

CITY OF BANGOR
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 2, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

257 W. Monroe St. Bangor, MI // City Council Room

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Farmer.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.
3. **Roll Call: Present:** Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos, Councilmembers Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer. **Absent:** None.
Others Present: Interim City Manager Justin Weber, Acting DPW Director Steve Lowder, City Clerk Shelly Umbanhowar, Fire Chief Derek Babcock, City of Bangor Police Officers, and approximately 30 members of the public.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos, second by Rivers, to approve the agenda as amended, moving Agenda Item #13 into place Agenda Item #7. Motion Carried. Majority.
Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Farmer
No: McCrumb, Garcia
Absent: None
5. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2023:** Motion by Councilmember Muenzer to accept the minutes as presented. Support by Councilmember Uplinger. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.
 - b. **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2023:** Motion by Councilmember Uplinger to accept the minutes as presented. Support by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.
6. **Approval of Payments and Bills:**
 - a. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos to pay the bills from **General Checking 2** in the amount of **\$167,698.94**. Support by Councilmember Rivers. Motion Carried.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer
No: None.
Absent: None.
 - b. Motion by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos to pay the bills from **Roads** in the amount of **\$17,662.87**. Support by Councilmember Rivers. Motion Carried.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer
No: None.
Absent: None.
 - c. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos to pay the bills from **T&A2** in the amount of **\$690,799.96**. Support by Councilmember Rivers. Motion Carried.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer
No: None.
Absent: None.
7. **Closed Session for Legal Opinion:**
Motion by Muenzer, second by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos, to move into closed session at 7:07 PM for legal opinion. Motion Carried. Majority.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Farmer
No: McCrumb, Garcia
Absent: None

Return to Regular Council Meeting: Motion by Rivers, second by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos to move back into regular session at 8:29 PM. Motion Carried.

Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Farmer, McCrumb, Garcia

No: None

Absent: None

8. Opportunity for Public Comment:

Public comments regarding concerns about invoices previously paid to Bryce Saylor/Total Lawn Care, moving a closed session to front of council meeting, and the City's bid process were heard, about 7 people spoke.

Mayor Farmer made a statement that the City Attorney will be conducting an internal investigation into the invoices paid to Bryce Saylor/Total Lawn Care.

Motion by Councilmember Uplinger to give the City Attorney permission to investigate invoices paid to Bryce Saylor/Total Lawn Care. Support by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer

No: None.

Absent: None.

9. Unfinished Business:

a. Dump Issues:

Motion by Councilmember Garcia to open discussion on dump issues. Support by Councilmember Uplinger. **Yes** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

Discussion:

Interim City Manager Weber gave his recommendation that bulk trash pick-up services be discontinued by the City; DPW cannot provide bulk trash pick-up services; Blight issues that the City had when they started this issue have been solved. Any blight issues going forward can be addressed because we have a Code Enforcement office and ordinances to assist; A survey of surrounding municipalities showed that most do not offer any kind of bulk trash pick-up services.

City Attorney: Any agreement assumes that the City will provide a service. You need to pick a date that gives practical notice that you will no longer be providing a service.

Councilmember McCrumb: If we stop services, can DPW can do the job?

Motion by Councilmember Garcia to stop bulk trash pick-up services effective 11/01/23. Support by Councilmember Rivers. **Ayes** by all present. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried. Majority

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer

No: Martinez-Serratos.

Absent: None.

Motion by Councilmember Garcia to table bulk trash pick-up service options until a later date. Support by Councilmember Uplinger. **Yes** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

b. Adopt City Ordinances – Blight, Grass & Weeks and Dangerous Buildings:

Motion by Councilmember Muenzer adopt Tall Grass and Weed Ordinance No 2023-1. Support by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos. **Yes** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer

No: None.

Absent: None.

Motion by Councilmember Muenzer adopt Amended Blight Ordinance No 2023-2. Support by Councilmember McCrumb. **Yes** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer

No: None.

Absent: None.

Motion by Councilmember McCrumb adopt Dangerous Building Ordinance No 2023-3. Support by Councilmember Uplinger. **Yes** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer

No: None.

Absent: None.

c. **Accept Proposed Building Fee Schedule – Previously presented 09/5/23:**

Motion by Councilmember Uplinger adopt proposed building fee schedule. Support by Councilmember Garcia. **Yes** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

10. **New Business:**

a. **Fiscal Year Ending 2022-2023 Audit Engagement Letter**

Motion by Councilmember Garcia to accept Yeo & Yeo letter in regards to audit 2022-2023. Support by Councilmember Rivers. Motion Carried.

Motion by Councilmember Garcia to enter into another agreement with Yeo & Yeo for audit year 2023-2024. Support by Councilmember Rivers. Motion Carried.

b. **City Sidewalk Repairs near Auto Value & Dr. Herrman's Office**

After some brief explanation of issues by Interim City Manager Weber, permission for DPW to remove tree.

c. **Sewer Pond Motor Repairs or Replacement**

After brief overview of situation by Acting DPW Director Lowder, the council would like to see quote/estimates. To be presented by Acting DPW Director Lowder at next Council Meeting 10/16/23.

d. **MML Renewal Rates and Changes 2023-24**

Letter read by Interim City Manager Weber regarding why the insurance rates have increased.

Motion by Councilmember McCrumb to continue MML as carrier with the increased rate of \$74,571.00. Support by Councilmember Rivers. Motion Carried. **Yes** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer

No: None

Absent: None

e. **Abonmarche Water Reliability Study Proposal**

Abonmarche representative presented clarification on the water reliability study and answered questions. Also discussed what the state requirements are and the last time City of Bangor did a study was in 2016.

Motion by Councilmember McCrumb to table the Abonmarche Water Reliability Study until other bids can be secured. Support by Councilmember Rivers. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer

No: None

Absent: None

f. **Abonmarche DSMI Contracting Potholing for Lead Service Proposal**

Abonmarche representative what the grant is about and how much is covered. Explained the testing is random based on number of homes in community. 3 bids are were obtained from Abonmarche. The information regarding lead is sent back to the State.

Motion by Councilmember McCrumb to accept \$122,850 Underground Services/DSMI Contracting Potholing for Lead Service Proposal. Support by Councilmember Garcia. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer

No: None

Absent: None

g. Cemetery Committee – Proposed Work

Mayor Farmer presented two invoices (Alex Vander Galien \$5,000.00/EST0024 and Jon Isom Construction \$4,500.00/Invoice 1253) for work to be completed for the restoration of the cannon base at Arlington Hills Cemetery. Brief explanation of the historical reference of this landmark in our community.

Motion by Councilmember Uplinger use cemetery funds to pay for the quotes presented. Support by Councilmember McCrumb. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer

No: None

Absent: None

11. Opportunity for Public Comment:

Public comments regarding concerns about receiving the city council agenda and packet, aerator motors for ponds, city's jobs that are ongoing, dip in the road at Division & Arlington is getting worse, and the website were heard, about 6 people spoke.

Interim City Manager is disappointed in the previous management and says it won't happen under his watch.

12. Councilmember Comments:

Martinez-Serratos: Thank you all for coming tonight.

Rivers: Thank you for your interest and I appreciate you all showing up and being concerned.

Uplinger: Thank you for coming.

McCrumb: I don't have an agenda, I'm just looking out for the best interest of the City.

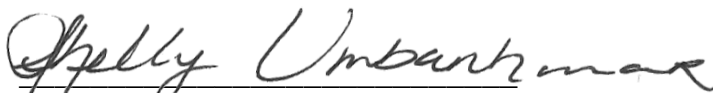
Garcia: I apologize that you all had to stand outside during the closed session meeting. I'm working hard to make your tax dollars count. I have the best interest of the City at heart and will get answers. Thank you for coming.

Muenzer: I'm disappointed in the Facebook comments and activity. Some history lesson: North side was where the main Bangor population lived. Population didn't go south until the Depot came to town.

Farmer: Maddox Chavez from the school led us in our pledge tonight. Special recognition to Sonny with Iron Gypsies Motorcycle Club and the work they did coming out and cleaning cemetery headstones. About 23 people came out to help clean about 80 gravestones. Thank you to Dail Kuhens. Thank you all for coming. Bangor belongs to you. Help us make it nice.

13. Adjournment:

Motion by Councilmember Rivers to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 PM. Support by Councilmember Uplinger. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** None. Motion Carried.


Shelly Umbarknowar, City Clerk

Mayor Lynne Farmer