

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 | 3:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL PRESIDENT WARDINE T. ALEXANDER, COMMITTEE CHAIR

MINUTES

Councilor(s) Present: Alexander, Abbott, Moore, O'Quinn, Smitherman, Tate, Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Council President Alexander.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Taken:

Councilor Smitherman Motioned to Approve.

Councilor Tate Seconded the Motion.

The April 19, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes were approved as recorded.

III. FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, DR. MEGHAN VENABLE-THOMAS, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ CORY STALLWORTH, SR. DEPUTY DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Corey Stallworth presented information to the Committee.

The FAÇADE Program is funded with CDBG funds. The program was initiated in October 2020 and initially seeded with \$250,000.00 of CDBG funds. Every year thereafter, the same allocation has been appropriated based off the City Council's approval. Approximately ten (10) projects have been processed and provided awarded. The maximum allocation is \$50,000.00. It is for the exterior façade of businesses and cannot be used for anything interior or landscaping. It is mainly for windows, doors, signage, and exterior paint. The business owner must commit to creating a fulltime employment position as well as retain the position of the life of the forgivable loan. For every \$35K allocated to the business owner, they must create a fulltime employment opportunity. The allocations are grants but are in the form of a forgivable loan. This allows the City to put restrictions and liens on the property in the event the owner defaults. The owner makes no payments for the five-year period, they just must maintain the look of the façade. They have to re-certify every year they have the positions in place and made available to low-to-moderate income individuals. There are target areas for the program. A review committee will be created so the application can be competitively scored.

Action Taken:

No Action – Information Only.

IV. SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE – JOSH YATES, DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS /JULIE BARNARD, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY, OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY (OCA)

Josh Yates presented an update.

The Ordinance was presented to the Council at the end of 2022.

No private carts or bags will be picked up; only the carts that are provided by the City.

Additional carts will be available at a cost of \$120.00 (includes delivery and one-year of service).

Garbage bags

Removal from curve within 24 hours after service.

Theft and replacement will be at the expense of the citizen. If the City damages it, it will go through a claims process with the City.

Multi-family is defined as four units that will be served instead of ten.

The first unit will be purchase by the City and additional units will be at the expense of the citizen. If there are two additional carts would need to be purchased. The cost is \$120.00 per business.

Action Taken:

Councilor Abbott to Recommend Item to the City Council Agenda.

Councilor Smitherman Seconded the Motion.

Item Recommended to the City Council Agenda.

V. BIRMINGHAM – JEFFERSON COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY – DAVID RUSSELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Russell presented an update.

Charles Williams was appointed to serve on the Board.

In 2006, Port Birmingham (one terminal) was handling 12-13 million tons of throughput per year.

The Port's goals/purposes are to support economic development, increase tax revenue for the City, increase jobs for citizens, and become self-funded.

Once the Port is self-funded, they will be able to activate bond issuing authority and finance their own projects.

The Port is comprised of 614 acres.

Current Economic State:

- million tons
- 1,450 barges
- 21,000 railcars
- 87,000 semi-trucks
- 147 direct jobs
- \$7.9 million annual payroll

Total Economic Impact (Based on 2021 Information)

- At 5% capacity, the economic impact is \$128 n
- 1,486 Employment Impact
- \$86.7 million Total Payroll Impact
- \$1:\$4 Region's Return on Investment

Warehouse Phase II

- Total project cost - \$19,000,000.00
- Additional tonnage – 187,000 per year
- Additional square footage – 50,000
- Revenue - ~\$1,700,000.00

Future Project

- Assist the City will the removal of blight and revitalization

Potential Project – Spur Extension

- Jobs: maximum of 15
- Investment: \$15 million
- FTE's Created" 75
- Capacity - 60 railcars, 200,000 tons

Return on Investment - \$15 Million

Direct Impact of 1,450 barges; 2.1 million of annual tonnage; 87,000 18-wheelers; 15,000 railcars

VI. BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN COLLEGE – DANIEL COLEMAN, PRESIDENT

VII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Council Pro Tem Smitherman informed the Committee that the Councilors received the Mayor's proposed budget. Any questions for the Mayor's office should be submitted to Jeffery McDaniels or Cheryl Kidd by May 23, 2024.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Abbott Motioned to Adjourn.

Councilor Tate Seconded the Motion.

Meeting Adjourned.

