



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Hadassah Mativetsky, City Council President

Sarah Dinhofer, City Clerk

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Committee Meeting Minutes: Rules and Procedures/Special Studies

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

5:00 PM Monday, April 22, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:02PM by Chair Hotchkiss

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Hotchkiss, Porter

Also Present: Sarah Dinhofer (City Clerk)

Absent: Cavanaugh

III. DISCUSSION

Request for Legislation 24-65 Considered in Rules and Procedures/Special Studies: Hotchkiss

The Fairness and Accountability in Voting and Official Representation Act (FAVOR): A resolution banning Binghamton City Council members from nominating and/or appointing citizens to vacant Binghamton City Council seats who personally, or via their private entity, donated to said City Council Member's election campaign

- Brown: Brought this bill to Council as a result of 6th District appointment (Councilmember Kosty) and nomination by Councilmember Dundon. \$90 donation was made by CM Kosty to CM Dundon during campaign which was not disclosed during nomination process; Brown believes this to constitute conflict of interest due to paid nature of Council position. Believes that regardless of true intent, would be better to make illegal to prevent future indiscretion
- CM Hotchkiss: Notes that situation leading to appointment was very unique; has concerns that legislation could limit options for individuals to appoint unreasonably
- CM Porter: Generally agrees with legislation, but points out that having only one option to appoint that was simultaneously previous representative leads to unfair advantage. Asks if \$1 donation would qualify as conflict of interest under this legislation; Brown answers technically yes
- Brown: Adds that questions around topic haven't been directly answered fully despite outreach, reminds Council that many campaigned on concept of anti-cronyism. Asks Council to think of future when different people will be in positions of power

Councilmember Cavanaugh enters at 5:22PM.

Request for Legislation 24-85 Considered in Rules and Procedures/Special Studies: Hotchkiss

A Resolution to Amend Charter 307-35 Additional Regulations. F to read "Vending shall be permitted between the hours of 6:00 AM and 1:00 AM the following day"

- CM Hotchkiss: Believes that current regulations are highly restrictive – only 6 spots available and hours are currently limited to 9AM-9PM

- Qureshi (Pushcart Owner): Recently started cart and wasn't aware of hours restriction; cannot cover expenses with current hours, considering most customers downtown are seeking late night meals. Even 1AM is not enough late enough for weekend hours, suggests 3-4AM. Carts cannot be profitable with breakfast options either under current restrictions
- CM Hotchkiss: Generally supportive of food carts. Notes that Clerk's office has received multiple complaints of difficulties around timing for permits. Has observed many City residents out at night; understands why profitability would increase with extended hours. States that if there is sufficient negative feedback from customers/local business owners, hours can be reconsidered in future
- CM Porter: Comments that it will be positive to have multiple options for late night food, as there are currently very few; would also encourage healthy competition between businesses
- CM Hotchkiss: Notes need to educate residents around food cart availability, considering historic lack of options
- CM Cavanaugh: Brings up previous complaints regarding food carts in past from brick and mortar restaurants, but acknowledges cultural shift in downtown Binghamton and other cities; believes there is market to sustain carts, does not believe City is saturated with late-night options

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned at 5:40PM: Porter

Second: Cavanaugh

All in Favor