



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Hadassah Mativetsky, City Council President

Sarah Dinhofer, City Clerk

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Business Meeting Minutes

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

6:00 PM Wednesday, March 13, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:01PM by President Mativetsky

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Mativetsky

III. ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Sarah Dinhofer

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Business Meeting Minutes from 2/28/2024
 - a. Motion: Dundon
 - b. Second: Porter
 - c. All in Favor

V. APPOINTMENTS

1. Commission on the Conservation of the Environment Chair
 - a. Motion to nominate Luke Day as Chair: Hotchkiss
 - b. Second: Middleton
 - c. Vote: 7-0-0-0
2. Planning Commission: Kyle Nedlik (Mayoral nominee)
 - a. Vote: 5-2-0-0
 - b. Nay: Porter, Middleton
3. Motion to reconsider nomination of Emmanuel Priest and Christopher Dziedzic: Porter
 - a. Second: Dundon
 - b. Discussion: CM Hotchkiss states that reconsideration is appropriate to allow for more thorough discussion

Motion to enter executive session: Middleton

Second: Dundon

All in favor

Present after exiting executive session: Porter, Middleton, Cavanaugh, Hotchkiss, Mativetsky, Strawn, Dundon

Also Present: Sarah Dinhofer



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Motion to holdover the reconsideration: Porter

Second: Dundon

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Nay: Strawn

4. CDAC: CM Strawn appointed as Minority Party Representative. CM Porter appoints Rebecca Porter as 1st Ward Representative, states Rebecca Porter has had experience being on Broome County Youth Board, NOMA, and as Director of Youth & Adult Services at Urban League. CM Cavanaugh appoints Rebecca Rathmell as 3rd District Representative.
5. BLDC: CM Strawn appointed as Minority Party Representative.
6. BURA: CM Strawn appointed as Minority Party Representative.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing regarding RL24-42 “A Local Law amending Chapter 400 of the City Charter, Vehicles and Traffic, adding the prohibition of operation of off-road vehicles in the City of Binghamton”

- Motion to close hearing: Dundon
 - Second: Dundon
 - All in Favor

VII. 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.

- Barry Kaufman, Binghamton Resident: Discusses if Binghamton can utilize Homestead Act – there are commercial properties being converted to housing, particularly in Downtown area. Lives in R1 residential family district, but landlords are coming in and converting single family houses to rentals while taking advantage of lower Homestead Act tax rate – needs to be remedied, as the City is losing revenue. People looking for housing are being outcompeted.
- Henry Rostkowski, Binghamton Resident: Back to talk about Code – had property taken by Code 2 years prior, sent complaint to Attorney General’s office. Believes it is problematic that Code issues violations in a selective manner. Tried to work with Code to resolve issues, but was forced into bankruptcy.
- Misty Kirby, Southside resident: Works and volunteers in the City of Binghamton, here to speak about dignity here and at School Board. Here to speak about reconsidering social promotion policy; policy is rooted in systemic racism. Based on redlining in 1935 maps, problems have been in place for long period of time. Happy to see agenda reflects investment in community. Urges Council to prioritize residents and consider least advantaged
- Amari Pavati, District 3: Student at Binghamton University, here to talk about ceasefire again -- RL to be submitted soon. Last session, spoke about catastrophe, continuing today – US is not doing enough to prevent risk of many people dying. Message from Council to federal representative would be impactful,



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urges Council to listen to constituents.

- Jim Clune, District 6: Back to advocate for ceasefire resolution in Gaza, hostage exchange, reestablishment of financial relief for UN agencies. 84 City Councils have passed similar resolutions in past months.

**Comments submitted via email are appended at end of minutes.*

VIII. FIRST READING LEGISLATION

Introductory Ordinance O24-10. Considered in Employees: Porter

An Ordinance to Amend the 2024 Police Budget to increase the annual salary of the Mechanic Position

Motion: Porter

Second: Hotchkiss

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-11. Considered in Finance: Cavanaugh

An Ordinance to amend the 2023 BJCSB budget to increase Village of Johnson City Local System cost

Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Dundon

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-12. Considered in Finance: Cavanaugh

An ordinance to amend the 2023 Water and Sewage Fund budget for retroactive pay for 5 employees due to grievance decision on 12.15.23

Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Dundon

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-13. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

An Ordinance rescinding permanent resolutions and ordinances related to Water Street Development Corporation R21-84 R23-51 R23-47 R21-92 and O23-59

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Cavanaugh

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-14. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

An Ordinance authorizing the local adoption of the Main Street Historic District

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Cavanaugh

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-15. Considered in Finance: Cavanaugh

An Ordinance to amend the 2023 General Fund to adjust for Assistant Corporation Counsel (CODE-ARPA) salary unused at year end

Motion: Cavanaugh



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Second: Hotchkiss

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-16. Considered in Finance: Cavanaugh

An Ordinance to amend the 2023 Police Fund to adjust for unused incentive funds at year end

Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Hotchkiss

Discussion: CM Hotchkiss noted that incentive program was discussed at prior Committee meeting; no indication of its success shown

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-17. Considered in Public Works/Parks: Dundon

An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Adopted Fee Schedule to allow additional fees for DPW

Motion: Dundon

Second: Hotchkiss

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-18. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

An Ordinance amending the 2024 General Fund budget for the demolition of a fire damaged property at 17 William Street

CM Dundon states recusal due to conflict of interest

Vote to accept: 6-0-0-0

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Strawn

Vote: 6-0-0-0

Abstain:

Introductory Ordinance O24-19. Considered in Municipal and Public Affairs: Middleton

An Ordinance to amend the 2024 General Fund budget to allocate ARPA funds to support building upgrades at 86 Walnut Street for the Salvation Army

Motion: Middleton

Second: Hotchkiss

Discussion: CM Middleton mentions that discussion on this topic was had at recent Committee meeting and some Councilmembers toured one or both facilities. CM Hotchkiss states that legislation may create more difficulty with some constituents, but overall positive. CM Porter voices similar concerns regarding potentially underserving constituents. CM Middleton mentions that Salvation Army stated intent to assist constituents in other ways through transition, potentially through delivery program. CM Cavanaugh reiterates that Salvation Army believes new population will be closer to many clients, still overall positive move. CM Phil praises use of funds for this purpose. CM Mativetsky adds that funds raised through sale of original property are intended to use locally as stated by Salvation Army.

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Nay: Porter



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Introductory Resolution R24-14. Considered in Public Works: Dundon

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from the Broome County Small Community Fund for \$9000 Handicapped Chair Lifts at Webster Street and Cheri Lindsay Park

Motion: Dundon

Second: Hotchkiss

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Resolution R24-15. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease extension with the United Way of Broome County for the Lee Barta Community Center

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Dundon

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Resolution R24-16. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept a Congressional Award for \$1,000,000 for City of Binghamton Youth Recreation Center

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Porter

Discussion: CM Strawn thanks Senators Schumer, Gillibrand for securing money. CM Porter thanks former Parks Director Pat McGinnis for pursuing this project.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Resolution R24-17. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to implement affordable housing project at Saratoga I

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Dundon

Discussion: CM Porter states concern regarding potential rent rate increase. CM Cavanaugh responds rates are locked in for at least 40 years with PILOT agreement.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Resolution R24-18. Considered in Planning: Hotchkiss

A Resolution approving the agreement for PILOT among the City of Binghamton, Binghamton Saratoga I Housing Development Fund Company, and Binghamton Saratoga I Limited Partnership

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Strawn

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Nay: Dundon

Introductory Resolution R24-19. Considered in Municipal and Public Affairs: Middleton

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Salvation Army for use of ARPA funds to support a community meals program at 86 Walnut Street

Motion: Middleton

Second: Dundon



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Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Resolution R24-20. Considered in Finance: Cavanaugh

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with CS Engineers for work related to the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan

**No vote taken.*

Introductory Resolution R24-21. Considered in Finance: Cavanaugh

A Resolution to correct the 2024 tax rolls for various properties

Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Middleton

Vote: 7-0-0-0

IX. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL

CM Dundon: Encourages residents to come to Eastside Neighborhood Watch Meeting at 6PM on the 1st Tuesday of every month at Hands of Hope Free Methodist Church (270 Robinson St.), would like to meet more residents face to face. Questions can be directed to bingesneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com

CM Strawn: Agrees with commenters who wrote in support of ATV prohibition legislation, believes it is necessary to hold people accountable to maintain safety

CM Hotchkiss: **N/A**

CM Cavanaugh: **N/A**

CM Middleton: March is Women's Month – women can do anything; women are resilient and strong. Encourages all women to follow their dreams. CM Cavanaugh and CM Middleton looking for a location to host a Neighborhood Watch meeting for 2nd & 3rd Districts.

CM Porter: Thanks public commenters for coming and writing in; believes standing by and saying nothing is wrong. Encourages people to attend 1st Ward Neighborhood Watch Meeting to express themselves, 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:15PM at Woodrow Wilson Elementary, particularly encourages attendance by tenants of rented properties. Discusses ATV legislation – emphasizes importance of safety while noting inadequate transportation options in City

CM Mativetsky: Getting towards the end of the 90 days of learning -- did a tour of sewage treatment plant recently, learning about Code Court, attending Traffic Board follow day. Still receiving feedback on ATV legislation. 3/15 will be free admission at Discovery Center, celebrating National Women's History Month. 3/29-30 Ross Park Zoo will host Eggstravaganza. Southside Neighborhood Watch dates not posted yet, but will be on Facebook. Thanks Fire Department on Bayless, Police Department for dirt bike response.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned at 8:19 PM: Dundon

Second: Porter

All in Favor