

**CITY OF BANGOR**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
 March 18, 2024 @ 7:05 PM  
 257 W. Monroe St. Bangor, MI // City Council Room

1. **CALL TO ORDER.**

Mayor Farmer called meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

3. **ROLL CALL.**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Pati Martinez-Serratos	Mayor Pro Tem	Present
Heléne Rivers	Councilmember	Present
Jeremy Uplinger	Councilmember	Present
Jerry Muenzer	Councilmember	Present
Amber Garcia	Councilmember	Present
Darla McCrumb	Councilmember	Present
Lynne Farmer	Mayor	Present

**OTHERS PRESENT.**

City Manager Justin Weber, Acting DPW Director Steve Lowder, Fire Chief Derek Babcock, Treasurer Stephenie Cagle, and approximately 10 members of the public.

4. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA.**

<b>Motion to accept Regular Meeting Agenda with amendment. Add B. Council Conduct under New Business</b>
<b>RESULT: APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b> Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b> Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember

5. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES.**

a. **Approval of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on March 18, 2024**

<b>Approval of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on March 18, 2024</b>
<b>RESULT: APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b> Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b> Darla McCrumb, Councilmember

6. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL.**

a. **General Checking Accounts Payable and Payroll.**

<b>Motion to pay bills from General Checking 2 in the amount of \$231,293.42.</b>
<b>RESULT: APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b> Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b> Amber Garcia, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b> Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Martinez-Serratos, Farmer

b. **Roads Checking Accounts Payable**

<b>Motion to pay bills from Roads Checking in the amount of \$668.75.</b>	
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amber Garcia, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Farmer

c. **T&A2 Checking Accounts Payable**

<b>Motion to pay bills from T&amp;A2 Checking in the amount of \$163.19.</b>	
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amber Garcia, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Rivers, Uplinger, Matinez-Serratos, Farmer

7. **OTHER REGULAR BUSINESS.**

- a. Van Buren District Library, Library Millage: Dan Hutchins gave an overview of the upcoming millage increase request.
- b. Department Head Reports: Fire Chief Babcock, Officer Kendregan, City Treasurer Cagle, County Commissioner Doroh, and DPW Director Lowder gave brief department updates.

8. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Public comments were heard.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

a. **Bryce Saylor/Total Lawn Care.**

City Attorney Scott Graham updated that paperwork has been filed with the courts and that he will no longer be giving public updates. The Council will have to go into closed session.

b. **DPW Mowing Crew.**

City Manager Weber updated the council that the DPW Mowing Crew positions have been posted on our website, social media (Facebook) and in the paper. We have had about 20 applications picked up. The job post will be open until the end of March. He would like to start interviews in April and have the crew hired and ready to start work in May.

c. **Bulk Trash Pick Up Date.**

City Manager Weber stated that Republic has scheduled April 30 for curbside bulk trash pickup. Republic has provided do and don't guidelines. They will take pictures as needed.

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

a. **Budget Workshop Date.**

Discussion regarding budget workshop dates in April. Mayor Farmer asked Treasurer Cagle to provide a date to coordinate the workshop.

b. **Council Conduct.**

Councilmember McCrumb expressed concern about how the last meeting ended. She thought it was very disrespectful to other Councilmembers. Members of the public and other Councilmembers had contacted her in regards to this. Discussion about the roles and responsibilities of the City Manager and the Mayor. City Attorney Graham stated that the City Charter is the guide for these roles.

**Motion to have City Attorney Scott Graham draft a memo clarifying the roles of the City Manager and Councilmembers.**

**RESULT:** APPROVED (5 to 2)  
**MOVER:** Amber Garcia, Councilmember  
**SECONDER:** Heléne Rivers, Councilmember  
**AYES:** Uplinger, Garcia, McCrumb, Rivers, Farmer  
**NAYES:** Martinez-Serratos, Muenzer

Attorney Graham expressed that this will be based on the City Charter.

**11. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Public comments were heard: Feel that it was an abuse of power and needed more transparency. Hope not to see this type of behavior again. Maybe it is time to make changes to the Charter.

**12. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS.**

**Martinez-Serratos:** Thank you for coming out. Good things are happening. Signs look nice.

**Rivers:** Thanks for coming out and showing interest. I agree that we need to be more courteous. Bangor is looking better and prettier. Optimistic for the future.

**Uplinger:** Thank you for coming out tonight. The Lions Bunny Hop is at the end of the month. Cemetery cleaning will be coming up.

**McCrumb:** We must do our due diligence with the taxpayer's funds. The council should not have pet project agendas.

**Garcia:** I would like to piggyback on Darla's comment. We need to set aside personal agendas and look at the bigger picture to decide what is good for everybody.

**Muenzer:** The Pete Gent sign looks good. I like the letter that is going out about bulk trash. History lesson in 1911 Freestone Pickels moved from Benton Harbor to Bangor. The 4<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> generation still running the business.

**CITY MANAGER WEBER COMMENTS.**

I meet with Abonmarche once a month to talk about different ideas. I will be researching restructuring downtown parking and adding speed bumps in different areas. Having been talking with DDA about sidewalks in the downtown area.

**CITY ATTORNEY GRAHAM COMMENTS.**

Nothing

**MAYOR FARMER:** Thank you for coming out. Thank you Dave for the great ideas.

**13. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM**

**RESULTS:** APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)  
**MOVER:** Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember  
**SECONDER:** Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember  
**AYES:** Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Martinez-Serratos, Farmer