



ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL JANUARY 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

By Email: commoncouncil@albanyny.gov



Upcoming Public Meetings

January 4, 6:00 PM	Finance, Assessment and Taxation Committee
January 4, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
January 9, 5:30 PM	Planning, Economic Development and Land Use Committee
January 10, 5:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session
January 18, 6:30 PM	Caucus/Work Session Followed by Regular Meeting
January 31, 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 7: Takin' Care of Business

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

Every Regular Meeting of the Common Council follows the order of business laid out in the Council's [Rules of Procedure](#). Article 2, Section 2.4 details these guidelines: Each meeting starts with a roll call of members present, a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence. If a public hearing is scheduled for the meeting, it comes next, and so on until the Council has dispensed with miscellaneous business and called for adjournment.

So say the rules, but in practice, this order is more flexible. Often, no legislation is scheduled for a public hearing. Sometimes, there are no new local laws ready for introduction and no held local laws ready for consideration. And it's rare for the Council to consider official petitions. The Council can skip entire sections of the agenda depending on the business before it.

At other times, it's appropriate to formally modify the order of business. Councilmembers can move to take items [out of order](#), [add items](#) to the agenda, and lengthen [public comment](#) periods. Any motion that modifies the order of business requires "the consent of a majority present," which usually looks like a voice vote upon the question. (Extending public comment period, which is initially limited to a pair of 30-minute sessions split between the beginning and end of the meeting, is the most common of these modifications. For more on public comment period, see Section 2.5.)

You can find all meeting documents relevant to the order of business in the Council's [Agenda Center](#). Please note that all documents are filed by the year of their associated meetings; to find agendas from previous years' meetings, you'll need to select the year of the meeting next to the "Common Council Caucus & Regular Meeting" or committee header.

Common Council News

The Council's 2024 meeting schedule is available now! You can find it [here](#).

Committee Reports

Planning, Economic Development and Land Use Committee

The committee met on December 19 to discuss Resolution 113.112.23R and Ordinance 32.81.23, each of which can be found [here](#). Both the resolution and the ordinance moved forward with favorable recommendations.

Housing and Community Development Committee

The committee met on December 20 to discuss events related to housing stability at Capitol Crossings Apartments, formerly known as Bleecker Terrace Apartments.

Legislation Passed

Local Law J of 2023 Sponsored by Hoey

A local law amending the Code of the City of Albany in relations to terms of appointment to the Community Police Review Board

Ordinance 75.112.23 Sponsored by Kimbrough

An ordinance amending the Code of the City of Albany in relation to creating a school bus stop arm camera demonstration program

Resolution 118.121.23R Sponsored by Frederick

A resolution authorizing the levy upon properties in the City of Albany for unpaid water and sewer charges

Resolution 119.121.23R Sponsored by Frederick

A resolution authorizing the levy upon properties in the City of Albany for unpaid charges of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Buildings and Regulatory Compliance, and the Department of General Services

Resolution 120.121.23R Sponsored by Frederick

A resolution authorizing the levy of 2024 Business Improvement District (BID) charges and authorizing the Treasurer to place such charges on 2024 city tax bills

Resolution 121.122.23R Sponsored by Hoey

A resolution of the Common Council declaring its intent to act as lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review of the fluoridation of the City's water supply

Resolution 122.122.23R Sponsored by Frederick

A resolution amending Resolution 120.121.23R, which authorized the levy of 2024 Business Improvement District (BID) charges and authorized the Treasurer to place such charges on 2024 city tax bills

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