

On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 8:35 a.m., the Dayton City Commission met in regular session at the Dayton Metro Library located at 215 E. Third Street.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mims called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Fairchild asked for a moment of silence to commemorate the earthquake in Turkey-Syria and other natural disasters. He gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mims led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken, and Mayor Mims, Commissioners Joseph, Shaw, Fairchild and Turner-Sloss were present. The Clerk of Commission, Ms. Regina Blackshear and the City Manager, Ms. Shelley Dickstein were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Fairchild seconded the motion. The previous meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mayor Mims asked the Clerk of Commission, Ms. Regina Blackshear, what is the nature and order of business for this meeting.

Ms. Blackshear said, “Mayor Mims, the sole order of business today is to present the Annual State of the City Address. Each year, a Dayton City Commission meeting is set aside for the purpose of reporting the state of the city, highlighting some of the accomplishments of the year past, and remarking on initiatives for the year ahead. I am informed that you will present your remarks and will then adjourn the meeting from the stage.”

STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Mims invited Ms. Marsha Bonhart, Retired Journalist, to the stage for a conversation about the City of Dayton.

Ms. Bonhart asked “how has your first year in office been?”

Mayor Mims said it’s been great. He said the opportunity to work with many great partners in the community has been the mainstay.

Ms. Bonhart asked “In your first State of the City Address, you stated that Dayton must do more for young people. What are some of the issues you recognize to be facing young people?”

Mayor Mims said to break cycles of generational poverty and set our community on a track to prosper, Dayton must do more for young people. He said he is keeping that commitment in several ways; he held his first-ever Mayor’s Citywide Youth Summit in October 2021 where he welcomed nearly 300 students across Dayton High Schools. He held interactive half-day discussions and resources on mental health, career readiness, civic engagement, and mentorship.

Mayor Mims said he is utilizing the platform as chair of National League of Cities' Education taskforce to advocate for resources for Dayton's youth at the federal level. He also has committed \$1M of Community Development Block Grant funding in the 2023 budget for youth.

Programming, and in 2023, Mayor Mims will further mobilize the community to address youth mental health, youth violence, recreation/afterschool programs, and mentorship.

Ms. Bonhart asked how the city balancing the growth investment downtown with investments in neighborhoods?

Mayor Mims said he toured seven key neighborhoods as part of his Mayor's Neighborhood tours. He also convened a "**housing roundtable**" in 2022 that included housing experts, stakeholders, and city staff. He said the roundtable will produce best-practice recommendations for future housing needs in Dayton. Mayor Mims said the City will spend nearly \$22M eliminating 1,100 nuisance properties in the next several years (75% of structural nuisance list) and will launched a new pilot program to sale city-owned, residential lots to responsible owners.

Mayor Mims said \$1.8 million is awarded to Rebuilding Together Dayton to repair 100 homes in target neighborhoods and \$800K is awarded to Dayton Habitat for Humanity to complete critical roof repairs for up to 80 homes, in the Carillon, Edgemont, Miami Chapel, Wolf Creek, Five Oaks, and Old North Dayton neighborhoods. He said there is a \$7M first-floor fund created through Dayton Recovery Plan to help local small businesses finance storefront-activation projects along strategic neighborhood corridors.

Ms. Bonhart said, "last year was a big year for development in Downtown Dayton." She asked "what impact does this have on the city and what are some of the major projects worth highlighting?"

Mayor Mims said \$1.5B was invested in Downtown Dayton over the last decade. Major downtown projects are underway including phase 2 of the Dayton Arcade, renovation of the Dayton Convention Center, and redevelopment of Grant-Denau Tower and the Mendleson's building. He said various housing projects, hotels, office spaces and more came to downtown Dayton in 2022.

Ms. Bonhart asked "what is his outlook on job growth in Dayton?"

Mayor Mims said the Dayton region has experienced back-to-back record years for job creation in 2021 and 2022. He said according to JobsOhio, they are moving into 2023 with strong momentum. He said the Dayton metro area had some of the state's lowest unemployment rates in November 2022 according to preliminary data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mayor Mims said the Dayton region was named a top city for tech talent growth in 2022 and a \$38M Sierra Nevada Aircraft facilities are coming to the Dayton International airport which will create \$10.8 million in new annual payroll to our area and 150 new jobs. He said attracting and retaining skilled workers will remain the top economic focus in 2023.

Ms. Bonhart said "of course, safety is always a major factor in the City's ability to maintain and attract new investment. She asked are there any new measures the city is taking to increase safety?"

Mayor Mims said the City continues to implement police reform recommendations. He said the Mediation Response Unit launched in July of 2022 and aims to reduce unnecessary police interventions and provide residents with mediators in non-violent circumstances. He said other implementations include new de-escalation policy and training, use of force policy, independent accountability auditor, restructured Community Appeals Board, Dayton Police Transparency Portal, and a new complaint process. Mayor Mims said the Dayton Police Department was awarded \$4.58M in state funding in October 2022 to help with recruiting and payroll costs during a significant staff shortage. He said the City Commission approved restructuring of the Dayton Police Department, which was led by Chief Afzal, to put more officers on patrol, assign geographic beats, and establish community services division.

Ms. Bonhart said “we were all alarmed by the hooning in downtown Dayton and around the city. She said talk about what that is and tell us what the city is doing about it?”

Mayor Mims said the Dayton Police Department will be working with neighborhoods to develop neighborhood safety plans, giving residents a voice in building a safer community. He said the City Commission will pursue policy for harsher penalties for hooning.

Ms. Bonhart asked “what investments has the city made to improve Dayton’s infrastructure over the last year?”

Mayor Mims said the City just finished Phase 2 of the Salem Avenue rebuild. He said a \$2M project that will rebuild 1.2 miles of the roadway with a goal of making the stretch of road more pedestrian friendly and provide upgrades that complement the redevelopment interest along the Salem Avenue Corridor. He said other infrastructure improvements included the paving of 178 streets and the replacement of playground equipment for Cleveland and Highland Parks and McIntosh Park saw improvements through the replacement of basketball goals and a resurfaced court.

Mayor Mims said the Water Department continues to make needed upgrades and capital improvements to our infrastructure. Ensuring clean and safe drinking water and service for residents for years to come.

Ms. Bonhart said “the city adopted a bold Sustainability plan in 2020. She asked how are these efforts saving residents money?”

Mayor Mims said the new electric aggregation program is saving Dayton customers \$300/month, \$10M in combined savings over first year which is 30 percent cheaper than AES Ohio’s standard rate. He said the City is maintaining a pledge to convert 100 percent of the City's fleet to 100 percent EVs by 2035. He said the first five vehicles in the city electric vehicle fleet purchased in 2022, and the City is pursuing new EV charging stations at City Hall, the Dayton International Airport, three recreation facilities, Kettering Field, the Oregon District garage and Welcome Park.

Ms. Bonhart asked, "What is your parting message to the residents, businesses, and neighboring communities of Dayton?"

Mayor Mims thanked his colleagues for their support. He said Dayton has had more ribbon cuttings the past year than he can ever remember. He said the aspect of Dayton moving forwards makes him proud to be the Mayor of the City of Dayton, Ohio.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr.
Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk of Commission