



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Hadassah Mativetsky, City Council President

Sarah Dinhofer, City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

City Hall, 38 Hawley St, Binghamton

6pm Monday, March 11, 2024

Call to order by President Mativetsky at 6:01PM

Present: Porter, Middleton, Cavanaugh, Hotchkiss, Mativetsky, Strawn, Dundon

Also Present: Sarah Dinhofer (City Clerk), Sophie Bergman (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	Employees	Porter	<p>RL24-48 An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Parks budget to pay a responsibility adjustment to Acting Parks Commissioner until 4/21/2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drake-Deese: Necessary until Parks Commissioner position is no longer vacant • CM Hotchkiss asks if this is standard practice; Drake-Deese responds no – highly circumstantial 	1-2	Kent Drake-Dreese, Personnel Director
6:05pm	Employees	Porter	<p>RL24-49 An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Binghamton, Chapter 124 Section 26, to update eligibility for retiree health insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kraham states City used to manage retirements through NYS program until 1980s, when it fell to municipalities. At some point, norm was created which changed 10-year service requirement for retirement to 20-year requirement, leading to employees without coverage • Kraham further states that 2021 law codified 20-year requirement, leaving union employees hired 	3-8	Jared Kraham, Mayor



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			<p>prior to 2021 ineligible for benefits after 10 years of service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kraham states issue has been ongoing with collective bargaining agreements, needs resolution through Council to revert back to 10-year requirement until future date (6/1/24), also codifies military buyback time. Discussions around transferring time from municipalities are continuing in union negotiations• CM Dundon asks for explanation in discrepancy between Mayor's explanation of events and Youtube recording of meeting in 2021 in which Comptroller Shager's description of legislation to Council was vague and misleading. Kraham answers this is a complex issue, but wasn't fully aware at that time, goal was to have something on the books• CM Cavanaugh asks for financial impact of decision; Kraham states there will be a cost, but it is necessary• CM Hotchkiss asks how City can create confidence with employees that issue will not reoccur; Kraham answers setting a future date will create more trust with employees versus backdating policy• CM Hotchkiss asks how many employees were affected;		
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			Kraham answers unsure – a handful of employees including Teamsters and Fire Dept.		
6:10pm	Employees	Porter	<p>RL24-50 An Ordinance to amend the Treasurer budget along with the salary and classification of the Treasurer position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Porter asks who has been doing work of Treasurer during vacancy; Kraham answers Asst. Comptroller Robinson with help of Treasury office • CM Porter asks if salary of Treasurer is being split amongst employees taking over duties; Kraham discusses necessity for Acting Treasurer to be 2nd signatory on checks • Kraham states the necessity to change position to non-appointed, as Treasurer should not be subject to political turnover in City Hall • Drake-Deese states salary increase will help attract more qualified candidates, more in line with comparable positions in other municipalities • CM Porter commends Kraham for giving up mayoral appointment on position, points out outdated Civil Service Exam requirement • CM Middleton asks if Acting Treasurer Robinson would take position following salary increase; 	9-10	Kent Drake-Dreese, Personnel Director Jared Kraham, Mayor



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			Drake-Deese states Robinson can apply, but position will be advertised openly		
6:25pm	Finance	Cavanaugh	<p>RL24-51 An Ordinance to correct the tax rolls for the 2024 tax warrant for various City properties (*Expedition requested)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shager states legislation is necessary to be passed ASAP due to errors made in Treasurer’s office while sending tax bills to residents • CM Mativetsky asks what City is doing to prevent errors in the future as there were more than usual; Shager answers filling Treasurer position • Motion to expedite: Dundon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Porter ○ All in favor 	11-12	Chuck Shager, Comptroller
6:30pm	Finance	Cavanaugh	<p>RL24-52 An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Capital Budget to close serial bond accounts no longer active</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Cavanaugh asks if this is typical; Shager replies yes – process typically happens 2-3x/yr as expense accounts are closed following project conclusion, ensuring no overspending • Shager clarifies this is not money going back to general fund; was approved bond money which will not be bonded for 	13-14	Chuck Shager, Comptroller

Motion to adjourn at 6:48PM: Porter

Second: Middleton

All in Favor