



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, May 20, 2024

Called to order by President Mativetsky at 6:01PM

Present: Porter, Middleton, Cavanaugh, Hotchkiss, Mativetsky, Kosty, 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
6:00	Public Works	Dundon	<p>RL 24-95 A Resolution for a Clean City Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solak: Points out Binghamton is not cleaner due to usage of blue bags, objects to middleman providing low-quality bags. States that ≈30 years ago, decision was made to free up \$800k in budget. Likens situation to requiring purchase of a City fire alarm for Fire Department service. Cost has been shifted from property owners to renters. System described as “you pay for what you use”, but new cost exists for individuals with no extra costs associated with garbage pickup prior. Believes it is Mayor’s obligation to solve issue as entity responsible for creating City annual budget. Recommends following Johnson City’s lead – single sanitation bill to households which covers water, sewer, and sanitation costs. Adds that revenue to City would increase as more individual properties would be subject to billing; characterizes current system as taxation 	1	John Solak, Binghamton Resident



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Middleton: Asks if change would strain DPW workers; Solak answers no, as use of regular bags would not change workload • CM Hotchkiss: Validates Solak’s concerns, adds belief that current system promotes dumping and leads to public health issue. Notes that issue has been referred to Environmental Commission • CM Porter: Notes that rodent issues are exacerbated with current policy • Solak: Adds that blue bags are very expensive and low quality 		
6:05	Public Works	Dundon	<p>RL 24-101 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Brown and Caldwell Associates in an amount not to exceed \$149,855</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kruger: States that in 2023, EPA did critical review of records for 2020-2021. In past, has been handled through County Health Department – EPA found some issues, such as operations manual, no water quality issues involved. Went through RFQ process to find company that would address all concerns • Brown: States he has 30 years of experience in water industry, 7 with NYS DEC. Team consists of former EPA regulator, NYS regulator, and water system operator. Will fix issues with EPA, create protocols and road map for future opportunities, including grants 	2-21	Jeff Kruger, Water Superintendent Matt Marko, Brown and Caldwell Associates



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Dundon: Asks if inspection was due to new guidelines; Kruger answers no, EPA schedule is every 30 years for reinspection • Motion to expedite: Dundon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Porter ○ Vote: 7-0-0-0 		
6:10	Public Works	Dundon	<p>RL 24-100 An Ordinance to rescind R23-92 and O24-28*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berling: Resending grant acceptance using NYS format due to standard format being rejected • Motion to expedite: Dundon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Middleton ○ Vote: 7-0-0-0 	22-27	Juliet Berling, Director of Planning
6:15	Public Works	Dundon	<p>RL 24-99 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from NYS OPRHP for the Ross Park Trail Project*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to expedite: Dundon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Middleton ○ Vote: 7-0-0-0 	28-31	Juliet Berling, Director of Planning
6:20			<p>Discussion on Climate Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berling: States plan has gone to Planning Commission twice, now proceeding to Council with recommendation. Reviewed 2011 plan and goals, identified as completed vs. in-process, did outreach to public to receive comments – main concerns raised: flooding, extreme heat, extreme storms, wildfires • CM Mativetsky: Asks how goals to receive input from marginalized communities were accomplished; Berling replies outreach activities were held at 	32-68	Juliet Berling, Director of Planning



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different times of day throughout City at different locations guided by flood map. Adds that City was certified as bronze climate smart community

- CM Mativetsky: Asks about shrinking of population; Berling responds City has stabilized
- CM Mativetsky: Asks about new flood maps; Berling responds they have not been finalized, but are posted on GIS and are in use without enforcement mechanism
- CM Dundon: Asks if dredging creeks is on priority list, particularly Chamberlain Creek; Berling responds hoping get a grant to restabilize area
- CM Porter: Stresses importance of connecting Commission of Conservation of the Environment to process
- Berling: States City has set out goal to have zero carbon and energy efficiency: considering electric bike program, creating more walkable City, promoting infill development, reduced parking requirements, low emission zones, expanded green spaces to reduce flooding, urban forestry/farms, etc.
- CM Hotchkiss: Suggests reaching out to private property owners to consider forestry
- CM Mativetsky: Asks about emergency use of municipal buildings as cooling/warming centers; Berling responds



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			<p>protocols must be created, add issue of wildfire smoke/blackouts/brownouts, etc.</p>		
6:25	Planning	Hotchkiss	<p>RL24-86 An ordinance to amend the official zoning map to rezone a portion of Clinton Street and Mygatt Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martinez: States mixed use rezoning purpose is to allow development of residential units and correct several improperly zoned properties, also looking to rezone nearby parcels to industrial use to allow light development • CM Cavanaugh: Asks why improper zoning hasn't been addressed earlier; Martinez answers organizations did not exist in current locations at time of last comprehensive plan/rezoning 	69-75	Tito Martinez, Assistant Planning Director
6:30	Planning	Hotchkiss	<p>RL 24-96 An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Binghamton, Chapter 410, Zoning, Article VII, Section 410</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Mativetsky: Explains legislation would permit social services by right within industrial zones (without special permission from Planning Commission). Further notes that only process for appeal currently is Article 78 • Motion to refer back to committee: Cavanaugh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Middleton ○ All in Favor • CM Hotchkiss: Notes unmet need outlined in Climate Plan and 	76	Hadassah Mativetsky and Robert Cavanaugh, City Councilmembers



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			generally for designated warming stations		
6:35	Municipal and Public Affairs	Middleton	<p>RL 24-98 A Resolution authorizing the Binghamton Pride Coalition to conduct a fireworks display on 6/8/2024*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costello: States fireworks would be launched from floating station in river near Peacemaker Stage • Motion to expedite: Middleton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Dundon ○ Vote: 6-0-0-1 ○ Absent: Cavanaugh 	77-90	Samantha Costello, Deputy Clerk
6:40	Public Works	Dundon	<p>RL 24-97 A Local Law to establish Responsible Bidder requirements on Public Works projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to recuse: Dundon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Hotchkiss ○ Vote: 7-0-0-0 • CM Dundon: States law has already been passed in Erie County, been challenged and upheld twice. Law would not prevent any contractor from bidding while protecting taxpayers; would increase fiscal responsibility and offer credits to local contractors to keep money local. Adds that ability to sanction would allow City to prevent out-of-town contractors doing shoddy work to continue receiving projects. Notes recent example of Marv Restoration messing up Collier St. Ramp, still paid \$1.5mil • CM Middleton: Adds that Comptroller's questionnaire would protect City; notes example of Rec Park being 	91-116	Michael Dundon and Kinya Middleton, City Councilmembers



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			redone multiple times with taxpayers footing bill		
6:45	Rules and Special Studies	Hotchkiss	<p>RL 24-102 An Ordinance to amend the City of Binghamton Charter § 26-3. Inspection of City departments, bureaus and institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Hotchkiss: Makes clear that intent is not to invade privacy, just to enable informed decisions by Council to pass legislation • CM Middleton: Agrees and adds that lack of data slows down ability to serve City overall • CM Dundon: Adds that confidentiality training should accompany bill to ensure liability is covered • CM Mativetsky: Notes data that has been requested, but not supplied to Council: snow plowing prioritization/map during storm, street paving schedule/map, Climate Action Plan draft • CM Cavanaugh: Adds that expectation of Councilmembers is to perform constituent services, even if not outlined in Charter specifically – data needed to respond. States NYS considers references to “records” to include electronic data 	117-118	Nate Hotchkiss, Councilmember
6:50	Municipal and Public Affairs	Middleton	<p>RL 24-103 An Ordinance to authorize City Council to manage and develop intern programs at City Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Hotchkiss: States law was originated due to outreach from interested students; would allow City to increase relationship with 	119-125	Nate Hotchkiss, Councilmember



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			<p>University and create potential employee pipeline, considering large numbers of vacancies. Students could apply through MPA program at Downtown Center near City Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CM Middleton: Agrees with need for bill; spoke at MPA class and found that students were not very aware of surrounding City• CM Hotchkiss: Adds knowledge of growing effort by University to be more involved in community; would be mutually beneficial. Notes previous attempt by MPA to establish program which collected over 100 petition signatures to show support by students		
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Adjourned at 8:15PM: Middleton

Second: Porter

All in Favor