



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

*Hadassah Mativetsky, City Council President*

*Sarah Dinhofer, City Clerk*

## COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON

**Committee Meeting Agenda: Municipal and Public Affairs**

**Work Session Room, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901**

**11 AM Monday, March 11, 2024**

### I. CALL TO ORDER

At 11:01 AM by Chair Middleton

### II. ROLL CALL

Present: Middleton, Dundon

Also Present: Sarah Dinhofer (City Clerk), Hadassah Mativetsky (City Council President, Member Ex-Officio), Nate Hotchkiss (Councilmember), Capt. Chastity Hansen & Capt. Joseph Hansen (RL Presenters)

### III. DISCUSSION

- a. **RL24-46:** An ordinance to amend the 2024 budget to allocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support building upgrades at 86 Walnut St. for the Salvation Army's new commercial kitchen, equipment, and furnishings to support its community meals program
  - Capt. Joseph Hansen: Primary goal is to address food insecurity, have soup kitchen 7 days/week and food pantry 4 days/week, also offer programming: "Pathways of Hope" to break cycle of general poverty, "Childcare Management" to help coordinate childcare for long-term care.
  - Capt. Chastity Hansen: Currently 3500-4000 meals served monthly, food pantry serves 150-200 families, also operate hygiene pantry. Existing location has small dining room/kitchen which has been outgrown. CM Middleton asks if this is main cause for moving – Hansen answers no, current location isn't meeting needs of community or Downtown area, which is very business friendly. New location would serve more people and be closer to majority of clients.
  - CM Middleton asks if there is a strategy to keep services consistent for current clients; Capt. Joseph Hansen answers that many clients are closer to new location, clients based downtown have already stated they will follow to new location (less than ½ mile), bus route is also available. CM Mativetsky asks about clients with mobility challenges; Capt. Chastity Hansen answers capacity for drop-off program is possible, but contingent on volunteer base size, as there are only 5 paid staff for facility.
  - Capt. Joseph Hansen: Reviews floorplans, demonstrates that it will be significantly easier for volunteers to unload supplies versus previous layout, also points out added storage, preparation, and servicing areas. Capt. Chastity Hansen further points out that many accompanying services are right nearby.
  - CM Dundon asks where the proceeds from sale of current location will go; Capt. Joseph Hansen answers to existing programming and maintenance costs, clarifying that monies will stay in local economy. CM Dundon asks for valuation of current building; Capt. Joseph Hansen estimates \$600k-\$1mil, adds that there are already interested parties to sale.
  - CM Middleton asks if ARPA money is necessary, considering significant sale proceeds; Capt. Chastity Hansen answers yes – cost of renovating new building already budgeted at \$1mil, cost of buying new building was about \$550k, estimate for kitchen renovations budgeted at \$250k
  - CM Hotchkiss asks about expanded youth programming; Capt. Chastity Hansen answers they already host character-building programming similar to Boy/Girl Scouts, looking to add after-school programs. New location layout includes classrooms, will be more conducive to programs. Also looking to collaborate with Binghamton University, other nonprofits.

- CM Mativetsky asks for timeline around renovations; Capt. Joseph Hansen states that outdoor renovations will likely begin in summer, indoor renovations likely to begin in fall, hopeful to complete by January 2025. Until move is complete, services will continue without gap at current location.
- b. **RL24-47:** A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Salvation Army for use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support a new commercial kitchen, equipment, and furnishings to 86 Walnut St. to support a community meals program
  - CM Mativetsky asks about potential public safety issues being accommodated, considering move of clientele to new neighborhood; Capt. Chastity Hansen responds it is a good idea to be proactive in discussions with nonprofits, police, etc. to have a plan in place.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 11:42PM: Dundon

Second: Middleton

All in Favor