

# Binghamton Urban Renewal Agency

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4<sup>th</sup> floor City Hall, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton, New York 13902-7244  
607 – 772-7161

## MINUTES

### **Special Meeting**

**March 16, 2021**

2:00 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Gallery

Attending: R. David, K. Frank, A. Friedman, J. Paddock, C. Shager, R. Standish

Staff: J. Boyd

Mayor David called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM and asked for approval of the minutes from the January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting. K. Frank motioned, J. Paddock seconded and the minutes were approved (6-0-0).

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

**Review and approval of 2020 Audited Financial Report for reporting to ABO:** Comptroller C. Shager said there were not many changes compared to the prior year. On p.3 he noted the Agency's total net position was \$463,703 down about \$3K from its position at the end of 2019 of \$466,609. He said there were no findings in the report, everything year-to-year was very similar in that the Agency paid the contractual maintenance fee to the baseball team, utility bills and the cost of the audit that revenue came from the City and it was pretty much a zero-operating budget. Councilwoman Friedman asked why p. 3-6 were labelled "unaudited". C. Shager said it should have been labelled "audited" and thanked her for finding that. He said he would speak with the auditors about having it removed inasmuch as the whole package was audited. Councilwoman Friedman asked procedurally if the audit were to be approved if it would have to be as amended. Corporation Counsel K. Frank said the Board could act to approve the audit subject to the removal of the word "unaudited". Mayor David asked for a motion to accept the financial report subject of the correction. R. Standish motioned, K. Frank seconded and the motion was approved (6-0-0).

**Review of Authority Mission Statement and Performance Measures:** J. Boyd said the agency was required to review its mission statement and performance measures on an annual basis, this was the same document as reviewed in the prior year. J. Boyd read the Agency's Mission Statement and performance measures questions (document attached) which the Board affirmed and agreed.

Mayor David provided two updates for the record, the 7 Hawley Street parking garage had opened at the beginning of the year and said the City had since bid out the adjacent surface lot. He said bid responses were due in two weeks for the project with an additional 25 parking spaces. This portion of the entire project was not able to be completed prior because of winter weather and this served as the staging area for the parking ramp construction. He said the City was looking forward to opening the bids and finalizing the surface portion of the project. He thought the project would be completed by the time of the second quarter (July) meeting.

The second item was the announcement about the Binghamton Rumble Ponies and their long term future being secured in the City of Binghamton. Mayor David said he was on a conference call earlier in the day with the New York Conference of Mayors and US Sen. Shumer, talking about the recent stimulus bill that included money for State and local governments. As NYCOM President, Mayor David introduced Sen. Shumer who remarked that he had recently saved baseball in Binghamton. Mayor David said it was true that the Senator played a very significant role in that effort. He said Sen. Shumer was planning to come to Binghamton in the baseball season and expressed his thanks for Sen. Shumer's assistance with the effort, a year ago he brought Dan Halem, Deputy Commissioner of Major League Baseball as well as Jeff Wilpon, former owner of the NY Mets and toured the stadium, discussed the condition of the facilities. Mayor David said that meeting among other meetings played a very significant role. He acknowledged the City of Binghamton's and BURA's support to the stadium, the investments the City made along with NY Sen. Fred Akshar who had secured millions of State funds and the owner of the team who put personal funds into the facility which would not be recouped. He said it was certainly a team effort that made this possible for Binghamton residents and baseball fans across the region. Mayor David said the owner had discussed the possibility of a long term lease in addition to the current option which he had already executed on his current lease. Further the Mayor said NYS recently awarded \$50,000 and Binghamton City Council recently passed an initiative for a Stadium District Master Plan to look at the area surrounding the stadium. He said now that the long term future of the Mets was secure the plan was to redevelop the area consistent with areas around stadiums in other cities with arts, entertainment, housing and other amenities. He said it was an area of the City that really needed it, so he appreciated the support of City Council in supporting the State grant and the City's match. He said the plan was underway and would be drawing to a close by the time of the next (July) meeting. Mayor David said these were significant updates on projects that had been in the works for a long time, all good things for the City of Binghamton. He said some cities lost their teams as a result of this process through major and minor league baseball and the City was very fortunate to be able to work together and that we have much to be proud of.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor David asked for a motion to adjourn. K. Frank motioned, R. Standish seconded and the motion carried (6-0-0). The meeting ended at 2:18 PM.

Respectfully certified,

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Ken Frank, Interim Secretary

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## Authorities Budget Office Policy Guidance



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### Authority Mission Statement and Performance Measurements

**Name of Public Authority:**

Binghamton Urban Renewal Agency

**Public Authority's Mission Statement:**

The Binghamton Urban Renewal Agency exists to alleviate blight, provide for urban renewal and stimulate sustainable community and economic redevelopment in designated brownfield areas of the City of Binghamton.

**Date Adopted: March 23, 2012 – Reviewed March 16, 2021**

**List of Performance Goals (If additional space is needed, please attach):**

- Ensure the availability of adequate and well maintained public facilities for recreation and entertainment in the City of Binghamton
- Foster redevelopment of grey and brown fields within the City of Binghamton
- Support redevelopment projects in the City of Binghamton consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan

**Additional questions:**

1. Have the board members acknowledged that they have read and understood the mission of the public authority? Yes
2. Who has the power to appoint the management of the public authority? *The Mayor of the City of Binghamton*
3. If the Board appoints management, do you have a policy you follow when appointing the management of the public authority? *NA*
4. Briefly describe the role of the Board and the role of management in the implementation of the mission. *The Board develops and adopts policies consistent with its mission and oversees management in the administration of that policy and implementation of activities that will further the mission.*
5. Has the Board acknowledged that they have read and understood the responses to each of these questions? Yes