



ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL MARCH 2024 UPDATES

Dear neighbors,

Welcome to the Common Council's official newsletter. Here you'll find resources to help you get involved with legislating in the City of Albany. You'll also find updates on legislation that the Council has recently passed and details on where to view the legislation that it's considering now.

We hope that these resources empower you to become an active part of the Council's work. Whether it's approaching [your councilmember](#) with an idea or commenting on pending legislation at a meeting, your participation makes the difference.

Please take a few moments to read through this newsletter, and please feel free to reach out to us.

Respectfully yours,

The Albany Common Council

Join the Conversation

The Albany Common Council relies on public participation in every step of its legislative process. If you're looking to speak or write on an item on the Council's agenda, head to our website to submit a public comment. Please note that any information that you provide will be shared with all Common Council members and/or read for the Record at our meeting. All public comment is memorialized on our website and our social media platforms.

In-Person: 24 Eagle Street, Room 202

Online: <https://www.albanyny.gov/2187/Albany-Common-Council>

By Phone: (518) 434-5087

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Upcoming Public Meetings & Events

March 4, 6:00 PM	Planning, Economic Development and Land Use Committee
March 4, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
March 7, 5:30 PM	Law, Buildings and Code Enforcement Committee
March 12, 5:30 PM	Planning, Economic Development and Land Use Committee
March 13, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
March 18, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
March 27, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session

All meetings are livestreamed and recorded on the Common Council’s [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. You can find meeting agendas, the active calendar, supporting legislation and more in the Common Council’s [Agenda Center](#).

A Constituent’s Guide to the Albany Common Council, Part 9: Aging

Each month, we’ll go back to basics on all things Common Council.

Like fine wines and cheeses, legislation gets better with age. In fact, with some exceptions, it has to: [Municipal Home Rule Law](#) and Article 4 of the Common Council’s [Rules and Procedures](#) spell out the length of time certain pieces of legislation must age before they can be considered for a vote.

These rules are mostly concerned with local laws, which must appear “in [their] final form and upon the desk of the members” at least seven days prior to their passage, excluding Sunday. So councilmembers and constituents must be given at least a week to review local laws—including any amendments—before the Council can vote on them. This is true except in rare circumstances: The Mayor retains the power to attach a message of necessity to a law and ask for its immediate consideration. But as we learned in [February’s newsletter](#), this law would need a 10-member majority to pass.

While aging rules don’t apply to the Council’s ordinances, these pieces of legislation are still best served with ample time for digestion. To encourage councilmembers to give their colleagues and the public time for review, ordinances voted upon at the meeting of their introduction must pass by unanimous consent.

Resolutions need not age, and many pass at the meeting of their introduction. You can find more on the legislation currently before the Council in our [Agenda Center](#).

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee

The committee met on February 5 to discuss Resolution 9.12.24R (MC), which can be found [here](#). It was held.

The committee met on February 6 to discuss Ordinance 1.12.24, which can be found [here](#). It was held.

The committee met on February 13 to discuss Resolution 7.12.24R and Resolution 9.12.24R (MC), which can be found [here](#). Resolution 7.12.24R moved forward with a favorable recommendation pending amendment. Resolution 9.12.24R (MC) was held.

The committee met on February 20 to discuss Resolution 9.12.24R (MC) with representatives from the Albany Police Department, Albany County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police, and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Resolution 9.12.24R (MC) can be found [here](#). It was held.

Law, Buildings and Code Enforcement Committee

The committee met on February 7 to discuss Local Law M of 2023, Ordinance 34.92.23, Ordinance 77.122.23, and Local Law F of 2023, each which can be found [here](#). Local Law M of 2023 moved forward with a favorable recommendation. Ordinance 34.92.23 moved forward with a favorable recommendation pending amendment. Ordinance 77.122.23 and Local Law F of 2023 were held.

The committee met on February 27 to discuss Ordinance 16.42.23, Ordinance 74.111.23, and Ordinance 77.122.23, each which can be found [here](#). Ordinance 74.111.23 and Ordinance 77.122.23 moved forward with favorable recommendations pending amendments. Ordinance 16.24.23 was held.

General Services, Health, and Environment Committee

The committee met on February 12 to discuss Resolution 13.21.24R and Resolution 14.21.24R, which can be found [here](#). Both resolutions moved forward with favorable recommendations.

Legislation Passed

Local Law K of 2023 Sponsored by Hoey

A local law amending Chapter 371 (Water and Waterways) of the Code of the City of Albany in relation to adding fluoride compounds to the water supply

Local Law M of 2023 Sponsored by Kimbrough

A local law amending Section 604 of the Charter of the City of Albany by correcting a typographical error therein

Ordinance 32.81.23 Sponsored by Balarin

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Albany in relation to requiring off-site parking for the duration of a project

Ordinance 34.92.23 Sponsored by Flynn

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Albany in relation to providing defibrillators in municipal workplaces

Resolution 11.21.24R Sponsored by Anane

A resolution adopting the Pro-Housing Communities pledge

Resolution 12.21.24R Sponsored by Anane

A resolution honoring Black History Month and the contributions of African Americans and directing the Mayor to raise the Pan-African flag on City Hall annually in solidarity

Resolution 13.21.24R Sponsored by Love

A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Blanche King and renaming a portion of South Swan Street in her honor

Resolution 14.21.24R Sponsored by Love

A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Salvatore “Sal” Tarzia and renaming a portion of Beaver Street in his honor

Resolution 16.21.24R (MC) Sponsored by Kimbrough

A resolution appointing Shaniqua Jackson as City Clerk of the City of Albany

Resolution 17.22.24R Sponsored by Hoey

A resolution urging New York State to fully invest in critical water infrastructure improvements

Resolution 18.22.24R Sponsored by Balarin

A resolution supporting the passage of Good Cause Eviction at the state level as written

Resolution 19.22.24R Sponsored by Hoey

A resolution of the Common Council declaring itself lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review of the fluoridation of the City’s water supply and issuing a negative declaration

Resolution 20.22.24R (MC) Sponsored by Kimbrough

A resolution celebrating Lunar New Year and recognizing its cultural and historical significance

Resolution 4.11.24R (MC) Sponsored by Johnson

A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Herman M. Cockfield and renaming a portion of Westerlo Street in his honor

Resolution 7.12.24R Sponsored by Hoey

A resolution calling the City of Albany to contribute to the county funding to perform a traffic study on Russell Road and Berkshire Boulevard

For the latest information on introduced and held legislation, please visit the Common Council’s [Agenda Center](#).
