag chip foundation is not thick enough to meet the improved road standard."

RESPONSE: This is not new information. The City has said all along that both streets are "unimproved roads" with several layers of old cape seal. The City has previously shown that the roads have no construction base from which to build upon. To say that "we also learned" that the chip foundation is not thick enough is false and misleading. The City has gone to great lengths to explain why the road is in fact an "unimproved" road and in need of improvement.

3. The email states, "Westwood Drive had the same problems, but the City was able to keep the street paving assessment in the \$5,000 range and the lateral assessment in the \$2,500 range for a total assessment of about \$7,500 for each lot when this street was upgraded two years ago."

RESPONSE: This is not a true statement. As will be discussed later, the Westwood Project and the Arlington/Shirley Project are very different. The City followed the exact same guidelines in the two projects that are in line with the process of how the City bids out contracted water, sewer and street improvements.

Assessments:

1. The email states, "The good news that this average assessment is about one half the \$50,000 amount we expected for the following reasons:

RESPONSE: The City never provided any estimate to residents that said each resident's assessment would be in the \$50,000.00 range. The City provided information that explained how the assessment would be derived consistent with City ordinances on all water, sewer and street projects and that the amounts of the assessments would not be known until after a bid amount had been obtained from a contractor through a completive bid process. This \$50,000.00 figure was a contrived figure by someone and not based on any facts provided by the City. The City has always been clear on how each resident's assessment would be determined.

2. The email states, "First, the City has agreed to fund replacement of water and sewer pipes from the water and sewer fund which was not guaranteed at the previous meetings.

RESPONSE: False statement: The City has always informed the public that the main water and main sewer lines were always the financial responsibility of the City. The City has never stated that the costs associated with the main water and man sewer lines would be borne by the residents. The residents

only participate with costs associated with lateral water and sewer lines that service their respective property.

3. The email states, "Second, our earlier estimates were based on 9/23 amounts from the City that assumed use of concrete for the street surface, not asphalt that the Commission voted to let us have on 2-5-24."

RESPONSE: False. The City has maintained from the onset of the project that the pricing of both asphalt and concrete would be obtained from prospective bidders during the competitive bidding process. The City was clear that concrete was the preferred choice because it lasts longer. However, the City further acknowledged that concrete was traditionally more expensive. However, at the February 5, 2024 City Commission meeting, City Commission, in its resolution, specifically chose asphalt.

4. The email states, "Third, our continued cost concerns led the City to request the best possible quotes from the street contractors and we were told that their bids reflect this expectation."

RESPONSE: False: This statement makes it appear that only because of resident "cost concerns" did City staff request the best possible quotes from contractors. City staff always has costs in mind on every City project. The City always uses a competitive bidding process on every street project to ensure that the best possible price for a project is obtained. There was no "cost concern" pressure on this project that was any different than any other City project. Once the bids are opened and a valid bidder is chosen that meets the scope of work in the project, the cost of the project for each resident can then be determined. The lessening of costs is always a priority.

Westwood Comparison:

1. The email states, "While we are happy to see the assessments at a lower level than earlier expected, they are still more than 3 times higher than the assessment received by Westwood property owners with a street that was identical to Arlington and Shirley. This is principally due to the Commission permitting Westwood to retain its curbs and gutters and not excavating the 8' driveway approaches.

RESPONSE: False. First, cost expectations were never prepared early on in this or any other water, sewer and road project. False and misleading information regarding costs were discussed and spread by other individual parties, not the City. Secondly, the Westwood Street Project and the Arlington/Shirley Street Project are not identical, not even close. On Westwood, the street remained an unimproved road. On Westwood, there was only the installation of a main water line and an additional separated storm sewer. Upon completion of the project, the road was left unimproved and only coated with a cape seal treatment. Pre-existing curbs and gutters were not addressed because the road was not improved.

2. The email states, "This difference in street treatment will also result in the loss of at least a half dozen trees in the Arlington/Shirley ROW (right of way space) and the loss of access to our driveways for 2 weeks vs one day for Westwood. It will also destroy our sprinkler systems, sidewalks to the street and landscaping in the ROW.

RESPONSE: False. On any public street, there is a public right of way. From the beginning of this or any street project, the City has been very clear that any private improvements made by private individuals in the City's right of way are not the responsibility of the City. Furthermore, the City has also been very clear on the necessity for re-doing the driveway approaches on these streets as it relates to drainage and water flow. The City has also made it clear to residents that prior to the onset of the actual construction, every resident will have time to address their respective situations as it relates to the right of way property to minimize any potential damage to private approaches done with pavers, landscaping or sprinkler systems.

As far as trees are concerned, the City has gone above and beyond to address this area of concern. The City has been forthcoming with all issues surrounding current trees and will do it's very best to preserve and maintain as many trees as possible and still safely complete the project.

3. The email states, "On top of this, the City has the right to increase the assessment by up to 25% if the final costs are higher than the current estimates which happened on Pierce Street last summer.

RESPONSE: Per City ordinance, the City does have the right to increase an assessment up to 25% if final costs are higher than expected. The City has been very up front about this.

4. The email states, "This would bring the average assessment to \$33,000. If property owner repairs to driveways, sidewalks, sprinkler systems and landscaping add an estimated \$15,000, the street project could end up costing each of us about \$48,000 in total or close to the earlier assessment estimate of \$50,000 per average property owner.

RESPONSE: To break this down, the email stated that the average assessment is \$26,000.00. If the project went over by 25%, that would be an additional \$6.500.00 in a worst case scenario. The email than stated repairs to the driveway, sidewalks, sprinkler systems and landscaping would be an estimated \$15,000.00. There is no basis for where this number comes from. This is another example of where an undocumented \$50,000.00 figure has been propagated by an outside third party without factual basis.

Realtor Opinions:

1. The email states, "<u>We</u> have received opinions from 3 local realtors that the street project upgrade planned by the City will add no more than \$2,000 to \$3,000 to the value of our properties. One realtor even thought that the value could decline in the short term due to the tax lien on our properties from the assessments until paid off next year in one lump sum or over 10 years at 9 ½% interest rate the City can legally add. If these realtor value appraisals are correct, it would mean that the Arlington/Shirley Special Assessment does not meet the Michigan Tax Tribunal goal of "a direct and proportional increase in the value of the property being assessed."

RESPONSE: The entirety of a Special Assessment District or "SAD" is built around the premise that the street, water and sewer improvements are a necessity. The roads are both unimproved and in poor condition. The water and sewer lines are almost 100 years old and the Fire Chief has gone on record that the water flows in the current lines are not sufficient to fight a fire. The value of new and updated water and sewer lines and the addition of an improved road with proper curbs, drains and fire hydrants that the City will be responsible for moving forward in perpetuity also adds to the financial home appreciation value. The health, welfare and safety of all residents is the primary driving factor in this and all SAD's.

Protest Petition:

 The email stated, "A June 3 letter from the City states "You or your agent may appear at the hearing (6/24/24) to express your views; however, if you fail to protest either in person or by letter received on or before the date of the hearing, you cannot appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal."

RESPONSE: The City requirements (which mirror state law) to protest a SAD and/or the SAD Roll can be found in the City's Code of ordinances under Section 94-7, Notice of Public Hearing:

(a)

After the filing of the city engineer's report under <u>section 94-6</u>, above, a public hearing before the city commission on the advisability of proceeding to establish a special assessment district for the making of the public improvement shall be set, which hearing shall be held not less than ten days after notice

thereof has been both published in a newspaper published or generally circulated in the city, and sent by first-class mail to all property owners in the proposed special assessment district as shown by the current property tax roll of the city. The notice shall include a statement that appearance and protest at the public hearing is required in order to appeal the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, and that an owner or interested party, or his or her agent, may appear and protest in person or by letter, if received by the commission prior to the public hearing. The hearing required by this section may be held at any regular or special meeting of the commission.

(b)

At the public hearing on the proposed improvement, all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

(Ord. No. 1637, 3-24-97; Ord. No. 2499, 10-25-21)

Any resident questioning their rights and/or responsibilities should consult with their own licensed attorney. This information was also stated on the Notice of Public Hearing and in a letter sent to each resident regarding this SAD project.

Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee (AIPC)

On May 29, 2024, the AIPC held its regular meeting at City Hall. The AIPC completed its review of the community survey results report. The color schemes of all the graphs were adjusted for clarity and tables were added to the bottom of most graphs to make it easier to understand the graphs and to offer further insight into the information presented in the graphs. The committee also examined all of the comments made by the community survey respondents. This information was summarized and presented for key points. Finally, the committee also heard from committee members and City staff who interviewed community survey respondents who had requested follow-up interviews. This information was also summarized for key points of consideration. The AIPC then discussed an outline for the committee's last task – creating a Citywide Action Plan. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 1 p.m. at City Hall.

YMCA Building

In the past month, City staff and the Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Committee met three times and accomplished the following:

Owner's Representative

In response to the RFP, the City received five (5) proposals, ranging in price from \$152,240.00 to \$625,500.00. Consistent with the RFP, the evaluation procedure and criteria used by the City included a qualifications based selection process in choosing contractors for consideration by the City Commission for the completion of this work. The Ad Hoc Senior/Recreation Center Committee (SCC) and a City staff panel consisting of the City Manager, both Assistant City Managers, the Building Official, the DPS Director, Finance Director, Planning Director and Building Superintendent reviewed and evaluated each proposal. The SCC and the City staff panel were provided with an evaluation sheet for each proposal and the evaluations were based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- 1. Responsiveness to Objectives/Methodology
- 2. Fee Proposal
- 3. Experience and Qualifications
- 4. Capacity
- 5. Comparable Projects

At the May 15, 2024 SCC meeting, City staff and the SCC evaluated and discussed all five bidders. The SCC moved two bidders for further recommendation to the City Commission, Edge Design Associates and Kramer Management Group. At the May 20, 2024 City Commission meeting, both bidders were given the opportunity to present their proposals. Upon completion, the City Commission chose Kramer

Management Group to be the City's Owner's Representative. The cost of the service, \$625,500.00, will be paid by the City. At the May 20, 2024 City Commission meeting, the City Commission was also presented with NORR, LLC's Needs Assessment Report. The Needs Assessment Report was received and discussed, but the City Commission took no formal action on it.

Final Design and Construction Plan

At the May 22, 2024 SCC meeting, the City Owner's Representative (from Kramer Management Group) attended their first meeting. The City received eight (8) responses from an RFQ for Architects for Final Design and Preparation of Construction Plans. The purpose of the RFQ was to find potential qualified architects and/or engineering firms interested in completing final design and construction plans for the project. The SCC and City staff completed the standard evaluation process similar to what was described earlier in this report (when evaluating the Owner's Representative proposals). After review, the SCC moved three architectural firms forward to be qualified to participate in the RFP process. The architectural firms were Neumann Smith, Inform Studio and McIntosh Porris.

Town Hall Meeting - Next

On May 22, 2024, the City and NORR, LLC held a Town Hall Meeting at Next from 6-8 p.m. to go over the Needs Assessment Report and continue to take public input on the Senior/Recreation Center Project. After a presentation by NORR, LLC, there was a question and answer session with the public. Once again, the issue of the pool was discussed. City Manager Ecker informed the public that Detroit Area YMCA CEO Parrish Underwood had informed her that the YMCA would like to keep the pool open moving forward and that the YMCA has the experience and capability to operate and manage a pool.

Final Report (Draft) – NORR, LLC

At the June 12, 2024 SCC meeting, the SCC reviewed a draft RFP for Final Design and Preparation of Construction Plans. The SCC also reviewed the first draft of the final report from NORR, LLC detailing the options for the building at 400 E. Lincoln (90% complete). As a reminder, this report was twofold (phase one - building assessment/phase two - conceptual designs), a needs assessment report for the building that looks at the building structure, MEP (mechanical/electrical /plumbing), accessibility (ADA compliance), fire suppression, security and safety.

In each of the options listed below, all of the assessment needs are addressed as identified in the Needs Assessment phase of the report. The second part of the report (phase two) looks at potential conceptual designs for the building given the programming needs for both Next, the primary occupant, the YMCA and potentially the City's Parks and Recreation offices. It should also be noted again that the building was purchased by the City for Next and that the YMCA was offered a footprint in the building as well. Next was allotted 75% of the space in the building and the YMCA was allotted 25% of the space in the building. All of the conceptual designs follow this split.

Option 1: Renovate Existing Building on Existing Footprint (No Pool)

Next utilizes 75% of the building and the YMCA utilizes 25% of the building. In this scenario, nether Next or the YMCA gets the programming space that they would like. In this option, there is no pool.

Option 1A: Renovate Existing Building on Existing Footprint (Pool Included) Next utilizes 75% of the building and the YMCA utilizes 25% of the building. By including the pool, it takes up almost all of the YMCA's allotted space. Similar to Option 1, both Next and the YMCA do not receive the programming space that they would like. However, in Option 1A, the pool remains.

Option 2: Renovate Existing Building and Add Additional Space

In this option, a large addition is added to the north section of the building on two levels (ground floor and second floor). Also, there is the possibility to excavate underneath the addition (underground level) to add either additional space for Next (pickleball courts) or additional space for the YMCA. In Option 2, Next receives additional space to meet most of their programming needs. However, there was not enough space for more than two pickleball courts. The YMCA also has more space for programming, but not enough for all of their programming needs. No pool was shown in this option. However, the YMCA could opt for the pool if that is how they choose to use their allotted space (same choice from Option 1 and Option 1A). Or, the space underneath the addition can be excavated to provide additional space for a pool or other project.

Option 3: Demolish Current Building and Build a New Building

In Option 3, all of the programming needs for Next are met (including four pickleball courts). With the additional space of a new building, more of the YMCA's programming needs can be met (additional exercise space and/or pool). In this option, no pool was specifically included. However, there is sufficient space for a pool to be added if the YMCA chooses to construct a new pool.

The purpose of the conceptual design phase is to show what options are available for the public and the City Commission to consider. This phase is about showing what programming space would be available for each potential option. This is not the phase where actual placement and utilization design occurs. That is in the next phase - Final Design Plan and Construction Plan. The conceptual design phase shows what space would be available for the occupants given each option. Construction costs and potential operating costs associated with each of the options above will be provided by NORR, LLC in the final report. It is anticipated that the costs associated with each option will rise from the previous option.

Communications

Share Feedback on Engage Birmingham

The City's online public engagement platform, <u>Engage</u> <u>Birmingham</u>, makes it easier than ever for the community to share feedback at a place and time that is convenient for them.



Share your feedback now on these projects: <u>Historic Preservation Master Plan</u> <u>Booth Park Entry Plaza & Trail Improvements</u> <u>Sustainability Goals</u> <u>Movie Nights 2024</u>

Around Town e-Newsletter

The communications team is working on the July edition of the Around Town e-Newsletter, which will include the water quality report, summer event updates, election news and more. Follow <u>this link to view the June edition</u> of the Around Town e-Newsletter.

Receive Updates from Birmingham

Receive the latest news from Birmingham by signing up to receive our newsletter and alerts at <u>bhamgov.org/enews</u>. Subscribers receive important information specific to their neighborhood,



BIRMINGHAM

A WALKABLE CITY

emergency alerts and our newsletter featuring upcoming events, meetings, City projects, developments and more. Also follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> @BhamGov.

Summer Edition of the Birmingham Beat Newsletter

The summer edition of the Birmingham Beat print newsletter is arriving now in mailboxes! This edition features information about the upcoming elections, community events, Woodward noise bill, a new exhibit coming soon at the Birmingham Museum, summer grilling and swimming pool safety tips, and more.



BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION - UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Meeting	Торіс	Dates Addressed	Status
6/3/24	Installing sidewalks on new build projects	6/3/24	In progress
5/20/24	RFP Process	6/3/24	In progress
5/6/24	Garbage/Dumpsters Downtown	5/6/24	In progress
5/6/24	Consider moving up road project on Lincoln east of Eton	5/6/24	In progress
4/15/24	Discuss City property on Shirley Road that is not designated as Right of Way	4/15/24	In progress
4/8/24	Annual update on electric lawn equipment	4/8/24	In progress
4/8/24	Update Advisory Parking Committee duties	4/8/24	In progress

2/12/24	City-run events and sponsors	3/4/24	In progress
10/2/23	Implementation of crosswalk standards	10/2/23 10/16/23 11/13/23	In progress
5/8/23	Woodward noise	5/8/23 6/5/23	In progress
2/27/23	Bench and Little Library for Pat Andrews	3/13/23 5/8/23	In progress

Engineering Department

South Old Woodward Avenue Reconstruction (Phase 3) – Award

The South Old Woodward Avenue Reconstruction (Phase 3) project received the Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) **2023 Project of the Year Award for Transportation** \$5 million - \$25 million on Thursday, May 23, 2024. Congratulations!

Illicit Discharge to Rouge River

The City has determined the source of the sanitary sewer discharge and discussions are occurring with the property owner. We have been keeping the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) aware of the City's progress in finding the source.

Lead Service Replacement Program

The City will be starting a door-knocking effort to replace lead water services at no cost to property owners. If the property owner is not available, a flier will be left. Flier recipients should follow the listed steps to schedule your water service replacement.

Water Service Verification Program

The City has a deadline of October 2024 to submit material information from 364 water service lines to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The City randomly selected 364 water services to verify the material for this EGLE requirement. The City will be knocking on doors to talk to property owners about verifying the "In-Home/Business" water service line material. If a property owner is not home, a flier will be left with the next steps. Property owners can schedule an inspection by an authorized City representative at (248) 303-2292 or determine the in-home/business material themselves with the steps provided in the property owner letter.

Redding Road Project

Construction of this project started in April and crews are completing the underground work. They will now be prepping for road and sidewalk construction. Redding Road is closed westbound between Lake Park Drive and Woodward Avenue. Local traffic only is being maintained eastbound on Redding Road.

Edgewood Road Project

Construction of this project started in April. The contractor completed the underground work and is beginning road construction. Edgewood Road is closed northbound between Southlawn to Lincoln. Local traffic only is being maintained southbound on Edgewood Road.

Also included in this project is water main replacement on Grant Street between Humphrey and Bennaville Road. The contractor is currently installing the water main and will complete pavement restoration at the end of this month.

2024 Asphalt Resurfacing Program Project

The contractor is working on trench maintenance repairs throughout the City. They will complete this prior to starting resurfacing of asphalt streets.

MDOT – Woodward Ave. and Brown/Forest Intersections

The mast arms have been fabricated and shipped to the area but MDOT has rejected them due to manufacturing issues with the coating. They are being worked on, and MDOT anticipates construction will restart again in July.

For more information regarding these projects or programs, please contact the Engineering Department at 248-530-1840.

Finance Department

We are pleased to report the City has retained its AAA bond rating. The City's S&P Global Ratings Report points out our record of financial performance is strong, reporting positive general fund operations in seven of the last eight years. Growth in property tax collections, additional permit fee revenue, and prudent financial management support our positive performance, as well as growth in and maintenance of very strong reserve levels, now \$24.58 million, or 56% of operating expenses.

The report also states that management has steered ongoing redevelopment and improvement of its downtown corridor, contributing to market value growth averaging 6% annually over the last five years. A significant portion of new streetscaping and infrastructure-related needs are covered by State grants and special assessment revenue, which has allowed us to maintain low debt levels, with only \$12.5 million outstanding after the 2024 issuance, providing additional financial flexibility.

Other items listed as contributing factors for our AAA bond rating include strength in the following areas: economy, financial management policies and practices, and budgetary performance, in addition to strong debt and contingent liability profile.

Fire Department

The Fire Department recently purchased a fire-fighting encapsulator agent specifically made to help extinguish electric car battery fires. The inexpensive agent is used at a 3% solution and is National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 18A compliant. When applied to a battery that is on fire, it not only cools the fire but also encapsulates the fire with a neutralizing, biodegradable, non-corrosive, non-abrasive chemical. The encapsulator agent does not contain PFOA or PFOS and is environmentally safe. Although there have not been any electric car fires in the City to date, the fire administration wants its responding firefighters to be prepared with the best technology and tactics available.



Example only; not in Birmingham.

Human Resources

New Hires

The City of Birmingham extends warm congratulations to our newly hired employees as of June 12, 2024. Their skills, expertise and enthusiasm are a valuable addition to our team.

Dept.	Name		Position	Туре
DPS	Yamari	Cathey	Clubhouse Service & Maintenance	Seasonal Rehire
DPS	Margaret	Anderson	Clubhouse Service & Maintenance	Seasonal Rehire
DPS	Lauren	Stehney	Clubhouse Service & Maintenance	Seasonal Rehire
Clerks	Isabella	Mikhail	Clerical Assistant	Temporary Rehire
DPS	Lily	Auten	Clubhouse Service & Maintenance	Seasonal Rehire
DPS	Lucas	Hunter	Clubhouse Service & Maintenance	Seasonal
DPS	Lorenzo	Kaufman	Clubhouse Service & Maintenance	Seasonal
DPS	Tomas	Walmsley	Clubhouse Service & Maintenance	Seasonal
DPS	Gabe	Morreale	Parks Laborer	Seasonal
DPS	Marko	Nedeljkovic	Parks Laborer	Seasonal
DPS	Cameron	Csernits	Jr Ranger	Seasonal Rehire
DPS	Charles	Vercellone	Clubhouse Service & Maintenance	Seasonal Rehire
DPS	Morrise	Kent	Jr Ranger	Seasonal Rehire
DPS	Jonathon	McBride	Jr Ranger	Seasonal
DPS	George	Baker	Jr Ranger	Seasonal Rehire
DPS	Alexis	Donovan	Jr Ranger	Seasonal

Parking	Mike	Valle	Parking Maintenance	FT
DPS	Nicholas	Jelinek	Jr Ranger	Seasonal
Parking	Hojoon	Lee	Parking Maintenance	FT
DPS	William	Zerilli	Parks Laborer	Seasonal Rehire
DPS	Paul	McCaffrey	SSW Operator	FT (Teamsters)
Police	Maliek	Humes	Police Officer	FT (BPOA)

Promotions

Dept.	Name		Position	Туре
DPS	Michael	Kowalczuk	SSW Specialist	FT (Teamsters)
DPS	Justin	Burris	SSW Technician	FT (Teamsters)
Police	Joshua	Bouchard	Police Sergeant	FT (BPOA)
Police	Steven	Bozynski	Dispatch Manager	FT (BPOA)
Police	Anthony	Parades	Police Sergeant	FT (BPOA)
IT	Brent	Hilla	IT Assistant	FT

June Hiring Anniversaries

The City of Birmingham celebrated the hiring anniversaries of several employees. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for their exceptional service and unwavering dedication. Their contributions are deeply valued and recognized.

Years Of Service	Employee Na	ame	Department	Position
1	Lauren	Gieraltowski	Building	Support Staff A
1	Katherine	Abela	DPS	Part-Time Clerical Assistant
1	Mayoree	Jones-Toubeaux	Library	Library Page

1	Sebastian	Hernandez	Library	Library Page
1	Amina	Jawad	Library	Library Page
1	Angelina	Belotti	Library	Library Page
1	Jennifer	Halpern	Library	Library Assistant I
1	Megan	Gusho	Library	Library Page
2	Aaron	Ford	Parking	Parking System Manager
2	Nicole	Gerkey	BSD	BSD Event & Business Development Assistant
3	Jeremy	Shultz	Fire	Fire / AEMT
3	Dushawn	Brandy	Fire	Fire / AEMT
3	Jennifer	Hassell	Library	Librarian Pt
4	Morgan	Webb	Finance	Accounting Administrator
4	Antoinette	Licari	Police	Police Dispatcher
9	Seth	Barone	Police	Police Officer
9	Michael	Manzo	Police	Police Sergeant
10	Adam	Knowles	Fire	Fire Lt/AEMT
10	Grant	Ankney	Fire	Fire / AEMT
11	Mark	Mischle	Fire	Fire Lt/ AEMT
20	Kristen	Tait	Library	Library Department Head
21	Ryan	Kearney	Police	Police Captain
21	Matthew	Bartalino	Fire	Asst. Fire Chief-Operation
22	David	Bianchette	Building	Building Maintenance
22	Debra	Gantz	Library	Lib Substitute Librarian

23	Daniel	O'Brien	Library	Library Page
26	Jim	Lotridge	Police	Crossing Guard

Hiring Status

The City is currently accepting applications for the following positions. To submit an application or for more information go to <u>www.bhamgov.org/jobs.</u>

Department	Position	Туре	Status
Finance	Finance Director Designee	Full Time	Until Filled
Golf	Junior Ranger	Seasonal	Until Filled
Golf	Clubhouse Service	Seasonal	Until Filled
Golf	Golf Maintenance	Seasonal	Until Filled
DPS	Park Attendant	Seasonal	Until Filled
DPS	Parks Laborer	Seasonal	Until Filled
Building	Plumbing Inspector	Full Time	Until Filled
BSD	Public Relations and Marketing Specialist	Part Time	Reviewing Applicants
Engineering	Public Works Inspector	Seasonal	Reviewing Applicants
Building	Electrical Inspector	Full Time (AFSCME)	Reviewing Applicants
Community Development	Support Staff A	Full Time (AFSCME)	Reviewing Applicants

Host Families Sought for Ritto, Japan Goodwill Delegates

From September 5 to September 11, 2024, the City of Birmingham will welcome three goodwill delegates from Ritto, its sister City in Japan. Delegates from other sister cities, including Lansing (Otsu), Ann Arbor (Hikone), Grand Rapids (Omihachiman), Petoskey (Takashima), and Sault Ste. Marie (Ryuo), will also be traveling to Michigan to visit and gain insight into Michigander culture. These cities are part of the Michigan-Shiga Sister-State relationship, established in 1968. Shiga, a district in Japan located on the country's largest lake, shares a connection with Michigan through their Great Lakes.

Birmingham has participated in the Michigan-Shiga Sister-State program since 2000 and has welcomed over 100 goodwill delegates over the years. This year, we will be welcoming three goodwill delegates from Ritto. Each of the three delegates from Ritto will need a host family for the nights of September 6, 7, 8, and 9. Host families are also welcome to attend a farewell event in Lansing on September 10 to bid adieu to the delegates.

If you are interested in hosting a delegate, please contact Christina Woods, HR Manager, at <u>cwoods@bhamgov.org</u> or call (248) 530-1824. There are three delegates, two students and an office worker who are looking to experience American life in Birmingham and Michigan.

More information on the Michigan-Shiga Sister-State program can be found at <u>https://michiganshiga.org</u>.

Planning Department

Planning Board

A tentative Planning Board list of scheduled and/or recently completed items is provided below:

- 1. 685 W. Maple Kroger/Volta Design Review request to install electric vehicle charging stations in rear lot (June 26, 2024)
- 2. 139 W. Maple Field Building Site Plan Review request for four-story addition to rear of existing commercial building (June 26, 2024)
- 3. The Birmingham Plan 2040 Prioritization of Key Actions (June 26, 2024)
- 4. Triangle District Mixed-Use Standards Study Session (June 26, 2024)

Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC)

The ESC continues pushing through a very busy timeline which includes managing the final pieces of Phase 2 of public engagement while continuing the drafting of the City's first Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (SCAP). At this stage, the ESC has drafted a set of preliminary goals for the City to aspire to and is still seeking feedback on those goals through a survey on Birmingham Engage (<u>SUSTANABILITY GOALS</u>). In addition, the ESC is encouraging people to keep current with, and provide feedback on, the overall draft SCAP on the <u>ESC AGENDA</u> page of our website. Should you have any questions about the progress of the project, how to engage, or wish to provide general feedback, please do not hesitate to contact Planning Director Nick Dupuis (<u>ndupuis@bhamgov.org</u>) or City Planner Leah Blizinski (<u>Iblizinski@bhamgov.org</u>). Below is a list of the deliverables and activities we are currently engaged in with details on progress and next steps for each

- Public Engagement Phase 2 (Ongoing)
 - Birmingham Shopping District July 11, 2024
 - Presentation at NEXT July 30, 2024 1 p.m.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (100%)
 - Publish on City Website June 2024
- <u>Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (50%)</u>
 - \circ Build out background section of Action Plan May-June 2024
 - Greenhouse Gas Planning Scenarios June 2024
 - Conclusion sections June 2024
 - Glossary/Appendix June 2024

In addition to the work on the SCAP, the Planning Department continues to be involved in sustainability and climate action work at the local, regional and State levels. Most recently, the Planning Department hosted the 2024 Catalyst Leadership Circle fellows for a tour of Birmingham which included a stop at the Daxton Hotel to hear representatives talk about their green roof, honey bees and other sustainability initiatives. The Fellows also toured Downtown Birmingham, the Rouge River Corridor/Trail system, and stopped at the Birmingham Museum to learn about Birmingham's history as it relates to sustainability. Birmingham's fellow, Paige Hughart, continues to do work towards creating a residential rain garden program for the City, which is expected to be completed in July 2024.



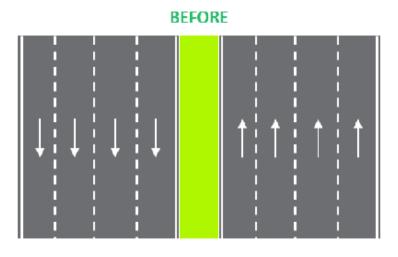
2024 Catalyst Leadership Circle Fellows and City staff

Historic District Commission & Design Review Board

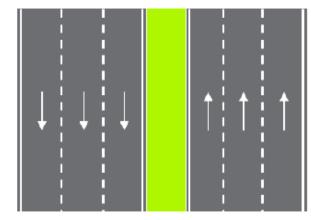
The HDC is planning to discuss the Historic Preservation Master Plan at their next meeting on July 3, 2024.

Multi-Modal Transportation Board (MMTB)

The MMTB is continuing its work on the Woodward Road Diet having completed several key items in the MDOT Road Diet Checklist. Most recently, the City's traffic consultants have produced a synchro/simulation model demonstrating traffic flow based on the removal of one traffic lane on southbound Woodward from N. Old Woodward to 14 Mile, and one traffic lane from northbound Woodward from 14 Mile to Oak.



AFTER



Police Department

Woodward Noise

On June 4, 2024, the Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure Committee passed House Bill 5696. This bill seeks to change the State law (257.707c) governing a vehicle's exhaust systems. At this time, it is unknown when the bill will go to the floor for a full vote.

2024 North American Active Assailant Conference

Numerous members of the Birmingham Police Department attended the 7th Annual North American Active Assailant Conference in Troy June 5 through June 7. This conference is the largest of its kind in the world and covered eight collaborative debriefs of recent domestic and international tragedies by the lead law enforcement, fire service, and/or emergency medical services agencies involved. Lessons learned from past tragedies are often not included in after action reports. As the Birmingham Police Department continues to train and prepare for potential incidents in our community, these valuable training sessions afford us the opportunity to debrief previous incidents and learn directly from the people involved.

Therapy Dog

On May 7, 2024, Maple turned one and therefore met the requirements for testing and certification training. After training and test visits, Maple was officially certified as a Therapy Dog with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Congratulations to our newest officer!

Mandatory Training

Recently, the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) implemented a Continuing Professional Education requirement and will start providing funding to each agency for every full-time employee. This new standard will require each sworn officer to attend 24 hours of annual training. Follow this <u>link to read the letter from MCOLES</u>.

Each year the members of the Birmingham Police Department attend four mandatory in-service training days covering a wide range of training topics which meets and exceeds the new standard set by MCOLES. During these 32 hours of training, staff is trained in areas such as de-escalation, use of force, firearms, CPR, first aid, blood borne pathogens, legal updates, and a wide range of other topics as deemed necessary. In addition to this mandatory in-house training, Police Department staff are also sent to other training courses throughout the year.

Parking Systems Update

Download the <u>May 2024 Parking Report</u> to view the following data: total citations issued, average weekly maximum capacity, meter revenue by amount and percentage, monthly passes compared to garage capacity and monthly permits sold.

Future Agenda Items

Download a summary of <u>future agenda items</u>.