



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

March 2022

Baldwin Public Library

Staffing Update

We have hired Tiffany Griffin and Andrew Forbes as part-time IT Technicians.

Proposed 2022-2023 Budget

The Library Board met on March 21 for the annual budget hearing and a regular meeting. The Board approved the proposed budget for FY 2022-23 and Director Craft will present the proposed budget to the Commission at the City Budget Hearing on May 7. The Board voted to approve updates to the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Policy, Idea Lab User Agreement and Waiver, Financial Policy, and Naming Rights Policy. The policies can be viewed at <https://www.baldwinlib.org/mission/>.

Architectural Design Services

On March 15, Director Craft held a pre-bid meeting for architectural design services for the expansion and renovation of the front entry and circulation area. Four firms attended the meeting and the RFP is due March 31. The Library Board is expected to interview and select the architectural firm to complete the design development and construction drawings at its April 18 Board meeting. The Commission will then vote whether to approve the firm at its April 25 meeting.

Public Open House

The Library will hold a public open house on Sunday, May 22 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., with remarks to be held at 2:30 p.m. The open house will celebrate the grand reopening of the expanded Youth Room and second floor renovations, honor Doug Koschik's retirement, dedicate Jim Miller-Melberg's Michigan Spring Statue, and commemorate Martha Baldwin's induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

The Birmingham Museum

The museum has been hosting second grade local history field trips for many years to coordinate with Birmingham Public Schools' social studies curriculum. With the onset of the pandemic in 2020, and again in 2021, the museum instead provided video-based virtual school tours for our students. This spring, the museum will return to in-person tours with an emphasis on smaller groups of students for the second grade curriculum-

based visits. In addition, the museum will offer a new customized app that parents can use on their cell phones at the museum as an alternative to group tours to recreate the school tour one-on-one with their child.

We are enthusiastic about how these new format options will enhance the experience for students as well as giving parents an alternative to share our history with their youngster in a very personal way.

Birmingham Shopping District (BSD)

Farmers Market Employment Opportunities

The BSD has posted positions for a Farmers Market Manager and Farmers Market Assistants for the 2022 market season.

Employee Appreciation Day

March 4th was Employee Appreciation Day. The BSD gave out bags of cookies to business owners to share with their employees and distributed Birmingham Shopping District Discount Cards. More businesses signed up for the program and the BSD staff gave out close to 200 cards for employees.

Consumers Energy Sponsorship

Consumers Energy gave the BSD a \$10,000 sponsorship to boost local shopping with the Birmingham Bucks e-gift card program. The program launched on February 17 and concluded the following week. Customers who purchased an e-gift card received a second one of matching value for free.

Merchant Meeting

The most recent Merchant Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 16 at Work Co. at 280 North Old Woodward. The special guest presenter was Jennifer Llewellyn from Oakland County Workforce Development. She gave a presentation to downtown stakeholders about all of the available public programs that can assist in recruiting and retaining employees.

Spring Stroll

The BSD is planning for the Spring Stroll, scheduled for Saturday April 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The public can visit participating stores to receive gifts for children and to receive a special color marker to complete an Easter-themed coloring page. More information can be found at allinbirmingham.com

Building Department

Monthly Report

The [Building Department's monthly report](#) provides an update on the following construction activity: building permits issued, building inspections conducted, trades permits issued and trades inspections conducted. In February, we processed 255 online permit applications, totaling 745 applications so far in 2022.

Commercial Renovations and Build-Outs

The Building Department has been diligently working to keep up with the recent surge in commercial construction and planning within the City. There are numerous commercial renovations and build-outs for both new and existing tenants that are either in progress or in the review stages of development. The following is a brief status and summary of some of our larger scale projects:

- All Seasons II (219 Elm) - Proposed new 5-story senior living facility adjacent to the existing property. We have received two full sets of plans showing two variations of the project. The original set is approved and ready to issue. The developer did some value engineering and submitted a second set eliminating the basement, rooftop amenities and other internal features. They paid another review fee and the revised plans are currently in the review process. All Seasons is projecting a start date this spring once they decide on a version.
- Restoration Hardware (300 S. Old Woodward) - Core and shell plans have been submitted for this 4-story building and are in the review process.
- 277 Pierce - The new commercial building across from City Hall is in the final stages of construction with two tenant build-outs currently being reviewed. Brilliant Earth is a jewelry and diamond seller that will be located on the 1st floor. Schechter Wealth is an investment and wealth management firm that will be occupying the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors.

Welcome, Suzanne!

The Building Department welcomes Suzanne Pedigo as an official member of our team. Her knowledge, experience and relationships with staff and builders make her a welcome addition to Community Development. Congratulations, Suzanne!

City Clerk's Office

Staff Update

Deputy City Clerk Christina Woods attended her first year of Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) Institute the week of March 14. City Clerk Alexandria Bingham attended her second year of the MAMC Institute training the week of March 21. MAMC Institute is a three-year program for clerks to obtain their MiPMC (Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk) credentials and also gives credit towards clerks seeking their CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk) through IIMC (The International Institute of Municipal Clerks).

On March 16, 2022, City Clerk Alexandria Bingham celebrated two years of service with the city.

Congratulations to former Deputy Clerk Abrial Barrett (Hauff) who was promoted to City Clerk in the City of St. Clair Shores. Use this [link](#) to view the related news article.

Parade & Hometown Celebration

The tradition continues in 2022 as the Celebrate Birmingham hometown parade marches back into downtown Birmingham on May 15.

Sponsorship of the parade is a great opportunity for area businesses to increase their presence in the community and to play an integral part of one of Birmingham's signature

events. Sponsorship packages range from the \$3,500 Presenting sponsor, which provides the broadest presence of company name and message, to the \$100 Parade Friend Sponsor, which includes a company's name displayed in Shain Park and on the city website. There are opportunities at all levels to sponsor a specific parade act or party activity. Participants are being sought to march in the parade, create a float, entertain and proudly represent their organization. Contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 or go to bhamgov.org/parade for information and registration.

Elections

The Clerk's Department relies on many election workers to ensure a smooth election. In preparation for the Aug. 2, 2022 primary, we will begin contacting past election workers in May and recruit new election workers in May and June. Election workers will attend training in July, and at that time we will evaluate whether we need to recruit more workers for the Nov. 8, 2022 general election.

Redistricting

With Michigan's latest political redistricting process complete, final maps have been published. Michigan's congressional, state senate, and house maps are at this [link](#). Oakland County commissioner districts interactive map can be found at this [link](#).

Changes for Birmingham voters include:

- US Congress: The city of Birmingham remains in District 11, no changes
- Michigan Senate: The city of Birmingham remains in District 8, no changes
- Michigan House of Representatives: The entire city was formerly in District 5; now it is split between three state house districts:
 - Birmingham voting precinct 5 is now in District 19
 - Birmingham voting precincts 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are now in District 9
 - Birmingham voting precinct 3 is now in District 56
- County Commissioner: The city had been in Oakland County District 19; now it is split between two county districts:
 - Birmingham voting precincts 3 and 9 are now in District 1
 - Birmingham voting precincts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are now in District 19

**** There will not be any changes to the City of Birmingham Voting Precincts. Follow this [link](#) to review Birmingham's precinct map.**

Birmingham has two state elections in 2022: the August 2, 2022 State Primary and the November 8, 2022 General Election. Some important dates to remember:

August 2, 2022 Election

- End of May – Applications for absentee ballots mailed to voters on the permanent absent voter list, ***These applications will be dual apps, meaning voters can apply for both their August and November ballot on a single application.**
- Week of June 25 – Absentee ballots will start to be mailed to voters who request them for August 2022.
- July 18 – Last day to register to vote by mail or at mi.gov/vote
- July 19 – Aug 2 – Unregistered voters must schedule an appointment to register in person with the clerk's office.

- July 29 by 5:00 pm – Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail or at mi.gov/vote
- Aug 1 at 4:00 pm – Deadline for obtaining an absentee ballot in person at the clerk’s office
- Aug 2 – Election Day - Polls are open 7:00 am – 8:00 pm. All absentee ballots due at the clerk’s office by 8:00 p.m.

Board and Commission Appointments

The following City of Birmingham [boards and commissions](#) have vacant positions or members with terms expiring soon:

BOARD:	APPLICATIONS DUE:	INTERVIEWS/ APPOINTMENTS:
Advisory Parking Committee	4/20/22	4/25/22
Architectural Review Committee	4/20/22	4/25/22
Board of Zoning Appeals	4/20/22	4/25/22
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority	4/20/22	4/25/22
Housing Board of Appeals	4/20/22	4/25/22
Public Arts Board	*until filled	
Storm Water Utility Appeals Board	*until filled	
Triangle District Corridor Improvement Authority	*until filled	

For details, visit www.bhamgov.org/boardopportunities.

Cemetery

Future Agenda Topics for Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board

April 1, 2022 - Meeting in person at City Hall

- Second draft of a policy for approving and installing markers for persons of historical significance
- Continued review of the Greenwood Cemetery operational procedures, conditions and regulations
- Cemetery service provider contract

May 6, 2022 - Meeting in person at City Hall

- Planning for grave stone inventory project
- Preparation for 2021-2022 annual report, goal reflection & setting

June 3, 2022 - Meeting in person at City Hall

- Topics to be determined

City Manager’s Office

Setting the Record Straight

Birmingham Triangle District Corridor Improvement Authority (BTDCIA)

At the Planning Board meeting held on March 9, 2022 a resident made comments regarding the process and makeup of the BTDCIA board along with the potential impact of rezoning on the neighborhood surrounded by the Triangle District as outlined in the

draft of the 2040 plan. Linked below is a detailed memo and supporting documents that further explain the resident's concerns, specifically in regards to the makeup of the board and the parameters that were passed by resolution # 11-363-08 of the City Commission on November 10, 2008. There have not been any changes to the makeup of this board since it was established in 2008. No alternate positions for the BTDCIA have been created to date by resolution of the City Commission. Most importantly, the board must have a majority of its members identified as persons having an ownership or business interest in property located in the Development Area. Download the [memo regarding this here](#).

Currently the board is comprised of the following members:

- Commissioner Baller
- Two persons having an ownership or business interest in property located in the Development Area
- Two residents of the Development Area as defined in the 2008 resolution

To maintain the requirements of the resolution passed, the board must have:

Not less than a majority of the members shall be persons having an ownership or business interest in property located in the Development Area

The City Commission will be seeking applicants who are persons having an ownership or business interest in property located in the Development Area.

Accrual of Funds under a Tax Increment Financing Plan ("TIF Plan")

At the February 28, 2022 meeting, Commissioner Haig asked for further information regarding the accrual of funds under a Tax Increment Financing Plan ("TIF Plan"), specifically asking about what happens to funds collected if there is not a project approved or constructed in accordance with the corresponding Development Plan. Accordingly, City staff provided the following response by email on March 4, 2022:

...once the plan is approved by the local body, any tax incremental growth should be captured and placed in a separate account. A project is not needed for the accrual process to begin. The funds cannot be dispersed until there is an approved project. If the funds are not spent, they must be returned to the individual taxing jurisdictions.

At the March 14, 2022 City Commission meeting, Commissioner Haig expressed concern that City staff had not provided all of the details requested in the email response noted above. To ensure a full and complete response, meeting videos were reviewed from both February 28, 2022 and March 14, 2022 to accurately relay all of the questions asked and to provide detailed responses for the City Commission. The questions posed by Commissioner Haig included the following:

1. Do we have to give it back?
2. Who is accruing when it starts next year?

3. Oakland County accrues?
4. If no project, then how can we have funding?
5. Where does accrual go to get up to \$6,000,000?
6. Who holds money if not us?

The following responses are offered to each of the above questions.

1. **Do we have to give it back?** Assuming "it" refers to any funds collected under a TIF Plan, the answer is that the City collects the funds and uses them to pay for an approved project under the Plan. As stated in the email dated March 4, 2022, if the funds are not spent on an approved project, they must be returned to the individual taxing jurisdictions.
2. **Who is accruing when it starts next year?** Assuming "it" in this question refers to the updated TIF Plan, the majority of funds that would accrue would be from the City's share of property taxes.
3. **Oakland County accrues?** To date, Oakland County has opted out of participating in the plan, and thus no funds can accrue from Oakland County's (or their affiliated agencies) share of property taxes.
4. **If no project, then how can we have funding?** As stated in the email dated March 4, 2022, once the plan is approved by the local body, any tax incremental growth should be captured and placed in a separate account. A project is not needed for the accrual process to begin.
5. **Where does accrual go to get up to \$6,000,000?** As stated in the email dated March 4, 2022, once the plan is approved by the local body, any tax incremental growth should be captured and placed in a separate account. To further clarify, the City of Birmingham would place all captured property taxes (for only those taxing jurisdictions that have not opted out) under the approved TIF Plan in a Special Revenue Fund, and these funds could only be used for an approved project. The reference to \$6,000,000 in this question likely refers to the potential tax capture from Oakland County as shown in the Estimated Tax Capture Table in the updated TIF Plan. A capture from Oakland County, and any negotiated cap, would only come into play however, if the City is successful in negotiating with Oakland County to have them opt into participating in our updated TIF Plan.
6. **Who holds money if not us?** As stated above, the City of Birmingham would place all captured property taxes (for only those taxing jurisdictions that have not opted out) under the approved TIF Plan in a Special Revenue Fund.

It is important to note that the whole purpose of updating our TIF Plan at this time is to attempt to meet the requirements requested by Oakland County in order to encourage them to opt into participating in a tax capture under our TIF Plan to assist us in funding public parking in the Triangle District.

Communications

GovPilot Citizen Request Module – Successful Launch

The communications team is very pleased with the launch of the city's new citizen request module by GovPilot. Our short video explaining how to submit a request via the GovAlert app is available at www.bhamgov.org/govalert. City Commissioners are encouraged to contact IT Manager Eric Brunk for assistance with downloading or using the app. Eric can be reached at ebrunk@bhamgov.org or 248-530-1885. I would like to thank Jamil Kim, Melissa Fairbairn, Erika Bassett and Eric Brunk who assisted in the selection and launch of this new, convenient service for the community.

Spring Birmingham Beat Newsletter Coming Soon

The spring edition of The Birmingham Beat newsletter will arrive in mailboxes around April 1, 2022. This edition features information about parking structure equipment, Parks & Recreation bond projects, upcoming spring and summer events, the Junior Golf Program, construction projects, pedestrian safety tips and more. Download the [newsletter here](#).

Birmingham City Guide

The communications team is working on the new City Guide brochure that will assist residents and visitors who wish to learn more about Birmingham. Information provided in the guide includes historical information, city map, parks and recreation, resident information, how to get involved and more.

Human Resources

Our new City Engineer, Yunus Patel, will begin on April 11, 2022. This was the last of our key positions needing to be backfilled at the start of 2021. Human Resources is working to fill several seasonal vacancies, including workers for our Ice Arena, Golf Courses, Parks, and Farmers Market. So far, ten candidates have entered our new hire process. Aside from seasonal hiring, the City is also looking to fill two vacancies for Streets Assistant Foreman and one for Plumbing Inspector.

Post-interview selections will soon be made for clerical assistance in the Police and Community Development departments. A new Clerk's Office Intern is anticipated to start in April.

Longtime City employee, Chad Check, has been promoted to the position of Senior Fleet Mechanic, where he will take lead of all City garage activities.

Staff & Vacancy Update

Department	FT & PT Staff Estimate	Current Vacancies/Hiring	Percentage Staffed	Vacancies Filled Since 2020	Notes
Birmingham Shopping District	5	Seasonal Only	100%	3	Now hiring Seasonal
Clerk's Office	5	None	100%	5	Hiring Intern
Building	17	Secretary A	100%	1	Hire Upcoming
Engineering	8	City Engineer	100.0%	5	Patel -Start Date 4/11
Finance / Treasury	14	Clerical Asst	93%	4	On hold
Fire	35	-	100%	10	
Information Technology	4	-	100%	2	
Maintenance	2	-	100%	1	
Manager's Office / Communications / HR	6	-	100%	6	
Museum	3	-	100%	0	
Parking System	N/A	TBD	TBD	1	
Planning	7	-	100%	4	
Police	71	Clerk/Typist B	100%	9	
Public Services	56	Senior Fleet Mech	TBD	8	Now hiring Seasonal

City Staff Vaccination Update

Vaccination Card Tracking

Department	# Received	Total Staff	Percentage
City Staff	194	222	87%
IT	4	4	100%
BSD	4	5	80%
Community Development	30	33	91%
Fire Dept	33	36	92%
Clerks	5	5	100%
Finance/Treasurer	12	13	92%
Building/Maintenance	2	2	100%
Museum	3	3	100%
Police Dept (w/o crossing guards)	51	61	84%
CM/HR	6	6	100%
DPS (w/o summer seasonals)	44	54	81%

Miscellaneous

Senate Bills 597 and 598

Birmingham Police Chief Mark Clemence recently sent letters to [Senator McMorrow](#) and [Representative Manoogian](#) concerning Senate Bills 597 and 598. These bills transfer funding from the state's public behavioral health system to private, for profit Medicaid health plans. Follow the links above to read both letters.

Department of Public Services

Tree City USA

Birmingham earned recognition as a Tree City USA in 2021, making it the 44th year as a Tree City USA! Residents of Birmingham should be proud to live in a place that makes the planting and care of trees a priority! We plan to celebrate our Tree City USA status during our Arbor Day Celebration coming up next month. An announcement is forthcoming.

Tree Inventory Update

We've completed the 1st phase of the Tree Inventory Update, collecting a total of 5401 sites in the Northeast Quadrant of the City, approximately 1/4 of the City's total inventoried trees. This inventory update also included phase 1 and 2 of the new downtown streetscape. The next phase will occur in the upcoming fiscal year, 2022-2023.

Pickleball Update

As part of our Pickleball site evaluation process, staff studied the possibility of converting existing tennis courts to pickleball courts. Currently the City maintains 16 tennis courts at 7 locations, with 2 courts at each location with the exception of Kenning Park, having 4. This does not include Seaholm High school (7 courts) or the private courts at Birmingham Racquet Club (6). The National Recreation and Parks Association Guideline recommendation on number of courts to provide within a community is 1 for every 2,000 residents, equaling 10-11 courts for Birmingham.

Although the Parks and Recreation Board, at the December 2021 meeting approved the Kenning Park location for new Pickleball Courts, in consideration of other Parks and Recreation Bond projects and timing, staff is considering the conversion of a tennis court option.

Donation Memorial Program

The City of Birmingham's Parks and Recreation [Donor Policy](#) allows for donations in various categories. The Birmingham Park Gift Donor Program offers opportunities for memorials, and identifies select site amenities such as benches, trees, and the like. The granite benches slated for West Maple Road are outside of our defined park site amenities currently identified in our donor program. These granite benches, along with all granite benches that are currently and planned for in the downtown, would have to be further

evaluated to become part of the current program. This could be an item for a future Parks and Recreation Board meeting for consideration at an appropriate time.

Adams Park Artificial Turf Cost Comparison

Download the [memo from Michael J. Dul & Associates](#) addressing questions raised about artificial turf rather than natural lawn.

Engineering Department

Construction Update

While construction season will be starting up again soon, certain work has been ongoing over the winter as weather conditions allow.

- The Lead Water Service Replacement program is continuing to work at homes that have been scheduled for March and April. With allocation of federal Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF) received by the City toward the lead water service replacement program, the program is being implemented at an accelerated pace. The City's engineering consultant, Hubbell, Roth & Clark, has been sending out notices to select, targeted neighborhoods (mainly to improve the contractor's efficiency) providing information about the program. Any resident with a lead water service that has not received a notice yet is welcome to contact us for more information and possibly getting scheduled for the work.
- The 2021 Sewer Rehabilitation program being conducted by DVM Utilities has been ongoing. They have been completing the sewer investigative work on South Old Woodward, as well as working in other areas of the City to complete basic cleaning and inspection of sewer lines, plus specialized rehabilitation/repairs of minor issues that are found in the system. Rehabilitation/repair work in this contract include removal of roots, mineral deposits and protruding taps, and grouting leaking joints.

Coming soon: the City's sidewalk contractor, JB Contracting, will be starting-up in the coming weeks to complete sidewalk slab replacements on streets south of Maple and west of Pierce. The City's asphalt pavement resurfacing contractor, Pamar Enterprises/Al's Asphalt will be starting work on Fairway, Adams, and on Latham in April.

Water Infrastructure Task Force:

The Engineering Department is participating in the Water Infrastructure Task Force being led by SEMCOG. Representatives of governments, utility agencies, and other interested nonprofit organizations throughout southeast Michigan are meeting to discuss issues related to storm water, drinking water, and wastewater infrastructure. The Task Force is focused on the current condition and future resiliency of these systems and the short and long-term actions needed for sustainable water infrastructure systems in Southeast Michigan. The following [press release](#) was issued about this effort. More information can be found on SEMCOG's website at https://maps.semcog.org/nfsem_waterinfrastructure/ or www.semcog.org.

Fire Department

Firefighters Resuscitate Premature Baby

On March 11, 2022, at approximately 1:15 pm, Rescue 2 and Engine 2 responded to a call of a pregnant patient who was in labor in the front passenger seat of a car. Birmingham Paramedics, Nick Soper, Trevor Hulbert, Steve Bonora, and Lieutenant Mike Slack arrived on scene in two minutes to find a newly born baby boy that was blue and unresponsive. The baby was delivered seconds before by a doctor from the OB-GYN office where the car was parked. The crew was handed the unresponsive, premature baby and immediately initiated lifesaving procedures. The crew was able to resuscitate the baby and then transport him priority to Beaumont Hospital – Royal Oak. The newborn baby is doing well. The crew will receive the Birmingham Fire Department lifesaving award. The award plaque will be added to the reward wall at Station 1. I would like to commend the crew on a job well done!

FEMA Public Assistance Update

The Fire Department leads the City's Emergency Management program. During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic this program, along with amazing help from the City's Finance Department, has applied for over two dozen grants for FEMA Public Assistance. So far, the City has successfully recouped almost \$2.4 million dollars in reimbursements and has an additional \$2 million dollars worth of grants that are currently pending. The City will continue to apply for more FEMA grants for reimbursement until the funds are unavailable. Follow [this link to download a summary of grants](#) related to COVID-19 that have been received or applied for to date. I would like to thank Assistant Finance Director Kim Wickenheiser and Assistant Chief Matt Bartalino for all of their hard work with helping to prepare these grants.

Planning Department

Master Plan 2040

The Planning Board completed its thorough review of the second draft on March 9, 2022 with a summary of the review and a prioritization that will be brought to the City Commission at a joint meeting in the spring. At the City Commission meeting on March 28, 2022, the Planning Board will propose that this special joint meeting of the Planning Board and City Commission be held on Monday, April 18, 2022. All of the presentation slides used by the consultant for their presentations are available on www.thebirminghamplan.com, along with all documents relating to the 2040 Master Plan. You can also watch a recording of each meeting on the City of Birmingham website. As a reminder, you can still submit comments directly to the consultant team through the aforementioned 2040 Plan website, and can also submit comments directly to the Planning Division to be placed in the next available agenda of the Planning Board.

Planning Board

Overall, the Planning Board is keeping very busy with agendas that are now full through the first meeting in May. The Planning Board recently set a public hearing on April 13, 2022 to finalize the proposed outdoor dining ordinance amendments and forward their recommendation to the City Commission. In addition, there are several ordinance studies that have been waiting for the 2040 Master Plan review to be completed that the Planning Board will take on starting in the spring. In terms of site plan reviews, the Planning Board will be reviewing applications for the following developments in the near future:

- 100 Townsend – The Townsend Hotel has submitted an application for a new outdoor dining platform adjacent to the hotel and Rugby Grille on Townsend St. The Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review application review was recommended for approval by the Planning Board and Advisory Parking Committee, and will be before the City Commission for final consideration in April 2022.
- 770 S. Adams – A new Community Impact Study and Preliminary Site Plan Review application has been submitted for a new 5 and 6 story mixed-use development in the Triangle District. The proposed building will have 158 residential units and a 4,000 sq. ft. retail space along Haynes. The application will be reviewed at the Planning Board on March 31, 2022 after two postponements.
- 294 E. Brown – A Community Impact Study and Preliminary Site Plan Review application has been submitted for a new mixed-use building along E. Brown St., which is currently Coldwell Banker. The building will be comprised of retail and office uses on the first and second floors, and will contain 38 residential units on floors 3 and 4. The project is scheduled at the Planning Board on March 23, 2022 after a postponement from February 23, 2022.
- 185 N. Old Woodward – The existing Mad Hatter Bistro has submitted a Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review proposal to rebrand and renovate the existing bistro. The changes proposed are a full interior remodel, exterior changes, and a new outdoor dining patio. The project is scheduled at the Planning Board in April 2022 and will be forwarded to the City Commission for final consideration after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Board and Historic District Commission.
- 220 Merrill – The existing 220 Restaurant has submitted a Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review for a new outdoor dining platform in the Merrill right-of-way. The project is scheduled at the Planning Board on March 31, 2022 and will be forwarded to the City Commission for final consideration after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Board, Historic District Commission and Advisory Parking Committee.
- 2225 E. 14 Mile – Our Shepherd Lutheran Church is proposing a renovation of their existing parking facility, which will include improved screening and landscaping, as well as green storm water infrastructure. The Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review application is scheduled at the Planning Board on March 23, 2022 and will be forwarded to the City Commission for final consideration after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Board.

- 36877 Woodward – Gasow Veterinary Hospital has submitted a Preliminary Site Plan Review application for a new 2-story building and associated site improvements. The tenant is proposed to remain, and will require a Special Land Use Permit (TZ3 zone), which will be reviewed by the City Commission in time. At present, the applicant is scheduled to go before the Planning Board on March 23, 2022.
- 243 E. Merrill – La Strada, an existing bistro, has submitted a Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review application for a new outdoor dining platform in the Merrill right-of-way. The project is scheduled at the Planning Board on April 27, 2022 and will be forwarded to the City Commission for final approval after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Board and Advisory Parking Committee.
- 320 Martin – The historic Birmingham Post Office building is proposed to receive an addition to the rear of the property, which currently contains a parking facility and a modern addition. The new 5-story addition is being reviewed by the Historic District Commission currently, and the Planning Board will be reviewing a Community Impact Study and Preliminary Site Plan Review in April or May of 2022.

Historic Preservation

The Historic District Commission is embarking on an intense plan of action for historic preservation. This includes a lot of work towards the adoption of historic design guidelines, a general preservation master plan, and a signage/wayfinding plan for the Bates St. Historic District. Recently, the City received four responses to the Request for Proposals for new Historic Design Guidelines, which will be reviewed by the Historic District Commission in early April. Additionally, the Historic District Study Committee has been given the green light by the City Commission to continue its important work of updating the 1992 Wallace Frost report titled "Wallace Frost: His Architecture in Birmingham, MI." as well as developing a proposal to reinvigorate the Heritage Home program. At this time, there is one major project that is being reviewed by the Historic District Commission:

- 320 Martin – The historic Birmingham Post Office site is being considered for a 5-story addition on the rear (north) side of the property along Maple. The Historic District Commission is considering many aspects of the project in relation to the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation. The project was reviewed and approved on March 16, 2022.

In addition, the Historic District Commission will be reviewing two new Wall Art applications that have been submitted and reviewed by the Public Arts Board:

- 160 W. Maple – Dick O' Dows is seeking formal approval of their mural at the rear of their building above the overhead garage door.
- 148 Pierce – A new mural is proposed on the rear of the historic Telephone Exchange Building.

Public Art

The Public Arts Board is now beginning its 2022 call for entries. The program affords an opportunity for artists to receive a small grant to provide public art in the City of Birmingham. Along with the call for entries program, the Public Arts Board continues to field donation requests. In addition to public art programs, the Public Arts Board has been reviewing applications for the newly adopted Wall Art application process. Two applications have been reviewed so far, and several more inquiries have been made within the approved Wall Art boundaries. In addition, City Staff has been fielding multiple inquiries for Wall Art along the Woodward corridor, prompting a review of the Wall Art boundary and a possible expansion.

Multi-Modal Transportation Board

The Multi-Modal Transportation Board (MMTB) has taken on the valiant but challenging task that is improving conditions along the Woodward corridor. The MMTB is actively working on the Woodward Avenue Road Diet Checklist, and will be studying various other improvements for Woodward in the near future.

Police Department

Congratulations, Officer Whipple

Officer Jeff Whipple (formally assigned out to the FBI Financial Crimes Task Force) will be receiving an award from the Inspector General of the Department of Labor for his part in the investigation of over \$1.6 million in unemployment fraud. Beginning in May of 2020 and continuing through at least October of 2020 the suspect, with the intent to defraud, successfully submitted applications for unemployment on behalf of individuals in nine different states without their permission. The suspect directed the benefits to be paid out via debit cards and then used these cards to withdraw the funds at ATM's throughout metro Detroit. As a result of the investigation conducted by Ofc. Whipple, the suspect entered a guilty plea and will be required to pay restitution to the victim states in the amount of \$1,611,202.00.

Connect to Disconnect (C2D) Campaign

The police department will be participating in a statewide campaign organized by The Office of Highway Safety Planning. Connect to Disconnect (C2D) is a national distracted driving enforcement and awareness initiative that takes place on April 7, 2022. The goal is to increase driver compliance with state distracted driving laws. The state campaign will continue through April 11, 2022.

Farewell, Ellen DeView

Ellen DeView, Service Coordinator for the police department has been with the department for 30 years. On March 18th, Ellen will officially begin a well deserved retirement. Her expertise and historical knowledge of the City will certainly be missed. Ellen will be moving with her mother to the City of New Orleans.

Welcome, Officer Agular

The police department would like to welcome new police officer Agustin Agular. Ofc. Agular started with our department on March 11th and will be in our Field Training

Program. During this program, training will be conducted under the direction of a Field Training Officer (FTO). FTO's have been selected on the basis of their past experience as patrol officers and their ability to pass their knowledge on to new officers.

Police Department/City Hall Assessment and Conceptual Designs for Renovations/Expansion

The police department has begun the process to evaluate safety and security needs noted by our assessors during the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) accreditation process. While reviewing the noted police department deficiencies, City Hall was also discussed due to its own set of safety and security concerns. As a result, a Request For Proposal (RFP) has been created for a police department and City Hall assessment, including conceptual designs for potential renovations and/or expansions to address these needs. The last major renovation to city hall was completed in 1993. Download the [RFP here](#).

Parking Systems Update

Waitlist

In October of 2021, the monthly parking waitlist had more than 1,500 people. As of today, Pierce Structure is the only structure with a waitlist, which is under 30 people. All other structures are open for monthly parkers. Park and Peabody have a limited amount of monthly parking available. North Old Woodward and Chester Structures have an abundant amount of passes available.

Occupancy:

February	
Chester Structure	25%
N.O.W. Structure	36%
Park Structure	44%
Peabody Structure	62%
Pierce Structure	58%

Future Agenda Items

Download a summary of [future agenda items](#).

Future Workshop Items

Download a summary of [future workshop items](#).