

JOINT ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
AND SPECIAL CALLED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 | 2:00 PM | COUNCIL CHAMBERS

## MINUTES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM WARDINE ALEXANDER, COMMITTEE CHAIR  
COUNCILORS DARRELL O'QUINN AND CLINTON P. WOODS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS

COUNCILOR(S) PRESENT: Alexander, O'Quinn, Woods

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Council President Pro Tem Alexander. The Administration & Governmental Affairs Committee is a new committee that has been combined from the Administration and Governmental Affairs committees. The Administration & Governmental Affairs Committee Advises on Matters Regarding: City Council's personnel and Civil Service employees, intergovernmental relations with City administration, including, county, state, and federal authorities, executive orders, legislative matters, Council interoffice budget, Council Office operations and management, employee policies, generally (including benefits), and the Jefferson County Personnel Board. The Committee is tasked to:

- Develop and maintain an active list of City legislative priorities.
- Ascertain the top consensus priorities of the Council and Mayor for State legislative action
- Lead development of a City of Birmingham State Legislative Agenda to be approved by the Council in the fourth quarter of each calendar year.
- Facilitate recurring legislative updates from lobbyists.
- Develop and maintain relationships with county, state, and federal authorities.
- Advise on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council Office and make recommendations for improvement.

### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES "INITIAL MEETING"

**Action Taken:**

**Inaugural Meeting – No Minutes for Approval.**

### III. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

#### A. BIRMINGHAM JEFFERSON COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY UPDATE DAVID RUSSELL, JR. - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Russell presented an update on the Port Authority's Legislative Agenda for Fiscal Year 2024. The Port Authority is approaching the State in the General Fund budget for a \$20 million allocation over a four-year period for all inland ports across the state. Governor Ivey allocated \$5 million for inland port infrastructure and improvements in 2019. Eight ports applied for the funding and six ports were awarded funding. The authorities are requesting the \$5 million per year funding again to be disbursed on an annual basis. The additional funding would be used to expand the warehouse facility, new overhead cranes, and infrastructure/additional land.

**Action Taken:**

**The Jefferson County Port Authority is seeking the support of the City of Birmingham by it on the legislative agenda.**

**No Action - Information Only.**

#### B. CITY OF BIRMINGHAM 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA UPDATE EARL HILLIARD, JR. - COB SR. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The first session of 2024 is February 6. By constitution, they have 30 days for session. Tuesday and Thursday are the session days. Wednesday is set for committee meetings. There are two websites to obtain information: legiscan.com and alison.legislature.state.al.us.

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There are absentee ballot bills on the agenda for 2024.

- HB12 – a senior citizen could advocate/designate one person to help them absentee without being criminally liable.
- SB1 – prohibit a pay to anyone who assist absentee ballot in any form.
- HB9 – will prohibit any face mask mandates in the future.

The largest bill on the agenda for 2024 is the gambling legislation.

A total of 883 bills were proposed in 2023 in the legislature; 524 were proposed in the House, 382 in the Senate, and 222 were actually passed.

The two bills the City will advocate for at the State agency level are:

- Pardons and Parole Housing Fund - \$500k via Cam Ward in State Budget for reentry housing. It will not come to the City of Birmingham directly.
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit – proposed by which a relatively modest expenditure of insurance premium tax revenue could be used to leverage a significant larger source of federally generated funding and private debt financing, to generate high quality workforce housing at statutorily mandated affordable rental rates.

**City of Birmingham State Legislative Agenda 2024 – Priority List**

- **Alabama Landbank Act Amendment – this bill did not pass in 2023. – The bill is sponsored by Senator Linda Coleman-Madison and Representative Neil Rafferty.**
  - The State of Alabama has three functioning landbanks. This legislation will not only benefit the Birmingham Landbank, but all landbanks in the state.
  - A notable change in 2021 was shortening the number of years a property was required to be tax-delinquent before the Birmingham Landbank could acquire it. The term decreased from five (5) years to three (3) years.
  - It reduced the number of properties that a municipality or a county needed to have to set up a local authority; from more than 1,000 properties to more than 100 properties.
  - It allows cities and municipalities to create a joint landbank authority.
  - It gives the landbank the option to purchase tax-delinquent properties at the county tax sale.
  - It authorizes the landbank to transfer property to either the local agencies or state agencies for purposes of floodplain management or stormwater management.
  - It authorizes temporary landbank in areas where there isn't a landbank.
  - It will authorize a local county or municipality that creates a landbank to allocate a portion of the local tax revenue to the landbank for properties it sells to a new owner.
- **Code Enforcement Lien Foreclosure - The bill is sponsored by Senator Linda Coleman-Madison and Representative Neil Rafferty.**
  - This bill will apply only to Birmingham.
  - It is based on similar legislation adopted by Mobile several years ago.
  - The bill gives the City an efficient way to foreclose on code enforcement liens.
  - There are currently three outcomes with code enforcement liens: general code enforcement lien, demolition assessments, and weed assessments.
  - The legislation will allow the City to go through the judicial process and clear title to the property.
  - This does not impact owner-occupied property.
  - The City recovers third-party costs.
- **Personnel Board**
  - It allows a municipality in the State of Alabama to withdraw from its local Civil Service system.
- **Birmingham Housing Trust Fund**
  - The City of Birmingham's Housing Trust Fund should be structured as closely to the State Housing Trust Fund as possible.
- **Automated Photographic Traffic Enforcement System**
  - This will allow law enforcement to have another tool to enforce traffic laws.
- **Alabama Vacant Property Registration Bill**
  - This bill is geared toward Class1 municipalities.
  - The bill will grant a Class 1 municipality the authority to enact by ordinance provisions for vacant property registration, to require a registration fee for the registration of vacant property and to enact and enforce maintenance standards for vacant properties.
  - The City can appoint an administrator for the program.

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Action Taken:

Councilor Woods requested a copy of all the bills once they are written; the versions that have been or will be advertised.

Councilor O'Quinn would like to have automated traffic enforcement systems added to the legislative agenda item.

Councilor O'Quinn Motioned to Recommend the Legislative Agenda as drafted with the addition of the automated traffic enforcement item to the City Council Agenda for approval.

Councilor Alexander Seconded the Motion.

Item Recommended to the City Council Agenda.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Woods Motioned to Adjourn.

Councilor O'Quinn Seconded the Motion.

Meeting Adjourned.