



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, August 5, 2024

Called to order at 6:03PM by President Mativetsky

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

Also Present: Sarah Dinhofer (City Clerk), Mehtasim Mahfuz (Asst. 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	MPA	Middleton	<p>RL 24-150: An Ordinance to amend City of Binghamton Charter to eliminate Mayor as Director of Public Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solak: Believes structure of City government is broken. Idea is not radical; has been replicated in many cities large to small. Police Commissioner would be accountable to public and City Council. Currently, very little engagement with public outside of election years on behalf of police. Experience in management is most important. About 50% of budget is currently from grants. Notes that most people elected to Mayor’s office do not have law enforcement/fire safety experience; would be better to have a qualified manager to hold accountable. Public would have to vote on referendum CM Hotchkiss: Asks about similar cities who have adopted this model; Solak answers Rye, Saratoga, etc. CM Dundon asks for examples to be sent by email CM Middleton: Asks if Solak would be willing to attend 	1	John Solak



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			<p>Committee meeting to discuss further; Solak agrees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to send to committee: Middleton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Dundon ○ Vote: 6-1-0-0 ○ Nay: Kosty 		
6:05	MPA	Middleton	<p>RL 24-151: An Ordinance to amend City of Binghamton Charter to a City Manager-Council form of government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solak: States manager-Council form of government has been going very well, i.e. Ottavia, Ithaca, etc. States that in the past, Corporation Counsel/Comptroller have run City. Reiterates that Mayor doesn't necessarily have management experience. Manager would be paid more, but there would be less overhead with less political appointments. States there are many people who would like to run City and be good at it, but would never want to run for public office. Better to work with contracts than elections • Motion to refer to committee: Porter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Hotchkiss ○ Vote: 6-1-0-0 ○ Nay: Kosty 	2	John Solak
6:10	Planning	Hotchkiss	<p>RL 24-145: An Ordinance to amend the 2024 General Fund for professional services for R24-09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Hotchkiss: Asks if funds being considered are for specific project; Schleider answers City 	3-6	Christopher Schleider, Director of Code Enforcement Chuck Robinson, Comptroller



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			<p>Lights looking to relocate and Center Plaza. CM Hotchkiss asks if funds will cover both projects completely; Schleider answers yes, likely funds will not be fully expended by end of year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Middleton: Asks why work could not be done in-house; Schleider answers greater expertise necessary for projects of this size than is in-house • CM Cavanaugh: Asks if revenue from permits will cover planning expense; Robinson says yes. CM Cavanaugh notes consistent overestimation of revenue lines • Motion to expedite: Dundon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Middleton ○ Discussion: CM Middleton asks that future budget amendment proposals include more historical data as context ○ Vote: 6-1-0-0 ○ Nay: Kosty 		
6:15	Finance	Cavanaugh	<p>RL 24-146: An Ordinance to amend the 2024 BJCSB budget to effectuate a 2023 transfer that is greater than 45 days after the end of the year pursuant to Section G of the IMA*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robinson: Thought this issue had been cured prior to taking office, but has not yet been. Amendment is necessary to account for depreciation • Motion to expedite: Kosty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Dundon ○ Vote: 7-0-0-0 	7-11	Chuck Robinson, Comptroller



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6:20	Planning	Hotchkiss	<p>RL 24-147: An Ordinance to sell 43.5 Clinton to First Ward Action Council*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heiman: States relationship to previously passed 41 Clinton St legislation; was not included on previous legislation as oversight but necessary to construction • CM Cavanaugh: Asks to confirm proper entity for sale, considering previous sale was to Trout Brook Development; Heiman agrees to check • Motion to expedite: Cavanaugh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Middleton ○ Vote: 7-0-0-0 	12-16	Megan Heiman, Deputy Mayor
6:25	MPA	Middleton	<p>RL 24-148: A Resolution authorizing extension of agreement with BCSD for three school resource officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heiman: States City has agreement with BCSD in place to cover benefits for SROs; legislation would extend contract by 1 year and bring salaries current • CM Hotchkiss: Asks for results of 22-23 survey; Heiman agrees so long as Superintendent permits • CM Middleton: Asks who determines placement for SROs; Heiman answers Chief of Police 	17-32	Megan Heiman, Deputy Mayor
6:30	Rules	Hotchkiss	<p>RL 24-149: An Ordinance to amend Boards/Commissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mativetsky: Notes that recent repopulation of various committees by Council has brought to their attention lack of standardized process for ID badges/software/attendance/etc 	33	Hadassah Mativetsky, Councilmember



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Dundon: Comments concern that language may leave too much flexibility for denial of accommodations by Mayor; CM Mativetsky responds that details of legislation are still in progress and can be modified • Motion to refer to committee: Dundon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Cavanaugh ○ Vote: 7-0-0-0 		
6:35	Planning	Hotchkiss	<p>RL 24-152: An Ordinance to amend Chapter 410 to alter townhouse density</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM Cavanaugh: States legislation would be another tool to combat affordable housing by increasing density – proposes keeping building footprint/parking requirements same while allowing for duplexes, triplexes, etc. without taking up more land. Legislation would also allow one cooperative entity to own building • Motion to send to committee: Cavanaugh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second: Kosty ○ Vote: 7-0-0-0 • CM Hotchkiss: Notes general support of increasing density and units online especially while City is looking for greater infill opportunities. Would also like to look into auxiliary units to add density 	34-36	Robert Cavanaugh, Councilmember
6:40	Employees	Porter	Discussion of §124-40.C Clerk and Deputy Clerk Salary		Olamni Porter, Councilmember



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CM Porter: States that Clerk and Deputy Clerk are lowest paid department head/deputy department head in City Hall. Notes desire to bring positions to parity internally; 3.2% raise would fall in line with Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)• CM Middleton: Praises Clerks for getting historically higher volume of work done with fewer staff in office• CM Hotchkiss: Notes recent raise in Treasurer's salary and importance of creating incentives to retain quality employees• CM Cavanaugh: Asks if Clerk's office was able to compare with other municipalities; Deputy Clerk Costello states that further work would need to be done to create accurate comparison• CM Mativetsky: Asks how this ask is prioritized within overall needs of Clerk's Office; Clerk Dinhofer replies that greatest need is retainment of staff due to comparatively low salaries to other municipalities. Deputy Clerk Costello notes that process of raising staff salaries is led by negotiation of collective bargaining agreements between various unions and City management. Costello agrees that COLA to be fairest standard by which to consider increases		
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion to consider raise of 3.5%: Dundon<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Second: Middleton○ Vote: 7-0-0-0		
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Adjourned at 7:23 PM: Dundon

Second: Middleton

All in Favor