

UPDATE, 8:30 p.m., 9/11/2015: According to [a press release received earlier this evening](#), the Birmingham City Council moved to rescind the moratorium on spending on capital projects during their next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 15. This was after a 3 1/2 hour committee of the whole meeting, described in the release as being “open and often candid.”

The original post follows below:

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Late Thursday afternoon the Birmingham City Council officially announced a special called meeting of its Committee of the Whole for Friday at 2 p.m. at City Hall. The meeting takes place just three days after [the city’s legislative body voted to put in place a 30-day moratorium on funding for all capital projects underway in the city](#) (as reported by AL.com), with a few notable exceptions — including renovations at Legion Field and the new intermodal transit facility currently under construction. A review of [the committee meeting’s preliminary agenda](#) for the meeting shows the only item under New Business as a “capital projects update.”

A press release sent out this afternoon in advance of the presentation to the council by the mayor’s office included the following quote from council president Johnathan Austin:

“As City Councilors we must be continually updated on all projects that utilize public funds to ensure that we are making the best decisions for our constituents. While we are excited about new growth opportunities that certain capital projects may present it is prudent that we are cautious about approving funding for items that we have minimal knowledge about.”

[A report filed by WBRC’s Vanessa Araiza on Wednesday](#) pointed to cost overruns related to Regions Field as a major reason for the delay. [The council voted on Tuesday to approve paying the remaining expenses](#) to Robins & Morton and A.G. Gaston Construction over a seven-year period. Members of the City Council also alluded to receiving some monthly reports covering progress while not receiving others, despite claims from the mayor’s office to the contrary. The reports are not accessible currently via the city’s official website, though [the monthly report for the city’s street and storm sewer improvements program for the period ending December 31, 2014](#) is available online in part due to a report [filed for ABC 33/40 in late January](#).

The current fiscal year’s capital budget is available on the city’s website [via the budget office](#).