



CITY OF BANGOR
BANGOR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2024
MINUTES

Council Chambers

Regular Meeting

7:00PM

257 W MONROE ST
BANGOR, MI 49013

1. **This meeting was called to order by Mayor Farmer at 7:00 pm.**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IS LED BY COUNCILMEMBER UPLINGER AND RECITED BY ALL PRESENT**

ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	
		Present	Absent
Lynne Farmer	Mayor	X	
Pati Martinez-Serratos	Mayor Pro Tem		X
Heléne Rivers	Councilmember	X	
Jeremy Uplinger	Councilmember	X	
Jerry Muenzer	Councilmember	X	
Amber Garcia	Councilmember		X
Darla McCrumb	Councilmember	X	
QUORUM MET (5 PRESENT, 2 ABSENT)			

OTHERS PRESENT

Justin Weber, City Manager
 Shelly Umbanhowar, Clerk
 Paul Leonard, Police Officer

Ezekiel Drake, Code Enforcement
 Steve Lowder, DPW Director
 Approximately 9 members of the public

3. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

Motion to accept Regular Meeting Agenda as Presented.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember

4. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

a. **Consent Agenda**

Motion to accept Consent Agenda items:	
Regular Meeting Minutes 11/18/24 , General Checking Accounts Payable & Payroll in the amount of \$96,456.34 and T&A Checking Accounts Payable in the amount of \$3,778.00 .	
RESULT:	APPROVED (5 YES, 2 ABSENT)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
AYES:	Rivers, Muenzer, Uplinger, McCrumb, Farmer
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

5. OTHER REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Planning Commission Reappointment/Carla Gray 07/01/24-06/30/2027

Motion to accept Planning Commission Reappointment of Carla Gray for term 07/01/24-06/30/2027.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

a. Planning Commission Reappointment/Kevin Gruetzmacher 07/01/24-06/30/2027

Motion to accept Planning Commission Reappointment of Carla Gray for term 07/01/24-06/30/2027.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Darla McCrumb, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

6. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments heard.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Accept MRWA Wastewater Rate Study
- b. Accept MRWA Water Rate Study

Motion to accept MRWA Wastewater and Water Rate Study.	
RESULT:	APPROVED (5 YES, 2 ABSENT)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember
AYES:	Rivers, Muenzer, Uplinger, McCrumb, Farmer
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. City Attorney Advice

City Attorney Graham gave his legal opinion regarding defamation and discipline when defamation has been committed against city employees and/or appointed & elected officials. There is a brief explanation regarding the actions the City Council can take and what constitutes defamation. In addition, the definition of malice. An explanation of each is given.

Motion to allow City Attorney Graham the authority to demand a 'Letter of Retraction' when the Attorney confirms defamation has occurred. The retraction must be published in the same form it was originally published. The Attorney will follow up with the City Council any time this action is taken. This would be for city employees and/or appointed & elected officials.	
RESULT:	APPROVED (5 YES, 2 ABSENT)
MOVER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
AYES:	Rivers, Muenzer, Uplinger, McCrumb, Farmer
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

b. Add Renee Ward/Sturgis Bank Deposit Bag Pick Up

Motion to allow Renee Ward access to pick up deposit bags from Sturgis Bank.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

c. Approval of 2025 Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve the presented 2025 Meeting Schedule.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

d. Ordinance #298 – Regular Scheduled Meetings for the Council

Mayor Farmer introduced Ordinance #298, Regular Scheduled Meetings for the Council. This ordinance amends Ordinance #212.

Motion to table until the 12/16/24 Regular City Council meeting to adopt.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Darla McCrumb, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

e. Bangor Police Officer Wage Analysis

Motion to approve the presented wage scale presented effective January 1, 2025.	
RESULT:	APPROVED (5 YES, 2 ABSENT)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Darla McCrumb, Councilmember
AYES:	Rivers, Muenzer, Uplinger, McCrumb, Farmer
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

f. Sidewalk Plan

Motion to allow City Manager to post Abonmarche sidewalk RFP for Spring/Summer 2025, \$30K budgeted.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

g. Seal Coating/Van Buren County Road Commission

Motion to allow City Manager to contact VB County Road Commission and get on the list for additional seal coating/fog for spring/summer of 2025.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

h. Ordinance #296 – Automatic Annual Increases – Water Rates

Mayor Farmer introduced Ordinance #296, Automatic Annual Increases – Water Rates.

Motion to table until the 12/16/24 Regular City Council meeting to adopt.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

i. Ordinance #297 – Automatic Annual Increases – Wastewater Rates

Mayor Farmer introduced Ordinance #296, Automatic Annual Increases – Wasterwater Rates.

Motion to table until the 12/16/24 Regular City Council meeting to adopt.	
RESULT:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

9. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments heard.

10. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember comments were heard.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:34 PM	
RESULTS:	CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
ABSENT:	Martinez-Serratos, Garcia

Shelly Umbanhowar, City Clerk

Mayor Lynne Farmer

CERTIFICATION

I, Shelly Umbanhowar, the duly appointed Clerk for the City of Bangor, do hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on Monday, December 2, 2024. These minutes were approved by the City Council on Monday, December 16, 2024, by unanimous vote. The original is on file at the Bangor City Hall, 257 W. Monroe Street, Bangor, Michigan 49013.

Shelly Umbanhowar, City Clerk