



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, October 23, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 6:03PM by President Mativetsky

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Mativetsky

III. ROLL CALL

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

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

IV. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve 10/9/24 Business Meeting minutes: Dundon

Second: Middleton

All in Favor

BLDC: Cancelled tomorrow

Planning: Meeting tomorrow at 2:30PM, going over Climate Action Plan and Fair Housing Study

Special Rules: Next week will be committee meeting to discuss proposed illicit cannabis crackdown law

CCE: Meeting tomorrow at 1:15pm, will be discussing recommendations regarding zoning changes

V. APPOINTMENTS

CM Mativetsky: No openings currently, but encourages residents to submit resumes for any positions of interest as various terms of members end

VI. SET PUBLIC HEARINGS

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing regarding **O24-90 An Ordinance adopting the 2025 Tax Budget**

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.

**Comments submitted via email are appended at end of minutes.*

Motion to enter executive session to receive legal advice: Mativetsky

Second: Dundon

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Nay: Porter

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

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



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Motion to adjourn public hearing to 10/29 at 6:30PM: Mativetsky

Second: Dundon

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.

IX. SECOND READING LEGISLATION

Introductory Ordinance O24-81. Finance: Cavanaugh. An Ordinance to discontinue a portion of Overland Drive

Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Middleton

Discussion: CM Dundon asks if CM Mativetsky's concerns for constituents had been addressed; CM Mativetsky indicates yes

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Nay: Hotchkiss

Introductory Ordinance O24-87. Finance: Cavanaugh. An Ordinance to approve the sale of Overland Drive.

Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Middleton

Vote: 7-0-0-0

X. FIRST READING LEGISLATION

Local Law LL24-05. Finance: Cavanaugh. A Local Law to establish an Occupancy Tax in the City of Binghamton

Motion to hold over: Dundon

Second: Middleton

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-89. Planning: Hotchkiss. An Ordinance to amend 2024 PHCD budget for responsibility adjustments

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Middleton

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-91. Finance: Cavanaugh. An Ordinance to rescind O23-108

Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Kosty

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-92. Finance: Cavanaugh. An Ordinance to provide a one-time parking amnesty for 2024



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Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Dundon

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Ordinance O24-93. Planning: Hotchkiss. An Ordinance to authorize the sale of 35-41 Charlotte Street to Charles Ackerman

Motion to hold over: Hotchkiss

Second: Middleton

Discussion: CM Hotchkiss notes that there were several restrictions placed upon sale: development must be affordable housing, groundbreaking must occur within 5 years

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Resolution R24-78. Public Works: Dundon. Resolution to amend R24-57

Motion: Dundon

Second: Kosty

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Resolution R24-79. Finance: Cavanaugh. Resolution to accept an in-kind donation from Greenlight Networks

Motion: Cavanaugh

Second: Middleton

Motion to amend in-kind donation amount to \$6,000: Cavanaugh

Second: Dundon

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Introductory Resolution R24-80. Planning: Hotchkiss. A Resolution to amend R24-18

Motion: Hotchkiss

Second: Middleton

Discussion: CM Dundon notes that 40-year pilot is comparatively very long, but need for affordable housing is very urgent. CM Mativetsky adds that federal money is unavailable; federal government has encouraged municipalities to follow this path to make necessary improvements to quality of existing housing

Vote: 7-0-0-0

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL

CM Dundon: Congratulates CM Cavanaugh on due diligence throughout budget hearing process. Adds that first time going through budget process has been learning experience

CM Kosty: Thanks CM Cavanaugh for work throughout budget process. Comments that last day to register to vote is 10/26; encourages everyone to vote

CM Hotchkiss: Echoes praise of CM Cavanaugh during budget process. Calls attention to various restaurants participating in Restaurant Week with proceeds benefiting Urban League; encourages participation. Roosevelt School will be hosting Trunk or Treat on 10/30, will be giving out cand

CM Cavanaugh: Appreciates praise and extends gratitude to City Hall department heads involved in budget process, particularly Deputy Mayor, Comptroller, Corporation Counsel, and Clerk's offices



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CM Middleton: Thanks CM Cavanaugh for leadership and congratulates him on recent birthday. Speaks to first budget season experience as learning process; Council is doing its best serve the people of Binghamton. Tomorrow is Westside Neighborhood Meeting at 7:30 at Unitarian Church. 10/29 will be Trunk or Treat at Bridgewater. Will be attending Thomas Jefferson Trunk or Treat

CM Porter: N/A

CM Mativetsky: Has been working on blue bag desert on Southside East; learned that contracts are not up to date. Will be sending along list of potential stores for blue bag sales to Waste Zero to expand access. Pirate Ship Playground Ribbon-Cutting was Tuesday; encourages attendance. Spotlights 2 restaurants on Southside: Spice of India and South City Public House. Discovery Center and Ross Park will be jointly hosting Halloween Weekend at Ross Park on 10/26. Looking to find a site for Southside East mobile food pantry. Continuing to collect ideas for Traffic Board on Woodland Dr, will be voting on subject in November

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned at 6:56PM: Middleton

Second: Kosty

All in Favor

Kenny Brown
Resident of the West Side of Binghamton:

Normally I give these comments in person, but not today.

Not tonight.

Because right now, as this is being read, I am in attendance at a Housing Justice Rally a mile away on Court Street in front of the DSS Building. A housing justice rally needed because of the extreme levels of homelessness in this city and county. Because of ever increasing rents and student rentals without filling the need for the locals that live here every single day of the year. An issue that almost all of you claimed as an important campaign position last year when you ran for these positions you now hold. And yet, here we are, almost 1 quarter through your terms and what has really been done? Not much at all. And I won't pretend it is simply City Council at fault. Because that would be unfair and wrong and would ignore the guilt held by City Hall

By the County Executive.

By the County Legislator.

By the elected officials in all the other cities townships, etc. in Broome County

But this isn't their City.

This isn't their town board.

This is Binghamton and you are OUR City Council. OUR legislative branch. And I have to say, as a Binghamton voter I am extremely underwhelmed and disappointed with what has happened in these chambers since you all took office on January 1st.

Don't get me wrong. I saw some attempts at addressing the issue. And I recognize that the Mayor and the former City Council pillaged the 46 Million in ARPA funds that could have been used for this.

But that is passed.

That was almost 11 months ago.

You have been holding budget hearing after budget hearing for next year's city budget. And I haven't seen much about any of you trying to find waste, or excess, in the proposed budget that can be reallocated to build severely needed emergency housing.

Or a 24/7/365 day shelter.

Or a mental health/job program to help end homeless recidivism.

These are the things we need. Not an increase in the police budget so that the men and women in blue can go harass the men and women stuck sleeping on the streets. So they can displace them from encampment to encampment without giving them any real help.

Removing encampments, and throwing away their only belongings, without anywhere to send people is asinine, a full blown waste of time and insanely dehumanizing

We need real solutions not the continual sweeping under the rug.

Here's an idea for all of you since funding is always such a worry. Do a city wide reassessment of all student rental properties and tax those properties properly! Even though your buddy and campaign donor, student housing mogul Charlie Ackerman, claims he is not a rich man. He is lying through his teeth. And it is far past time every single one of these student housing parasites on our city pays their fair share, and actually helps fund the solution to the problem they themselves created and made millions off of.

Make those responsible pay to fix the problems they created. And don't let potential campaign donations blind you when you claim you want to do good for this city. Because the struggling residents of Binghamton need your help, not the people who own all the housing!

It's far past time to prove to us that you actually care about those you claimed to when you ran for election, and not just the guys who helped you fund your campaigns last year.

So many of you ran as progressives. It's time to start acting like it! Because while you go home tonight after what must be at least your 20th business meeting of the year, many of those homeless individuals you promised to help when you got elected will return to the streets for the 297th night this year. And it's only going to start getting colder week by week. So remember that when you walk through your front door tonight into your home with four walls, a ceiling, electricity and running water. For a lot of these people the only running water they have pass by their heads while they sleep on the ground next to the river.