

**SPECIAL CALLED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
VIRTUALLY - VIA WEB-EX
Monday, March 29, 2021 | 4:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT WILLIAM PARKER, COMMITTEE CHAIR

<https://birmingham.webex.com/birmingham/onstage/g.php?MTID=e3ed9d02456446809f743dc3e08f61520>

Councilor(s) Present: Parker, Abbott, Alexander, Hilliard, Hoyt, O'Quinn, Smitherman, Williams, Woods
Mayor Woodfin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Parker called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Taken:

Approval of Minutes Delayed – Not Included in Meeting Packet.

III. FISCAL YEAR 2021 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

Compensation – Presentation

Jill Madajczyk presented the Workers Compensation Claims Summary 2021 to the Committee.

- The budget for worker's compensation claims is \$4 million.
- Through March 25, 2021 with the outstanding bills, a total of \$4,174,000.00 has of been spent.
- The reason for the over-budget is because of several large dollar claims; four that accounts for \$1.1 million that are expected to be paid out in the current fiscal year.
- There is one particular claim related to an individual employed by the City in 1996 who suffered a significant head injury and subsequently passed away. All of the medical claims were direct results of the sustained injuries. To date, \$744,000 has been paid and \$468,000 in outstanding bills that have to be paid. As a result, the Worker's Compensation Fund is out of money at this time.

There is a request to the Council for approval of additional funding in the amount of \$1.2 million to cover an excess claim. The requested funding source is the Birmingham Fund.

Action Taken:

Councilor Abbott: Moved to allocate funding from the Birmingham Fund for the necessary workers compensation needs of HR and that like the money allocated for the legal settlements that it be returned in the form of the City taking less that 5 percent of the Birmingham Fund revenues to make the City budget balance for 2022.

Councilor Williams: Seconded.

Item Recommended to the City Council Agenda.

Mid-Year Budget Review – Financial Summary January 31, 2021

Mayor Woodfin opened the discussion.

- The economic impact from the COVID-19 pandemic put the city in a position where some difficult decisions had to be made and pandemic took an economic toll on the city.
- The budget proposal that Mayor Woodfin will present to the City Council will include Merit Pay, COLA, Longevity Pay, and pay for all city holidays reinstated.

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- There is also an opportunity to resume pay for the remaining two City holidays in the current fiscal year; Good Friday and Memorial Day.

Lester Smith presented (slide presentation) the Year-to-Date Financial Summary through January 31, 2021.

- The information provided reflects year-to-date and tracking for seven months.
- From a business license standpoint, it only has January numbers.
- The amended budget of \$228.5 million includes approximately \$15 million of general reserve that was budgeted.
- Ad-valorem tax was down \$9 million through the seven months ending January 31, 2021.
- Inner-governmental is over budgeted by \$7.4 million.
- The General Business Tax (sales, use, lodging, occupational) is up \$26.7 million.

Action Taken:

Councilor Abbott: **Moved to Approve the requested funding for the two remaining holidays for City employees; Good Friday and Memorial Day for 2021. The funding that come from Reserves.**

Councilor Hilliard: **Seconded.**

Item Recommended to the City Council Agenda.

- **COVID-19 Stimulus Money**

Kelvin Datcher gave an update (slide presentation) on the COVID-19 Stimulus Money and the American Rescue Plan and its potential impact on the City of Birmingham.

- The priority of the American Reuse Plan is to mount a national vaccination program, contain COVID-19 and safety reopen schools, extend unemployment insurance, relief to Americans \$1400 direct payments based on income, increase SNAP benefits, increasing the Child Tax Benefits, and \$350 billion for states, counties and local government.
- Birmingham will receive \$148,820.00 from the American Rescue Plan.
- Jefferson County will receive \$127,730.00.
- The funds will come in two tranches; 60 days after the passage of the bill and the second half one year after that initial payment is received by the City of Birmingham.

Action Taken:

Council President Parker stated there will be a series of training scheduled for further discussion.

No action – Information Only.

IV. REAL TIME CRIME CENTER UPDATE

Joint Presentation by Robyn White, Chief Smith, Chaz Mitchell

Robyn White presented the Committee with a Crime Center Status Update

- **The Birmingham Crime Center has four (4) critical paths:**
 - Design – submitted to Capital Projects for review and BPD for approval in October 2020.
 - Construction – the Notice to Proceed with construction was issued by the City of Birmingham in February 2021. The target date for completion is June 2021.
 - Integration – begin approximately one month ago (February 2021). Motorola Solutions has installed the hardware for the Aware System in Birmingham and is working properly.
 - Training – The Police Department has selected their initial team members and will include online instructor-led scenario-based, and on-the job training. Training will be complete one month after RTCC goes live.

Councilor Abbott:

- How many cameras will be being monitored at the time the crime center begins operation?
- How many additional cameras will be added after operation begins?
- Will the City be linked into Jefferson County Real Time Crime Center?

Councilor Hoyt:

- Will there be any inner-governmental agreement with the City of Birmingham and other municipalities?

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Councilor O'Quinn:

- Are there conversations about integrating the cameras at Railroad Park and Rotary Trail into the Real Time Crime Center?
- What other technologies are going to be integrated and will Dispatch be located in the Real Time Crime Center?

V. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The City's Pension Plan will be discussed during the Birmingham City Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2021.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Williams: Moved to Adjourn.

Councilor Parker: Seconded.

Meeting Adjourned.