



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Hadassah Mativetsky, City Council President

Sarah Dinhofer, City Clerk

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Business Meeting Agenda

City Council Chambers, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901

6:00 PM Wednesday, February 7, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by President Mativetsky at 6:01PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Mativetsky

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Porter, Middleton, Cavanaugh, Hotchkiss, Mativetsky Also Present: Sarah Dinhofer (City Clerk), Sophie Bergman (Corporation Counsel), Mehtasim Mahfuz (Asst. Corporation Counsel)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Business Meeting Minutes from 1/24/2024
 - a. Motion: Cavanaugh
 - b. Second: Middleton
 - c. Vote: 5-0-0-2
 - d. Absent: Rathmell, Dundon

V. APPOINTMENTS

1. Shade Tree Commission: Julian Shepherd (1 year)
2. CDAC: Michelle O'Loughlin
3. Environmental Commission: Deadline being postponed, interested individuals should email a resume and statement of interest to clerk@cityofbinghamton.gov

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing regarding RL24-18: NYSHCR Grant for Northshore Tower Elevator Project
 - CM Hotchkiss mentions that he participated in a tour of the newly constructed elevator. Residents (many of whom experience mobility issues) were very happy with the new elevator and the company used received positive reviews.
 - CM Mativetsky states that she also participated in the tour and agrees that the installation was performed well.
 - a. Motion to close Public Hearing: Porter
 - b. Second: Middleton
 - c. All in Favor

VII. SET PUBLIC HEARINGS



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1. The City of Binghamton will hold a Public Hearing regarding RL24-13 “An Ordinance authorizing various capital improvements in and for the City, stating the maximum cost thereof is \$11,937,500, appropriating said amount for such purpose and authorizing the issuance of bonds in the City in the principal amount not to exceed \$11,937,500 to finance said appropriation”

This Public Hearing will take place at 6PM during the February 28, 2024 regular City Council Business Meeting in City Council Chambers, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton NY. Residents wishing to participate in Public Hearings may do so electronically by emailing their comments prior to 1:00PM on the day of the meeting to clerk@cityofbinghamton.gov or in-person during the meeting.

6:07PM Councilmember Dundon enters Council Chambers

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Residents wishing to submit public comment may do so electronically by emailing their comments prior to 1:00PM on the day of the meeting to clerk@cityofbinghamton.gov or in-person during the meeting.

- **Kenneth Brown, Westside Resident:** Talks about personal opposition to previously proposed citizen-sponsored RL “Police Choice Act”, as local oversight of Police Department is essential. Addresses local Republican candidate’s/official’s statements as misleading, stating that listening to ideas to increase civic engagement is not equivalent to support of an idea: “I disagree with what you say, but I defend to the death your right to say it.” Brown further commends the Council for their commitment to engagement. Brown goes on to discuss the RL he submitted to eliminate cronyism, stating “any company with direct financial ties to the City of Binghamton should be barred from obtaining a contract”, pointing to a former Councilmember who was able to serve while their company received large contracts from the City. Mentions that his wife’s family is hosting a free community meal for all on Easter Sunday from 1-5PM with a goal of 200 meals distributed.
- **Marty Doorey, Eastside Resident:** Commends City Council for listening to citizen’s ideas, considers previous RL ludicrous, but appreciates the difference between listening to constituents and endorsing legislation. Doorey criticizes the Mayor for trying to control the legislative branch of City government, both regarding “Police Choice Act” and the tie in the 6th district election. Commends CM Cavanaugh for being willing to consider shared service agreement.
- **John Solak, Binghamton Resident:** Solak states “Kraham should go to Chenango Valley and get a civics textbook”. RL form has been open to the public, can be gotten from the Clerk like he did, where he received “5-star service”. Solak says he believes in fair play, believes that the Council should hold a vote on his “Police Choice Act” regardless of individual feeling to have a decision made for the public.

IX. FIRST READING LEGISLATION

Introductory Ordinance O24-04. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

An Ordinance authorizing the sale of 28 Alfred Street to Gino Ferranti and Elsa Ferranti for \$500



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Motion to declare City Council as “Lead Agency” under SEQRA: Hotchkiss

Second: Middleton

All in Favor

Motion to identify the proposed action as “Unlisted” under SEQRA: Hotchkiss

Second: Dundon

All in Favor

Motion to issue a Negative Declaration under SEQRA for the reasons listed in the negative declaration: Hotchkiss

Second: Cavanaugh

All in Favor

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Cavanaugh

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Rathmell

Introductory Ordinance O24-05. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

An Ordinance authorizing the sale of 74 Evans Street to Michael Igo and Margaret Igo for \$500

Motion to declare City Council as “Lead Agency” under SEQRA: Hotchkiss

Second: Cavanaugh

All in Favor

Motion to identify the proposed action as “Unlisted” under SEQRA: Hotchkiss

Second: Middleton

All in Favor

Motion to issue a Negative Declaration under SEQRA for the reasons listed in the negative declaration: Hotchkiss

Second: Dundon

All in Favor

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Dundon

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Rathmell

Introductory Ordinance O24-07. Considered in Employees: Porter

An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Engineering budget to fund the Senior Account Clerk Position

Motion: Porter

Second: Middleton

Discussion: CM Porter states that the City should consider modernizing training practices and entry requirements;

CM Middleton agrees

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Rathmell



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Introductory Ordinance O24-08. Considered in Employees: Porter

An Ordinance to amend the 2024 General budget for Department of Public Works responsibility adjustments

Motion: Porter

Second: Middleton

Discussion: CM Cavanaugh reiterates discussion from prior session, reminding the public that 2 people are currently doing 3 jobs. Cavanaugh emphasizes need to fill vacant positions in City. CM Porter agrees, mentions potential lack of adequate oversight. CM Mativetsky encourages potential applicants to consider working within City of Binghamton.

Motion to amend legislation to read that Board of Estimate & Apportionment met on 02/07/24, not 02/06/24:

Cavanaugh

Second: Hotchkiss

All in Favor

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Rathmell

Introductory Resolution R24-09. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, or his designee, to enter into a professional services agreement with Labella Associates for code review of large set plans

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Middleton

Discussion: CM Cavanaugh states that there was not adequate pricing structure information provided to Council for review, requests that more detail be provided in the future for similar legislation. CM Mativetsky agrees

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Rathmell

Introductory Resolution R24-10. Considered in Public Works: Dundon

Draft R24-10 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, or his designee, to enter an intermunicipal agreement with Broome Tioga Stormwater Coalition

Motion: Dundon

Second: Porter

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Rathmell

Introductory Resolution R24-11. Considered in Public Works: Dundon

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, or his designee, to enter Supplemental Agreement No. 4 with Barton and Loguidice DPC for Phase III USACOE/NYSDEC pipe conduit inspection and maintenance rehabilitation work

Motion: Dundon

Second: Middleton

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Rathmell

X. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL

CM Middleton: Middleton mentions that February is Black History Month, states that it means a lot to be the 3rd



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woman of color elected to this office and that CM Porter is the 1st man of color. “Females of color are often overlooked throughout history, with their voices going unheard. This continues to be my reality. Binghamton City Council seeks to enhance citizen participation in government, regardless of opinions about the message or messenger. Please avoid paying attention to sensationalized headlines and fear-mongering tactics.” “The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent.” – Malcolm X. “If you’re not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing.” – Malcolm X. Middleton emphasizes that it is important for people to read past headlines and talk to their representatives before making a judgment. Middleton states that Council was elected with good intentions to serve their constituents and will continue to do so.

CM Cavanaugh: Cavanaugh seeking CDAC representative for 3rd District, encourages people to send applications to clerk@cityofbinghamton.gov or directly to Council email. Reiterates willingness to have open discussions in meetings, prioritizing listening and engagement. States that engagement is not equivalent to endorsement.

CM Hotchkiss: Hotchkiss mentions feeling encouraged seeing multiple pieces of constituent-sponsored legislation, eager to have a more collaborative relationship with residents.

CM Dundon: “A true leader is not a follower of consensus; a true leader is a molder of consensus.” -MLK. Dundon states this past week has shown that this Council is determined to change things versus just going with the status quo and will continue to fight the good fight.

CM Mativetsky: CM Middleton and CM Mativetsky working together on a public hearing (2/13 @ 6PM), text appended for details, encourages everyone to participate. The Discovery Center invites you to come celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year with us on February 10 from 11am – 1pm. Visit with members of our local Chinese Cultural Center and experience diverse flavorful food, engage in cultural artistry and join in on the Chinese Lunar Parade! Activities to be held throughout the museum. Enjoy free admission to The Discovery Center on the Third Friday of February from 4-7pm thanks to Owego Dental. The Discovery Center is ready to celebrate Presidents’ Day on February 19, 2024. Join us for interactive history lessons that will engage young minds while fostering a love for learning about our nation’s leaders. Free with museum admission. Presidents' weekend from Feb 16-19 kids 12 and under get in free with a parent or guardian admission to the Ross Park Zoo. Mativetsky encourages constituents to continue communicating directly by email.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Dundon

Second: Porter

All in Favor