



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, September 25, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:02PM by President Mativetsky

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Mativetsky

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Middleton, Cavanaugh, Hotchkiss, Mativetsky, Kosty

Also Present: Sarah Dinhofer (City Clerk), Robert Heary (Asst. Corporation Counsel)

Absent: Porter, Dundon

IV. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Kosty

Second: Middleton

All in Favor

BLDC: Meeting tomorrow reviewing previous meetings, approving Christmas decorations for Downtown

Municipal and Public Affairs: Held meeting recently with various stakeholders to discuss updating rental registry; will be convening again soon

Environmental Commission: Had meeting on 9/17, welcomed new member. Started discussion on zoning, continued discussion on blue bags and water. Next meeting will be 10/24

Traffic Board: Had meeting on 9/12, Deputy Mayor stated a commitment on behalf of BPD to enforce parking Downtown on Black Friday and on Small Business Saturday. Voted to approve curb cuts for affordable housing at 187 Clinton St.

V. APPOINTMENTS

1. Planning Commission

Motion to approve Tim Szczesny: Kosty

Second: Middleton

Discussion: CM Hotchkiss expresses gratitude for time to connect with Timothy. CM Mativetsky and CM Cavanaugh reiterate support

Vote: 5-0-0-2

Absent: Porter, Dundon

VI. SET PUBLIC HEARINGS

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

City Hall ▪ 38 Hawley Street ▪ Binghamton, NY 13901 ▪ www.cityofbinghamton.com

Phone: (607) 772-7005 ▪ Fax: (607) 772-7155



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1. Public Hearing regarding **RL 24-173**: An Ordinance to discontinue a portion of Overland Drive

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 or in-person during the meeting.

Motion to close hearing: Kosty

Second: Middleton

All in Favor

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 or in-person during the meeting.

- Edward Marte, Binghamton resident: Works at West Middle as teacher. here to speak about Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration 10/12 from 6-8PM. Second year organizing event for community at which there will be refreshments, music, and activities. Seeking sponsorship from City. Last year, around 300 people participated, expects 300-500 people this year
- Tarik Abdelazim, Binghamton resident: Here to speak about 2025 proposed budget. States that NYS Aid increase is not clearly reflected in budget. Questions large salary increase for Corporation Counsel (58%) considering lack of municipal law experience – points out that Mayor has control of salary raise pool which he can use at discretion in addition to large budget requests, suggests Council be mindful of effect on other City Hall employees. Questions salary of Website/Social Media Coordinator. Notes that mental health programs were funded at \$200k in 2024 budget, but are zeroed out in 2025 proposal – assumes social workers/mental health experts will no longer be used for nonviolent calls. Calls attention to skyrocketing electric costs despite installation of energy-efficient LED; questions if numbers are in line with inflation. Notes raise in health and retirement costs, particularly draws attention to police and fire constituting 40% of all staffing in City while incurring \$7.2mil pension bill while remaining 60% of employees incur \$1.8mil in retirement. Criticizes widespread use of short-term borrowing instruments (BANs) with very high interest rates and \$2mil allocation to demolition of Binghamton Plaza as compared to other needs in City. Notes that RestoreNY is starting another round of grant funding with letters of intent due 10/23 which could be used for Binghamton Plaza or to support Southern Door Community Land Trust

IX. SECOND READING LEGISLATION

X. FIRST READING LEGISLATION

Introductory Resolution 24-70. Public Works & Parks: Dundon. A Resolution to approve the granting of an easement to NYSEG at 183 Water Street

Motion: Middleton



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Second: Kosty

Vote: 5-0-0-2

Absent: Porter, Dundon

Introductory Resolution 24-71. Public Works & Parks: Dundon. A Resolution for the Mayor to accept a grant from DASNY for \$231,412 for Recreational Park pool upgrades

Motion: Middleton

Second: Kosty

Vote: 5-0-0-2

Absent: Porter, Dundon

Introductory Resolution 24-72. Public Works & Parks: Dundon. A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Keystone Associates for C.I. and testing of Chenango River

Motion: Middleton

Second: Kosty

Vote: 5-0-0-2

Absent: Porter, Dundon

Introductory Resolution 24-73. Public Works & Parks: Dundon. A Resolution authorizing an amendment of the lease agreement with the Discovery Center

Motion: Middleton

Second: Kosty

Vote: 5-0-0-2

Absent: Porter, Dundon

Introductory Ordinance 24-77. Planning: Hotchkiss. An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Budget for demolition of a fire-damaged property at 2 Pleasant Street

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Kosty

Discussion: CM Cavanaugh requests that future demolition legislation include date of incident and individual determining emergency status. CM Hotchkiss notes that some demolitions occur immediately after incident, while other happens weeks or months following. CM Cavanaugh expresses that a regular RL without emergency consideration would have enough time to be passed by Council if weeks are passing by between incident and demolition; states desire to have clearer definition of "emergency" by Corporation Counsel

Vote: 5-0-0-2

Absent: Porter, Dundon

Introductory Ordinance 24-78. Planning: Hotchkiss. An Ordinance to amend the 2024 General Fund Budget to transfer funds for over-budget items for year end

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Kosty

Discussion: CM Cavanaugh comments support of paying lifeguards, but criticizes financial accounting measures which allowed for budget line to be spent down past limit without prior approval of transfer from Council

Vote: 5-0-0-2

Absent: Porter, Dundon



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Introductory Ordinance 24-79. Planning: Hotchkiss. An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Budget for demolition of a fire-damaged property at 51 Robinson Street

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Kosty

Vote: 5-0-0-2

Absent: Porter, Dundon

Introductory Ordinance 24-80. Public Works & Parks: Dundon. An Ordinance to amend the 2024 Parks budget for playground surfacing at the Discovery Center

Motion: Middleton

Second: Kosty

Vote: 5-0-0-2

Absent: Porter, Dundon

XI. DISCUSSION

Annual Meeting Schedule

- Budget Hearing Discussion
 - CM Kosty states that 9/26 meeting should stay at 5PM with meeting less than 24 hours away. CM Cavanaugh agrees
 - Motion to move 9/30 budget hearing to 6PM: Cavanaugh
 - Second: Hotchkiss
 - All in Favor
 - Motion to move 10/1 budget hearing to 6PM: Cavanaugh
 - Second: Middleton
 - All in Favor
 - Motion to move 10/7 budget hearing to 6:30PM: Cavanaugh
 - Second: Middleton
 - All in Favor
 - Motion to move 10/9 budget hearing to 10/10 at 6PM: Cavanaugh
 - Second: Kosty
 - All in Favor
 - Motion to move 10/17 budget hearing to 6PM: Cavanaugh
 - Second: Kosty
 - All in Favor
- 2025 Meeting Calendar Discussion
 - Motion to approve "Version A" calendar: Middleton
 - Second: Kosty
 - Vote: 5-0-0-2
 - Absent: Porter, Dundon

**Version A to be appended at end of minutes*



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XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL

CM Hotchkiss: N/A

CM Kosty: N/A

CM Middleton: Sunday is Harpur Music Fest. Westside neighborhood meeting will be returning tomorrow.

CM Cavanaugh: Acknowledges increase in constituent complaints with students' return – is working to address concerns while working with community. Tomorrow is remainder of traffic study for West Side at 10:30AM

CM Mativetsky: Following constituent feedback at Traffic Board, will be switching no parking from East side to West side on Upper Vine St. Still collecting feedback regarding Overland Dr. 10/5 will be Ales & Tails Zoo Brew at Rooss Park Zoo; 21+ event that is free for designated drivers. 9/28 will be Worldwide Day of Play at Discovery Center 10AM-5PM with pay what you can admission. 10/5 12PM-4PM is Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at Discovery Center with special activities. Blue bags now available on Greater Good Grocery bus. Followed up with Waste Zero to work with businesses on Southside East to further expand blue bag access

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned at 6:54PM: Middleton

Second: Kosty

All in Favor

X = City Hall Closed
 ○ = Religious Holiday
 = Work Session / Business Meeting
 = Organizational Meeting
 = Budget Meetings

2025

January							February							March							April										
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
			X	2	3	X							X												X						
X	5	6	8	9	10	X	X	3	4	5	6	7	X	X	3	4	5	6	7						X						
X	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
X	27	28	29	30	31		X	24	25	26	27	28		X	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									

May							June							July							August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	X	X	2	3	4	5	6	X													X	
X	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
X	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

September							October							November							December												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
						X							X													X							
X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
X	15	16	17	18	19	X	X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September							October							November							December												
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						
						X							X													X							
X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
X	15	16	17	18	19	X	X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Version A