

CITY OF BANGOR
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 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, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer. **Absent:** Garcia.
Others Present: Interim City Manager Justin Weber, Acting DPW Director Steve Lowder, Deputy City Clerk Stephenie Cagle, Fire Chief Derek Babcock, City of Bangor Police Officers, and approximately 30 members of the public.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Councilmember Uplinger, second by Rivers, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Agenda Item #7B and #7C. Motion Carried. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** Garcia. Motion Carried.
5. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 2, 2023:** Motion by Councilmember Muenzer to accept the minutes as presented. Support by Councilmember McCrumb. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** Garcia. Motion Carried.
 - b. **Approval of Closed Session Minutes from October 2, 2023:** Motion by Councilmember Rivers to accept the minutes as presented. Support by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** Garcia. Motion Carried.
 - c. **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from October 5, 2023:** Motion by Councilmember McCrumb to accept the minutes as presented. Support by Councilmember Uplinger. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** Garcia. 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 **\$194,052.23**. Support by Councilmember Rivers. Motion Carried.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer
No: None.
Absent: Garcia.
 - b. Motion by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos to pay the bills from **Roads** in the amount of **\$2,188.38**. Support by Councilmember Rivers. Motion Carried.
Roll Call Vote:
Yes: Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, McCrumb, and Mayor Farmer
No: None.
Absent: Garcia.
7. **Other Regular Business:**
 - a. **Department Head Reports:**
 - i. **DPW Report:** Acting Director Steve Lowder gave the DPW report.
 - ii. **County Update:** County Commissioner Kurt Doroh gave the Van Buren County update report.
 - iii. **Fire Department:** Fire Chief Derek Babcock gave the Fire Department report.
 - iv. **Police Department:** Police Cadet Paul Leonard gave the Police Department report.
 - b. **Comments from City Attorney Scott Graham:** City Attorney Scott Graham gave an update on the investigation of Bryce Saylor Total Lawn Care invoices. He has made good progress but has more questions that need answered. He will have another update at the next council meeting. City Attorney Scott Graham gave his opinion on Councilmembers with a felony serving on City Council. His opinion was that anyone with a felony no matter how long ago it was, is disqualified. The City Council can ask the Attorney General for an opinion.

Motion by Councilmember Rivers to contact State Representative to ask for an opinion from the Attorney General. Support by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos. Motion Carried

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: None.

Absent: Garcia.

- c. **Form to Michigan State Police for City Attorney Scott Graham to represent the City of Bangor:** Motion by Councilmember McCrumb to allow City Attorney to represent the City of Bangor for Michigan State Police. Support by Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Serratos. **Ayes** by all present. **Nays:** None. **Absent:** Garcia. Motion Carried.

8. **Opportunity for Public Comment:** None.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. **Abonmarche Water Reliability Study Proposal:**

Tony McGhee from Abonmarche explained the benefits of having an Engineer of Record and what the Water Reliability Study Proposal was.

Motion by Councilmember McCrumb to accept the Water Reliability Study Proposal from Abonmarch. Support by Councilmember Rivers. Motion Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

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

No: Martinez-Serratos

Absent: Garcia.

- b. **Bryce Saylor's Total Lawn Care Invoice:** City Attorney Scott Graham gave his update in item 7b.

10. **New Business:**

- a. **First Quarter Budget Amendments:**

Motion by Councilmember Uplinger to table First Quarter Budget Amendments until a Budget Workshop can be scheduled. Support by Councilmember Rivers. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None.

Absent: Garcia. Motion Carried.

11. **Opportunity for Public Comment:**

Public comments regarding concerns and support for Jeremy Uplinger about being disqualified to serve on the city council, concerns about conflict of interest from some council members, equipment that the City owned that seems to have been given away, amount that the City was over budget, about 10 people spoke.

12. **Councilmember Comments:**

Martinez-Serratos: I think everyone misunderstood. We are trying to keep Jeremy on the Council. There are steps that must be followed. Yes, things happen but we believe in second chances.

Rivers: Sorry. We are trying to get answers. Half of this council is new and walked into all this. We want to keep this young man. Having him leave would not solve anything.

Uplinger: Thanks everyone for the support.

McCrumb: I'm still on the budget. Don't understand how or why it was over spent. Don't want this to happen again it was a lot of money mismanaged. Thank you, Justin, for stepping in and doing a good job.

Garcia: Absent

Muenzer: Spent money nothing done illegally maybe not done correctly. If I spend a little more than I have to take it out of savings. History – Bangor had its own power plant that supplied electric and water to its residents.

Farmer: Thank you for the respect. Thank you DPW for putting the rest of the Fall banners up. Thank you, Interim City Manager Justin Weber, for the fall decorations downtown. Congratulations to the Bangor Banking Center for the Community Investment Award and Heather Scruggs for the Chamber Volunteer of the Year Award. We value Jeremy as a councilmember.

13. **Adjournment:**

Motion by Councilmember Muenzer to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. Support by Councilmember Uplinger. **Yes:** by all present. **No:** None. **Absent:** Garcia. Motion Carried.

Stephenie Cagle, Deputy City Clerk

Mayor Lynne Farmer

F E R M A L