

budget calls for all staff of cultural organizations, ie. Botanical Gardens, museums, libraries, etc. will be furloughed indefinitely. There is a Council budget meeting on Monday, August 31, which Hunter hopes to be online. Barbara will post information on Monday.

<https://www.birminghamal.gov/about/city-directory/live-city-council-meetings>. Dottie asked if Libby will be shutdown and he responded that staff in charge of that will be furloughed, and all other programs will be eliminated because there will be no staff to man them. All stakeholders need to write the Library Board <http://www.bplonline.org/about/admin/Board.aspx> and request that they figure out how to keep these programs in place should all libraries be closed. The mailing address for the library is: 2100 Park Place, Birmingham AL 35203.

CRR- Harold Houston reported our budget numbers, and said to call Modi Haresh at (205-297-8049) to report potholes and paving problems.

City Councilor Hunter Williams told of the \$63 million budget shortfall for this coming year because of tax loss caused by COVID. 72 cents per tax dollar is spent on employee salaries. A plus is that the \$10 million for street paving is still in place. Cost cutting, in the last 3 years, has included reduction of the number City employees from 4700 to 3600, by not hiring unfilled jobs. Human Resources departments were consolidated to one for entire City. The exception being Police and Fire, where specialized training is necessary. There will be no merit raises this year. The Mayor is taking a 10% cut in salary. And there will be no paid vacation for staff, which includes City holidays. About the Library, Museums, etc. closings, the citizens of Birmingham own millions of dollars in art and archives which must be cared for appropriately, i.e. security of buildings, proper temperature of stored items, etc. After being asked about privatization of these assets to save money, Hunter stated that he has had a conversation with the mayor about privatizing a number of the city's services to be more efficient. A suggestion was made that sale of excess property, ie. McCormick building, might be a solution.

Board of Education member Terri Michal reported that there is a search for a new Superintendent, she is on that committee, which will hopefully be discussing the finalists at the September 8 meeting. The State Board of Education has waived the required 180 instructional days and is allowing the system to reduce that number to 170. This gave the system the extra time needed to get all of the students devices in. (Many of the devices had been held up in customs so a Plan B had to be implemented). Every student will be given a device and 7,500 WIFI hotspots were ordered and will be given to every student's household that may need it. Up to 5 students per household will have access to the internet at any given time. There will be no City appropriation out of their general fund for BCS this year. For the last two years they had appropriated 1 million each year. There is a misunderstanding about a 2.8 million figure the mayor has suggested that BCS will receive that will 'make up' the million dollar loss. The 2.8 million that he is projecting is from a City tax of 1 cent of every dollar paid for capital expenditure which is earmarked for BCS. She stated that this is mandated by law, the city is not 'giving' it to BCS. She felt it must also be noted that the projection of 2.8 million is, as best as she could tell from her research, only \$500,000 over the normal capital expenditure that BCS receives every year. The projection is based on the completion of several projects, one being the distribution center that will go in at the old Century Plaza location. If that project is not completed the projected 2.8 million will go down significantly.

### Old Business

Trash and Brush schedules until end of year for Crestline will be September 4 and 25, October 16, November 6 and December 5 and 18. Please write these dates on your calendars. City recycling schedule is the first Wednesday of each month.

## **New Business**

**A variance for a porch addition at 4521 Hagood was allowed by the CNA Executive Committee to allow the homeowner to go before the Zoning committee with our positive response. Requester has permission from his neighbors to go forth with the project.**

**A request from Thomas Russell, 4521 Maryland Ave. was received, an hour before this meeting, for a variance for a fence already installed on his property. The Executive Committee will review his paper work and make a decision for or against. Mr. Russell was online and understands that this will be decided before his ZAC appearance on September 10, 2020.**

**A suggested motion was made by Don Ferguson that the CNA write the Mayor, City Council and Birmingham Library Board telling of the CNA concern for our library. All online seconded and voted in favor.**

**A copy of the letter follows.**

**Crestline NA will have a Zoom meeting about the Southeastern Area Framework Plan, where a PowerPoint presentation will be made, on Thursday, September 24, 2020, 6pm. Connection information will be forthcoming. This meeting is open to the public.**

**A motion to adjourn was made bedtime Barbara White, seconded by Aileen Hunt, all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm by President Dottie Miller.**