



# LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Hadassah Mativetsky, City Council President

Sarah Dinhofer, City Clerk

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## COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON

### Business Meeting Minutes

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

6:00 PM Wednesday, September 11, 2024

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:01PM by President Mativetsky

#### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Mativetsky

#### III. ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Sarah Dinhofer (City Clerk), Sophie Bergman (Asst. Corporation Counsel)

Absent: Porter

#### IV. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve 8/21 Business Meeting minutes: Dundon

Second: Middleton

All in Favor

Motion to approve 8/29 Special Business Meeting minutes: Dundon

Second: Middleton

All in Favor

Planning Committee: Had meeting earlier today; discussed potential zoning changes to allow expanded development opportunities

MPA Committee: Meeting will be coming up on Monday (9/16) at 11AM to discuss potential rental registry updates

Finance Committee: Meeting held on 8/27; discussed legal expenses, CHDO funding, salary recommendations

Traffic Board: Meeting tomorrow at 9:15AM, encourages participation by residents

Commission for Conservation of the Environment: City Clerk reads a portion of the 8/15/24 Minutes into the record summarizing actions. (*\*appended at end*) Commission visited Cortland to meet with Mayor and learn about transition out of using blue bag system – notes that recycling did not decline.

#### V. APPOINTMENTS

1. Planning Commission: Timothy Sczezny

a. Motion: Middleton

b. Second: Kosty

i. Motion to hold over: Hotchkiss

ii. Second: Dundon

iii. Discussion: CM Hotchkiss comments belief that choice should be made from a pool of resumes with enough time for Councilmembers to perform due diligence. CM Dundon



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agrees that more time would be helpful to talk to candidate. CM Cavanaugh agrees with sentiment by CM Hotchkiss, but speaks to personal confidence in Timothy's ability and diverse experience. CM Mativetsky agrees with CM Cavanaugh; speaks positively regarding conversation with Timothy prior to meeting

- iv. Vote: 5-1-0-1
- v. Nay: Kosty
- vi. Absent: Porter

## 2. Commission for the Conservation of the Environment: Laura Bond

- a. Motion: Cavanaugh
- b. Second: Middleton
- c. Discussion: CM Mativetsky notes that Bond has MPOH and is working through APHA Climate for Health Ambassador program; would bring different perspective to Commission. CM Cavanaugh notes support and comments that Bond's resume shows a diverse skillset
- d. Vote: 6-0-0-1
- e. Absent: Porter

## VI. SET PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1. The City of Binghamton will hold a Public Hearing regarding **RL 24-173**: An Ordinance to discontinue a portion of Overland Drive
- 2. This Public Hearing will take place at 6PM during the September 23, 2024 regular City Council Business Meeting in City Council Chambers, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton NY. Residents wishing to participate in Public Hearings may do so electronically by emailing their comments prior to 1:00PM on the day of the meeting to [clerk@cityofbinghamton.gov](mailto:clerk@cityofbinghamton.gov) or in-person during the meeting.

## VII. PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. Public Hearing regarding **RL 24-161**: An Ordinance authorizing the sale of a portion of Overland Drive to Mian N. Shah

Residents wishing to participate in Public Hearings may do so electronically by emailing their comments prior to 1:00PM on the day of the meeting to [clerk@cityofbinghamton.gov](mailto:clerk@cityofbinghamton.gov) or in-person during the meeting.

- Gary Tauber, Binghamton resident: Owns property bordering Overland Dr. Worried about paths of entry/egress and potential effect on property value. CM Cavanaugh asks if road is passable in winter; Tauber answers road is in poor condition, hoped City would work to improve

Motion to close hearing: Dundon

Second: Middleton

All in Favor



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## VIII. 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](mailto:clerk@cityofbinghamton.gov) or in-person during the meeting.

- Rich Bucci, Binghamton resident: Here to speak in opposition to RL 24-151 relating to City-Manager form of government. Believes that democracy is at its best when people directly elect all their representatives; current form of government works well – “*If it ain't broke, don't fix it.*” States that current governance keeps government accountable to people. Suggests a study to examine potential effects of change prior to considering legislation; urges Council not to move forward with proposal

## IX. SECOND READING LEGISLATION

**Introductory Ordinance 24-69. Finance: Cavanaugh.** An Ordinance to amend the 2024 General Fund and Insurance Fund budgets for additional legal fees and expenses

Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Kosty

Discussion: CM Cavanaugh notes that budgetary questions will be examined in greater detail during budget hearing process

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Porter

## X. FIRST READING LEGISLATION

**Introductory Ordinance 24-72. Employees: Porter.** An Ordinance to amend the 2024 budget for out of title pay for Junior Accountant

Motion: Dundon

Second: Middleton

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Porter

**Introductory Ordinance 24-73. Planning: Hotchkiss.** An Ordinance authorizing sale of 206, 206.5, 208, 210 Henry Street with Kearny Realty and Development Group

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Kosty

Motion to hold over: Middleton

Second: Dundon

Discussion: CM Mativetsky notes that vote must be held this week to meet grant deadline

Motions rescinded

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Porter



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**Introductory Ordinance 24-74. Employees: Porter.** An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Police budget to add a full-time Parking Meter Checker

Motion: Dundon

Second: Kosty

Discussion: CM Middleton notes importance of passage considering number of constituent complaints relating to traffic. CM Mativetsky agrees

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Porter

**Introductory Ordinance 24-75. Public Works and Parks: Dundon.** An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Parks budget for liquid chlorine

Motion: Dundon

Second: Kosty

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Porter

**Introductory Ordinance 24-76 Employees: Porter.** An Ordinance amending the 2024 Clerk's Office budget to adjust for responsibility adjustments

Motion: Dundon

Second: Middleton

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Porter

### XI. DISCUSSION

Annual Meeting Schedule

- Motion to cancel 9/13 budget hearing: Cavanaugh
  - Second: Kosty
  - Vote: 6-0-0-1
  - Absent: Porter
- Motion to add 9/16 budget hearing at 6PM: Cavanaugh
  - Second: Middleton
  - Vote: 6-0-0-1
  - Absent: Porter

### XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL

CM Cavanaugh: Thanks DPW and Police Department for managing Porchfest and LUMA, congratulates event organizers. Thanks constituents for showing up to Rec Park event. 9/15 will be Rod Serling statue dedication at 12PM – thanks Assemblymember Lupardo, Rod Serling Foundation, and Parks employees.

CM Middleton: Thanks DPW for LUMA cleanup. Reiterates complaints from constituents regarding traffic issues, encourages people to drive carefully. Commemorates those affected in the 9/11 attacks. 9/15 will be Firefighter's Memorial Stair Climb, will be attending. Westside Neighborhood Meeting will be returning last Thursday of each month



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CM Kosty: 9/17 will be Southside Neighborhood Assembly Meeting at MacArthur Elementary School in cafeteria; will be in attendance along with Council President and Mayor, invites constituents

CM Hotchkiss: Reiterates CM Cavanaugh's comments about Porchfest/LUMA; thanks City workers, County workers, organizers, and community. Attended Northside Neighborhood Meeting last week, following up on constituent concerns

CM Mativetsky: 9/14 will be Blues on the Bridge 12-10PM; free event. Discovery Center has 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Free Admission Night on 9/20. 9/21 (10AM-4PM) and 9/22 (11AM-4PM) will be Broome County Art Trail with 14 sites: 1 will be at Discovery Center featuring Spotgirl Design, Sarah Carmen, Sierra Hartman Fine Arts; 1 will be at Artisan Gallery (223 State St) featuring Southside artist Pamela Gay. Lower Mary now has food connection station; thanks Jordan Trice. Working to have more shops on Southside East sell blue bags. Still seeking input on traffic proposal for Woodland Ave. Walked traffic study to consider Conklin Ave improvements with DPW Commissioner and Deputy Mayor. Commemorates Paul Battaglia, victim of 9/11 attacks who was Binghamton University Alum and worked on 100<sup>th</sup> floor of Tower 1

CM Dundon: N/A

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned at 6:54PM: Dundon

Second: Middleton

All in Favor