



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

*Phil Strawn, City Council President
Leighton Rogers, City Clerk*

**COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON
Business Meeting Minutes
City Hall, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY 13901
Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Strawn called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Strawn

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Scaringi, Resciniti, Riley, Burns, Scanlon, Strawn

Absent: Friedman

Also Present: Leighton Rogers (City Clerk), Janine Faulkner (Deputy City Clerk), Brian Seachrist (Corporation Counsel), Mehtasim Mahfuz (Assistant Corporation Counsel)

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

V. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes

Approve the Minutes from the November 16, 2022 Business Meeting.

Motion: Resciniti

Second: Scaringi

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Friedman

City Council Finance Committee: Scaringi (Chair), Scanlon, Burns

No items to report.

City Council Planning & Community Development Committee: Scanlon (Chair), Scaringi, Friedman

No items to report.

City Council Municipal & Public Affairs Committee: Scaringi (Chair), Resciniti, Riley

No items to report.

City Council Public Works/Parks & Recreation Committee: Scanlon (Chair), Resciniti, Riley

No items to report.

City Council Employees Committee: Resciniti (Chair), Scaringi, Burns

No items to report.

City Council Rules & Procedures/Special Studies Committee: Resciniti (Chair), Scanlon, Friedman

No items to report.



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VI. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

Appointment to Planning Commission – Steve Seepersaud

Motion: Scaringi

Second: Scanlon

Vote: 5-1-0-1

Scaringi – Seepersaud

Resciniti – Seepersaud

Riley – Nay

Burns – Seepersaud

Scanlon – Seepersaud

Strawn – Seepersaud

Absent: Friedman

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Binghamton & Binghamton City Council will hold a Public Hearing regarding a Proposed Local Law entitled “A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON, ARTICLE IA, §C-6, COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES, PURSUANT TO THE MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW”

1. Mark Whalen
2. Marty Doorey
3. Teri Renna
4. Email (Included)
5. Email (Included)

Motion to Close the Public Hearing: Scaringi

Second: Scanlon

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Friedman

VIII. SET PUBLIC HEARINGS

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATION

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.com or in-person during the meeting.

1. Michelle Young Letter (Included)

X. REVIEW OF MAYORAL VETO

XI. SECOND READING LEGISLATION

XII. FIRST READING LEGISLATION



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A. PREFERRED AGENDA

Introductory Ordinance 22-167. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to allocate ARPA funds for NY Helmets to Hardhats Inc. for workforce development

Introductory Ordinance 22-168. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 Refuse budget for fuel, bag production, and tipping fees

Introductory Ordinance 22-169. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 DPW budget for overtime

Introductory Ordinance 22-170. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 Joint Sewer Capital fund for settlements and debts

Introductory Ordinance 22-171. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 DPW budget for vehicle parts

Introductory Ordinance 22-173. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Facilities budget for permit fees and fines

Introductory Ordinance 22-174. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Facilities budget for legal services

Introductory Ordinance 22-175. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Facilities budget for CN event equipment and Capital outlay

Introductory Ordinance 22-176. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 Sewer budget for the Project Analyst and Project Assistant

Introductory Ordinance 22-177. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 General Fund budget for tires, vehicle parts and elevator service

Introductory Ordinance 22-178. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 Insurance Fund budget for workers compensation

Introductory Ordinance 22-179. Considered in Planning: Scanlon

An Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Binghamton, Chapter 265-2, Housing and Property Maintenance, Definitions, to add "deteriorated"

Introductory Ordinance 22-180. Considered in Finance: Scaringi



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An Ordinance to allocate ARPA funds for a police officer retention incentive

Introductory Resolution 22-94. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with NY Helmets to Hardhats Inc. for use of ARPA funds

Introductory Resolution 22-97. Considered in Planning: Scanlon

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Chrysalis Research & Consulting to create the HOME-ARP plan

Introductory Resolution 22-98. Considered in MPA: Scaringi

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into the Broome County Interoperable Agreement for the City of Binghamton Fire, Police, and DPW departments

Motion: Scaringi
Second: Resciniti
Vote: 6-0-0-1
Absent: Friedman

B. NON PREFERRED AGENDA

Local Law 22-03. Considered in MPA: Scaringi

A Local Law amending the Charter of the City of Binghamton, Article IA, Chapter 6, Councilmanic District Boundaries, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law

Motion to hold over: Scaringi
Second: Resciniti
Discussion: Friedman email, Burns

Introductory Ordinance 22-166. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 Capital Fund budget to accept insurance recovery and transfer funds to purchase police vehicles and equipment

Motion: Scaringi
Second: Resciniti
Vote: 6-0-0-1
Absent: Friedman

Introductory Ordinance 22-172. Considered in Finance: Scaringi

An Ordinance to amend the 2022 Capital Fund budget for police vehicles

Motion: Scaringi



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Second: Resciniti

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Friedman

Introductory Resolution 22-95. Considered in Employees: Resciniti

A Resolution adopting the Record of Activities for Elected and Appointed Officials

Motion: Resciniti

Second: Scaringi

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Friedman

Introductory Resolution 22-96. Considered in Employees: Resciniti

A Resolution authorizing the City of Binghamton to modify the retirement plan for ERS & PFRS

Motion: Resciniti

Second: Scaringi

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Friedman

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Burns
2. Scanlon
3. Scaringi
4. Resciniti
5. Riley
6. Strawn

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:18pm: Riley

Second: Scaringi

Vote: 6-0-0-1

Absent: Friedman

From: Jacques Rodenbach <jrodenb1@binghamton.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:26 AM
To: COB_Clerk; redistricting@cityofbinghamton.com
Subject: Public Comment: Proposed City Council Redistricting Map to be Discussed at Public Hearing Today, 12/7/22

Dear Clerk Rogers and Members of the City Council,

I would appreciate it if the following remarks could be read into the record. I apologize in advance for being unable to attend today's (12/7/22) City Council Public Hearing on the proposed redistricting map in person.

I am writing to you today to express my concerns about the proposed City Council Draft #2 Redistricting map currently being considered by this legislative body. I feel this map is not representative of the City of Binghamton as currently drawn, and worry it may have a particular impact on the ability of students to make their voices heard in the makeup of the City Council.

I have lived in the City of Binghamton for the past three years while attending Binghamton University. I have lived previously on Binghamton's West Side, and currently reside in the City's Downtown area. I feel the proposed map dilutes the student vote by intersecting and breaking up the areas of the City where the majority of students currently reside: those being the West Side and Downtown.

Specifically, the proposed 6th City Council District under the 2nd Draft incorporates such a wide range of areas, including large portions of Downtown, and combines them with them both the Southeastern and Southwestern portions of the city. I fear that this in turn will dilute the vote of students and recent alumni who currently reside in these areas of the city.

The proposed 4th City Council District meanwhile loses large portions of the Downtown area it once possessed, while incorporating and splitting portions of the West Side with the proposed 3rd City Council district. I feel these changes as well will harm the ability of Binghamton University students living in the city to adequately and effectively participate in City Council elections. Furthermore, I fundamentally disagree with breaking the Downtown area into two different city council districts. While the residents of the Downtown area are by no means a monolith, I feel that the large concentrations of students who live in this area share common concerns, which deserve to be at least partially represented on the City Council.

I thank you all for your time and consideration. I hope that some adjustments can be made to the finalized version of the new city council map that address some of my concerns, which I imagine are also shared by the large numbers of Binghamton University students who reside off-campus in the City of Binghamton. Binghamton University students make large contributions to the City of Binghamton, both economically and culturally, and deserve a city council map that ensures their equitable participation in the composition of representatives elected to the City Council.

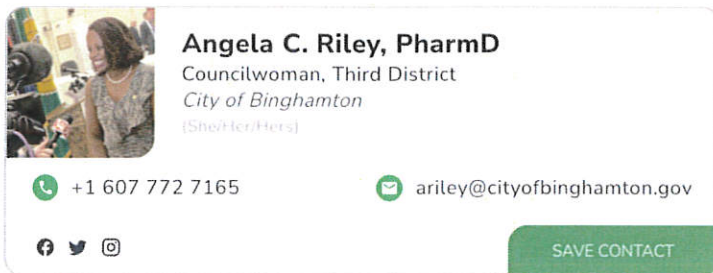
Sincerely,

Jacques Rodenbach
45 Washington Street, Apt #222
Binghamton, NY 13901

Caution: This email originated from outside the organization. BE SUSPICIOUS of any links in the email. If this email is asking for something unusual, do not reply to the email. Contact the sender through another method, or contact the City IT department for help.

From: Riley, Angela
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 6:24 PM
To: City - Council Members; COB_Clerk
Subject: Fw: To read at tonight's city council meeting

Angela Riley, PharmD (she/her/hers)
Councilwoman, District 3



Angela C. Riley, PharmD
Councilwoman, Third District
City of Binghamton
(She/Her/Hers)

+1 607 772 7165 ariley@cityofbinghamton.gov

Facebook Twitter Instagram

SAVE CONTACT

From: Jonathan Krasno <jskrasno@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 5:18 PM
To: Riley, Angela <ariley@cityofbinghamton.gov>
Subject: To read at tonight's city council meeting

Angela,

I'm glad that I was able to submit a map, #3. Unfortunately, I cannot attend tonight's meeting but I wanted to send you this statement and ask you to read it on my behalf.

"I am Jonathan Krasno, a professor of Political Science at Binghamton University whose research includes numerous published papers on partisan gerrymandering. Most recently, I worked as the expert witness with the group of plaintiffs who successfully sued Broome County for a variety of violations of NYS law in its map. As you are aware, the County is now under orders to rectify its illegally drawn districts.

You asked me to evaluate the three maps before the City Council, particularly map #2. Unfortunately, I cannot do so because the information provided on the City's website is insufficient for me or for anyone attempting to analyze to, in fact, analyze it. There is a map image of insufficient resolution for me to be able to replicate the census block assignments visually to match the population table. No one should even have to do this since all of these maps were required to be drawn on Broome County's GIS-based mapping tool and, in the end, any adopted map will be turned into legislation that lists the census blocks in each district. Even the County provided much better documentation of the five alternative maps under consideration during its process, allowing analysts to examine them thoroughly.

I am not a lawyer, but I would be concerned that any action by the City Council prior to giving more complete access to the maps would be premature and certainly would cause potential litigants to consider whether adequate public notice has been given. Seeing a map and being given enough information to respond are two separate things.

Second, again while I am not a lawyer, the lesson that I take from the Broome County litigation is that the safest course for any districting authority is to stay as close to the law as possible. I would know more if I were able to examine map #2 more closely, but I can immediately see that the population of its districts are not as close to equal as is "practicable" and I suspect that its districts are not nearly as compact, either. Neither is a clear a violation of NYS law as Broome County's, but both are contrary to what is written. The equal population requirement is contrary to what the judge noted is the primary requirement of NYS law.

I question whether it is wise for the City of Binghamton to test the boundaries of that law rather than agree to reside comfortably within it."

Caution: This email originated from outside the organization. BE SUSPICIOUS of any links in the email. If this email is asking for something unusual, do not reply to the email. Contact the sender through another method, or contact the City IT department for help.

From: Riley, Angela
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 4:51 PM
To: magwrit1@gmail.com; City - Council Members; Kraham, Jared; COB_Clerk
Subject: Re: BU parties in Binghamton and the police response

Thank you for this letter Mrs. Young.
I will share this information with my fellow councilmembers and Mayor.

Best,

Angela

Angela Riley, PharmD (she/her/hers)
Councilwoman, District 3



Angela C. Riley, PharmD
Councilwoman, Third District
City of Binghamton
(She/Her/Hers)

+1 607 772 7165 ariley@cityofbinghamton.gov

SAVE CONTACT

From: Michelle Young <magwrit1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 4:40 PM
To: Riley, Angela <ariley@cityofbinghamton.gov>
Subject: BU parties in Binghamton and the police response

Dear Councilwoman Riley,

Months ago, when the idea of Westside District 3 as the focal point of student housing had been raised in several newspaper articles that left me wondering what was next. I've lived in my building five years; my downstairs neighbor has been here eight years. Ever since I've been living in Westside District 3, there have been parties in student housing between Thanksgiving and Christmas/Chanukah, around Easter/Passover, the close of the school year/graduation, and when the students were returning during the next semester.

Westside District 3 has been disparaged by many in the community for garbage in the streets, for gangs, drugs, and so on, subsequently blaming the Binghamton University students. To be sure, whether we're talking about students at SUNY-BCC or at Binghamton University, student life can get pretty noisy. But in all the time I've lived here, if I've needed to call the police about the noise, they came, quickly addressed the students, and within *minutes* of their arriving, the noise *immediately* quieted down.

On Saturday, December 3, I called the police three times over a period of several hours--about 5 hours in all. In fairness to the students I've seen in this district, the *majority* of them have always been polite and respectful. I have heard others speaking of what happened this weekend, and I will tell you this was not just out-of-hand; although I sit about 3 feet from the television in my living room, the noise was *so* loud, I couldn't hear my TV without raising the volume. I had the door and windows shut, and it was still blasting. The neighbor in the next building couldn't hear me over the noise and the two houses are a driveway apart.

As I mentioned, I called the police and was told at one point something to the effect of "we had more pressing priorities. There's chaos all over the streets.

With all due respects, I'm well-aware of the Binghamton Police and their needs to cover the entire city. But 60 years ago, Binghamton was about 80,000 strong. We're now about 58% of that. The community was still home to BCC and then Harpur, or SUNY back then, and the problems were nothing like what happened this weekend.

The third officer with whom I spoke, was patronizing and had no problem in chastising me, telling me not to interrupt. The one time I said "excuse me," I was then informed like a child, "I asked you not to interrupt." I didn't. I said "excuse me" and he allowed me to speak.

That bunch of SUNY/BU Santa Clauses walking down the street, cursing, having a great time at the expense of locals is just a minute part of the chaos over here. I saw some drinking, but *what* they were consuming, I don't know. I wasn't downtown but at home. Apparently those who voted to allow District 3 to get the majority of students in this district don't care about who may vote for them. I, for one, will remember!

Let me share with you a number of comments made in the last 24 hours on Nextdoor. That can also paint quite a picture. I have removed the names of the commenters to protect their privacy:

The screenshot shows a series of comments on Nextdoor. The first comment, from Southside Binghamton, describes a Santa Con event where drunk college kids caused a mess downtown. A second comment from Upper Hill Site Park shares a similar experience, mentioning a city bus and a group of kids. A third comment from Park Terrace expresses concern about the safety of the event. A fourth comment from Westside District 2 provides a link to a news article about the event. A fifth comment from Westside District 2 criticizes the lack of response from city officials. A sixth comment from Southside Binghamton agrees with the previous comment. Each comment includes a timestamp, location, and interaction options like 'Like', 'Reply', and 'Share'.

Southside Binghamton • 17 hr ago • @
So another Santa Con has come and gone and the same old story. Drunk college kids making a mess downtown. I witnessed it first hand Saturday trying to get to Boscovs.
Rude behavior. walking right out in front of our car. Then yelling at us. Then going back on Front Street a group of them purposely walking almost down the middle of the street making it difficult to get down the street.
It's ridiculous and unnecessary. It needs to stop!
10
Like 5 Comments Share

Upper Hill Site Park
I was also in the Binghamton downtown area saw alot of the drunken college kids. They have no respect for others or their properties. I was waiting at a light at corner of state n court st. City bus was turning left from court st group of kids got right up next to the bus as it was turning. So if those drunks got hurt by the bus I'm sure they would sue the bus company and city. I DID NOT see any type of law enforcement out in this mess. No foot patrol no police cars roaming downtown. Sure could have used some help maneuvering downtown that day
This SANTA.COM should be banned
21 min ago Agree Reply Share 3

Park Terrace
We had seen them all walking with their gallon jugs of liquor, didn't have any clue what they were doing. Seems pretty dangerous to be honest. I see the implications of the mess an... See more
2 hr ago Like Reply Share 3

Westside District 2
[https://wnbf.com/binghamton-mayhem-santacon-out-of-control/ \[show\]](https://wnbf.com/binghamton-mayhem-santacon-out-of-control/)
1 hr ago Like Reply Share

Westside District 2
I'm more curious about the lack of response from the mayor and police. It seems if you are a BU student anything is ok, as a tax payer it makes me wonder what the city is using the tax money for
1 hr ago Agree Reply Share 3

Southside Binghamton
(Couldn't agree more!)
1 hr ago Like Reply Share 1

• Southsiders
It's a huge money boost for local businesses, bars, restaurants, hotels, ubers, etc. People come from outside the area to attend as well. Its an annual tradition!
4 hr ago Like Reply Share 1

Author • Southside Binghamton
So that makes it ok that they make a mess, cause trouble etc.? It is why they get away with it that's for sure
4 hr ago Like Reply Share 1

• East Side Binghamton
Yes, students even came Cortland college.
2 hr ago Like Reply Share 1

• East Side Binghamton
I had gone downtown to go to a work holiday party at the Holiday Inn. No parking in their lot and they told me that only guests spending the night could park in their lot. What about our unit that spent thousands to have a party there? I drove around for over 20 minutes and had no parking anywhere!! I am from downstate originally and I felt like I was driving in NYC! But, at least there, people follow that lights. Yes, and the students were rude and walked wherever/whenever they wanted. I had one kid give me the finger because they were crossing as I was going through with a green light for me! I ended up not going to my party and just going home! I was so annoyed at the whole situation.
2 hr ago Like Reply Share 1

• East Side Binghamton
From article that [redacted] shared: The university's student-run "Harpur's Ferry" ambulance responded to calls during the SantaCon event.

Downtown streets, which sometimes are closed to traffic during special events, remained open Saturday afternoon and evening.

Binghamton Mayor Jared Kraham could not be reached for comment about what happened over the weekend. Police chief Joseph Zikuski did not return phone calls seeking information about how his department prepared for this year's event or what officers encountered on Saturday.

Read More: Binghamton Mayhem: Witnesses Say SantaCon Was "Out of Control" | https://wnbf.com/binghamton-mayhem-santacon-out-of-control/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral [show]
2 hr ago Like Reply Share 1

Take note that these voices come from around the city. It's just I'm in the heart of it. My income level shouldn't determine whether we have the right to live like human beings in a peaceful community. Additionally, the University's having been granted millions recently should not be license for *any* student--individually or collectively--to create upheaval and obnoxious behavior analogous to hard rock concerts at decibels loud enough to hurt one's hearing!

Mayor Kraham and the Binghamton City Council don't care about us--nor, apparently, does the university. Something **must** be done about this. I was born and raised here and returned home twice, the most recent of which was 24 years ago. I have as much right to a peaceful existence as college, university and other students do when they're trying to study or sleep. This was uncalled for, and City Council, BPD, Mayor Kraham and the university not only should apologize to Binghamton residents *and businesses*; they need to be held accountable. I'm embarrassed to live here in a community that values students here for a quality education at the cost of the rest of us. There *is* such a thing as coexistence. I would suggest the mayor, the City Council, BPD, and the university learn more about the subject!

Thank you.
Michelle Young