

CITY OF BANGOR
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 December 4, 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.

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.

Interim City Manager Justin Weber, Attorney City Attorney Scott Graham, Acting DPW Director Steve Lowder, Fire Chief Babcock, Treasurer Stephenie Cagle, and approximately 18 members of the public.

4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA.

Motion to accept regular agenda with the following changes: Add 10 d. City Manager Job Search.

RESULT:	APPROVED (5 to 2)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Pati Martinez-Serratos, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Farmer
NAYES:	McCrumb and Garcia

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES.

a. Approval of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on November 20, 2023

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

6. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL.

a. Motion to pay bills from General Checking 2 in the amount of \$86,630.61

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

b. **Motion to pay bills from Roads Checking in the amount of \$39,720.00**

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

7. **OTHER REGULAR BUSINESS.**

None.

8. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Derek Babcock presented the City a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the Bangor Area Community Foundation for the Cemetery Cannon restoration project. He also, present Max the therapy dog.

Kurt Doroh gave the Van Buren County Commissioners report.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

a. **Accept EDC Director List.**

Motion to appoint Claud Street to the EDC for a 6-year term. Term of 1/04/2024-12/31/2029.

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

Motion to appoint Dan Grabovac to the EDC for a 6-year term. Term of 1/04/2024-12/31/2029.

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

Motion to appoint Dan Fry to the EDC for a 6-year term. Term of 01/04/2024-12/31/2029.

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

Motion to appoint Robert Daly III to the EDC for a 6-year term. Term 01/04/2024-12/31/2029.

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

Motion to appoint Mark Hills to the EDC for a 4-year term. Term 01/01/2024-12/31/2027.

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

Motion to appoint Renee Doroh to the EDC for a 3-year term. Term 01/01/2024-12/31/2026.

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

Motion to appoint Derek Babcock to the EDC for a 2-year term. Term 01/01/2024-12/31/2025.

RESULT:	APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Pat Martinez-Serratos, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Farmer

Motion to appoint Cole Vander Velde to the EDC for a 1-year term. Term 01/01/2024-12/31/2024.

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

NOTES:

Mayor Lynne Farmer: We are not reappointing Dail Kuhens to the EDC at this time due to the ongoing investigation.

Councilmember Darla McCrumb asked about the meaning of phase 2 of the investigation. City Attorney Scott Graham stated that phase 2 was looking at projects and request for subject to be investigated.

b. Amended Purchasing Policy

Motion to table adopting the amended Purchasing Policy until review by City Attorney Scott Graham.

RESULT:	APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jermey Uplinger, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
AYES:	Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Farmer

10. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Accept BHC Executive Director Lisa Saylor Resignation

Motion to accept Lisa Saylor resignation letter dated 11/24/2023

RESULT:	APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Darla McCrumb, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Heléne Rivers, Councilmember
AYES:	Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Farmer

b. 2024 Meeting Schedule.

Motion to adopt the 2024 Council, Boards, and Commissions meeting schedule.

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

c. **DPW Raises**

Interim City Manager Justin Weber recommended that Tim VanHolt, Justin Ryan and Daniel Villalobos receive raises. Tim VanHolt will be at \$18.00 per hour. He did not receive a raise after his 6-month probation was completed. Justin and Daniel will be at \$17.50. They both have just completed their 6-month probation.

Motion to increase Tim VanHolt pay rate to \$18.00 per hour.

RESULT:	APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jereny Uplinger, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Amber Garcia, Councilmember
AYES:	Martinez-Serratos, Uplinger, Rivers, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Farmer

Motion to increase Justin Ryan and Daniel Villalobos pay rate to \$17.50 per hour.

RESULT:	APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Amber Garcia, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Darla McCrumb, Councilmember
AYES:	Martinez-Serratos, Uplinger, Rivers, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Farmer

Motion to adopt the new pay scale for DPW workers.

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

d. **City Manager job search.**

Motion to allow City Attorney Scott Graham to post a job opening for City Manager.

RESULT:	APPROVED (4 to 3)
MOVER:	Jerry Muenzer, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Pati Martinez-Serratos, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Muenzer, Farmer
NAYES:	Uplinger, Garcia, McCrumb

NOTES:

Councilmember Amber Garcia: Why would we want to make this change now when we are in the middle of an internal investigation. I feel we were blind-sided.

11. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

Several of the public expressed their displeasure about the City Manager job posting. States their support for Interim City Manager Justin Weber.

12. COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS.

Martinez-Serratos: Justin is doing a good job. We are following protocol and following the rules.

Rivers: Understand how you are feeling. I worked in a governmental job for 35 years. We need to be fair and open to the public. Justin is doing an excellent job.

Uplinger: Love this community but we are divided. There have been a lot of closed-door deals that have caused this divide. If we can't reach out to each other things will crumble. We are in a bad situation, things need to change from the top down and do what needs to be done. Thanks for coming.

McCrumb: Thank you DPW for the work around town everything looks nice. I agree with Jeremy a lot of things happening behind closed doors. We need to be transparent and do what is best for the City. I feel that we have been blind-sided.

Garcia: Thanks for coming out. We need to do the right thing.

Muenzer: What is the status of the Kubota? (It is on back order until January). Bangor was the first community in South West Michigan to have a light show. It was started in the late 70's or early 80's by a Mr. Seymour. It was a nice parade.

Farmer: The DPW did a marvelous job with decorations. Thank you, Amanda and Stephenie, for decorating City Hall. Thank you Heléne, Stephenie and JR Murphy for helping with cookies and hot chocolate during the Christmas Parade. Thank you to the Christmas Parade community for the lovely parade. You will have to check out the trees in Charles Park and vote for the best decorated. The class that wins will get \$200.00 for their classroom. Justin is doing a good job and I hope he does apply for the City Manager position.

13. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jeremy Uplinger, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Pati Martinez-Serratos, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Martinez-Serratos, Rivers, Uplinger, Muenzer, Garcia, McCrumb, Farmer

Stephenie Cagle, Deputy City Clerk

Mayor Lynne Farmer