



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Hadassah Mativetsky, City Council President

Sarah Dinhofer, City Clerk

## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

City Hall, 38 Hawley St, Binghamton

6pm Monday, January 8, 2024

Call to order by President Mativetsky at 6:00PM

Present: Middleton, Cavanaugh, Hotchkiss, Mativetsky, Rathmell, Dundon

Absent: Porter

Also Present: Samantha Costello (Deputy City Clerk), Sophie Bergman (Corporation Counsel), Mehtasim Mahfuz (Asst. Corporation Counsel)

*The Work Session begins at 6pm. Times for RL(s)/Topics are approximate only and items may be considered earlier or later.*

*Abbreviations: CM – Council Member RL – Request for Legislation RFP – Request for Proposal RFQ – Request for Quote*

Time	Committee	Chair	RL/Topic	Pages	Presenter
6:00pm	Municipal and Public Affairs	Kinya	<p><b>*RL24-3:</b> Enter into MOU with Vestal &amp; Johnson City Police SWAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zikuski noted this is the same agreement as previous 5-year agreement; part of standard process</li> <li>• 4 members from each municipality; agreement has been in place for over 20 years</li> <li>• Primarily for training purposes; allows for additional manpower in case of emergency</li> <li>• Previous contract expired in December; state has agreed to continue until renewed</li> <li>• Expedited by CM Middleton</li> </ul>	1-7	Joseph T. Zikuski
6:10pm	Planning	Nate	<p><b>RL24-7:</b> Authorize the sale of 28 Alfred St to Gino and Elsa Ferranti for \$500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of Side Lot program (see attached documentation in packet)</li> <li>• CM Hotchkiss would like to follow up with additional information about this program and related qualifications</li> <li>• Doherty refused to answer questions from CM Rathmell</li> <li>• Doherty will send follow-up information to CM Hotchkiss on eligible properties for Side Lot Program</li> </ul>	8-9	Grace Doherty



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM Hotchkiss would like more clarification on access to program, community knowledge to program— Doherty acknowledged that neighbors of adjacent lots are made aware of opportunities via letter</li> </ul>		
6:15pm	Planning	Nate	<b>RL24-8:</b> Authorize the sale of 74 Evans St to Michael and Margaret Igo for \$500	10-11	Grace Doherty
6:20pm	Public Works	Michael	<p><b>RL24-9:</b> Authorize the City of Binghamton to enter into an agreement with NYSDOT to provide emergency assistance in the absence of the Governor’s Emergency Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paludi clarifies that if there is an emergency, we can share services up to \$25,000 with governor’s approval ex. loan salt, etc.</li> <li>• Paludi confirms we have participated in program for 8 years</li> </ul>	12-16	Joshua Paludi
6:25pm	Finance	Robert	<p><b>RL24-4:</b> Authorize the City of Binghamton to accept a home improvement project grant from NYS Homes &amp; Community Renewal Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC) in the amount of \$680,000 for the rehab and non-luxury renovation of 34 low-moderate-income (LMI) owner occupied single family homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berling clarifies that this program is used to help single family homes to rehab property</li> <li>• Metro Faith administers the program, people apply accordingly, Metro does advertising</li> <li>• Works in cooperation with First Ward Action, DSS, etc.</li> <li>• Currently have a waitlist of 34 applicants, ongoing rolling list</li> <li>• CM Middleton asked if additional funding would speed up waitlist. Berling clarifies that shortage of contractors has slowed the process significantly, as</li> </ul>	17-20	Juliet Berling



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			<p>projects are relatively “small,” they don’t receive many bids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM Rathmell asks if there is a target income bracket or community. Berling confirms that income is the only measure</li> <li>• CM Rathmell asks if the City of Binghamton tracks resale statistics— Berling noted that she is “not supposed” to answer questions from CM Rathmell, refused to answer additional questions</li> <li>• CM Hotchkiss asked about resale statistics. Berling confirmed that the City tracks every 5/10/15/20 years with regular benchmarks</li> <li>• CM Cavanaugh asked about scope of program. Berling noted that 126 properties have used this funding since 2013, \$350,000 awarded in previous grant, City of Binghamton matched with \$1.1 million, renovated 29 properties, received funding from County for lead abatement</li> <li>• Berling will follow up with additional funding statistics</li> <li>• Berling noted that this funding can only be spent on home improvement</li> <li>• 60 days left to accept grant</li> </ul>		
6:30pm	Finance	Robert	<p><b>RL24-2:</b> Mayor to authorize NFP to act as Broker of Record for Health Insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists City of Binghamton employees with benefit questions and claims, no additional cost to the City of Binghamton</li> <li>• CM Cavanaugh asked for clarification as to why Binghamton has such a service— Heiman responds it is a benefit to the Finance Department working as intermediary to health insurance companies, no cost to the City</li> </ul>	21-24	Megan Heiman



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Binghamton has been engaged with NFP for over 5 years, continuing an existing partnership</li> <li>RFP went out in 2023, 2 firms responded including one in Syracuse and NFP (local)</li> <li>Chuck Shager (Comptroller) will follow up with copies of reports for Council</li> </ul>		
6:35pm	Finance	Robert	<p><b>RL24-5:</b> Accept a grant not to exceed \$250,000 from the Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology (CREST) capital grant program for a pumper fire truck</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant from Senator Lea Webb to put toward a pumper fire engine</li> <li>New apparatus to replace 20-year-old fire engine (Engine 1) to allow older truck to become spar</li> <li>Will come to next work session to approve bonding portion</li> </ul>	25-26	Megan Heiman
6:40pm	Finance	Robert	<p><b>*RL24-10:</b> Amend the 2024 General fund budget to fund a Police Lieutenant position for the whole budget year (2024) and defund a Grade 1 Police Officer for the whole budget year (2024). Increase benefits associated with change of grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heiman clarifies that this is related to an ongoing personnel matter—city moved to terminate a lieutenant for cause in 2022, this line was not included in the 2024 budget</li> <li>During administrative hearing process, recommendation did not include dismissal, State Supreme Court ruled that City of Binghamton has to continue to pay officer while case is ongoing</li> <li>Heiman will share the court order with the City Clerk to enable expedition — must be expedited to pay starting January 1 for payroll</li> </ul>	27-28	Megan Heiman



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6:45pm	Finance	Robert	<p><b>*RL24-1:</b> Mayor to authorize Bonadio &amp; Co., LLP for audit services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heiman notes Bonadio is the firm that the City of Binghamton has previously engaged with, administration would like to continue with them</li> <li>• CM Cavanaugh asked for clarification on RFQ process. Heiman confirmed 3 firms responded, selected Bonadio based on size/scope of firm</li> <li>• Heiman confirms this needs to be expedited due to March audit filing deadlines</li> <li>• Heiman will provide RFQ responses to City Clerk</li> <li>• CM Cavanaugh notes it would be helpful to have background research included in future (related to RFQs)</li> </ul>	29-52	Megan Heiman
6:50pm	Finance	Robert	<p><b>RL24-6:</b> Authorize the Mayor to accept a \$210,275 grant from NYS Homes &amp; Community Renewal to support façade work and streetscape improvements in the target area defined in the attached Schedule A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glose noted that this grant will account for façade work and streetscape improvements in the target area</li> <li>• CM Hotchkiss asked if specific entities were considered—Glose notes they are required to submit projects in order to receive grants, but will re-canvass to see if properties are still eligible</li> <li>• Glose noted that project timeline might be difficult, but should be achievable with flexibility of state administration</li> <li>• CM Dundon asks about Article 8 State labor law. Glose notes they will need to look more closely at the contract, everyone will have to be in compliance with state labor laws</li> </ul>	53-75	Sarah Glose



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CM Hotchkiss asks if there are grant opportunities for residential properties. Glose responds that City did not submit for any residential projects — recipients of funds found the grant terms overly burdensome and did not complete projects. As a result, did not pursue</li> <li>• Glose notes that on State Street (target area) there are very limited residential areas, they would not apply, not a priority for this particular grant application</li> <li>• CM Hotchkiss asks about deadline— State is holding City of Binghamton to January timeline but are flexible about additional time</li> </ul>		
6:55pm	Finance	Robert	<p><b>*RL24-11:</b> Amend the BJCSB 2024 Budget to increase hourly rates due to 2.66% CPI increase and change the position count by defunding a position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goodson notes that this will require moving lines of budget, but BJCSB will still be within budget</li> <li>• Defunding certain positions to pay for CPI increase</li> <li>• Expedited by CM Cavanaugh</li> </ul>	76-79	Billie Goodson
7:00pm	Finance	Robert	<p><b>*RL24-12:</b> Amend the BJCSB 2024 Budget position count to defund one Mechanics Assistant and fund one Mechanics position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expedited by CM Cavanaugh</li> </ul>	80-81	Billie Goodson

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

*\*Please Expedite for Next Business Meeting*

Motion to adjourn at 6:59PM: Middleton

Second: Hotchkiss

All in Favor