

**BANGOR BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 197 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, BANGOR, PA**

**MINUTES**

**JULY 24, 2023 - 6:32 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

James W. Kresge  
Marissa Donnelly  
James Augustine  
Rosemarie Capone  
Barry G. Schweitzer  
Joanna Paulson

**Others Present:**

Stephen M. Reider, Borough Manager  
David J. Ceraul, Esq., Solicitor  
Mary Ellen DeFranco, Mayor

**Absent:**

Robert Goffredo, Sr.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. Sandy Antunes was present from Empire Coffee to thank Marc Sperling for the event that was held downtown on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
2. Grace Gardella was present from 131 A Street to ask Council where A Street ends and questions regarding the driveway access for the property that was discussed at the Zoning Hearing Board. Manager Reider and Council President Kresge addressed her questions.
3. Genevieve Koval was present from 519 S. Main to thank the fire company for their help during the flood on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
4. Lexi Dostal was present from 255 S. Main to discuss the event held downtown on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
5. Jamie Haschak was present from 601 S. Main to discuss the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup> with Council.
6. Wendy Ashenfalder was present from 123 Messinger to discuss the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup> with Council.
7. Jeff Hardick was present from 326 Messinger to discuss the condition of the alley near Messinger & Miller that was damaged during the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup>.
8. Marvin George was present from 22 Messinger Street to discuss the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup> with Council.
9. Christina Oliva was present from 527 S. Main to discuss the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup> with Council.
10. Jane Long was present from 32 Messinger Street to discuss the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup> with Council.
11. The resident at 22 Messinger Street was present to discuss the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup> with Council.
12. Richard Horan was present from 531-533 S. Main Street to discuss the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup> with Council.
13. The owner of State of the Arc Welding was present to discuss the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup> with Council and thank the guy who rescued the girl in the car who would have drowned.
14. Susan Asbrand was present from 107 Messinger Street to thank the fire company for their help during the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup>.
15. Dale Hendershot was present from 694 S. Main Street to discuss the clogged storm drains in town.
16. Ted Ashenfalder was present from 123 Messinger Street to ask what Council members went to the flood areas. Council President Kresge answered his question.
17. Bridgett Dorsey was present from 236 Messinger Street to suggest to Council to have an engineering study done regarding the placements of catch basins.

18. The resident from 718 Lower South Main Street was present to advise Council that the road at Pennico Park has been washed out due to the heavy rain event on July 16<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked the Police Department for their wonderful work on patrol.
19. Eric Snyder was present from 221 Messinger Street to discuss what he lost during the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked Bangor Public Works for their help with clean up.
20. Kay Stenlake from 310 Messinger Street was present to discuss with Council the flood event on July 16<sup>th</sup>.
21. Floyd Weidman was present from 317 Miller Street to give his preventative suggestions regarding flooding on Messinger Street.
22. The resident from 137 Market Street was present to address Council regarding tickets that he has received for parking on the curb of the sidewalk in front of his house. Council President Kresge will talk to the resident after the meeting.
23. Leila Ross was present from 129 Messinger Street and stated that during the flood in the 70's the dam broke at the top of the hill, and it was never replaced.

Council President Kresge addressed the Public regarding the flooding event on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Kresge talked with the Borough Engineer, and he stated that the borough received 5 inches of rain in 3 hours. A 100-year flood is 5 inches in 8 hours. Kresge stated that the borough spent over one million dollars to put in a 100-year storm piping system in 2019 that would prevent flooding. The flooding event on July 16<sup>th</sup> washed away all the dirt on top of it. However, the piping did not bust or fail. The washout was caused by the flooding/pressure and water above it.

Council President Kresge, Manager Reider and the Borough Engineer met with representatives of Washington Township to determine a permanent solution. This would require Washington Township using the wooded property behind 800 Rutt Road and building a basin. A meeting has been scheduled with Senator Lisa Boscola and Representative Ann Flood to present the case and discuss funding possibilities.

Council President Kresge stated to his knowledge, Bangor Public Works employees responded the day of the flood and have been there after cleaning up. A private contractor has been on-site regarding the destroyed yards and has provided an estimate.

Pending Council approval, the borough will provide dumpsters for the areas affected by the flooding.

Kresge addressed FEMA and commented that the state of PA would need to hit the 23-million-dollar threshold before a federal disaster declaration could be made.

Heather Major was present to give contact information to the residents.

Manager Reider stated that residents would need to go to the Northampton County Emergency Management link on the Borough website to file for any damages.

Marc Sperling thanked the Borough the use of the downtown for the Pride Event held July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Marc also thanked the Borough Police for patrolling the event.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. A **MOTION** to approve payment of the bills totaling \$421,788.93 was made by Donnelly, seconded by Augustine. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.
2. A **MOTION** to approve the minutes dated June 12, 2023, and June 26, 2023, was made by Capone, seconded by Augustine. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.

3. Manager Reider stated that Zac Lytwyn (applicant) is requesting Conditional Use Approval to allow for the construction of four additional apartments including apartments on the first floor. The Bangor Borough Planning Commission has reviewed the project and recommends approval by Council. Solicitor Ceraul introduced the Conditional Use Hearing for 415 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Zac Lytwyn was present to discuss the Conditional Use with Council and answer questions. A **MOTION** was made by Augustine, seconded by Donnelly to approval the conditional application for 415 S. 1<sup>st</sup> pending approval from the Authority for sewer capacity and securing of all necessary permits. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.
4. Solicitor Ceraul stated that Council approved the preliminary/final plan lot line adjustment for 129 and 147 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Street at the last Council Meeting. Ceraul was contacted by Robert Collura's office, indicating that there was a minor mistake in the parking lot configuration. The Bangor Borough Planning Commission has reviewed the project and recommends that Council grant preliminary/final plan approval. A **MOTION** was made by Augustine, seconded by Donnelly to approve the preliminary/final plan as amended. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

1. Chief Jones commented that the need for a full-time test and hiring of at least two full time officers is needed. Jones feels the borough should consider sponsoring any new hire/s. MPOETC will reimburse the academy cost and 49% of the salary for the officer/s.
2. Mayor DeFranco commented that the Liberty Fire Carnival was a success. Mayor DeFranco will be sponsoring free Jacktown ice-cream through Blue Valley Rescue Squad as a contribution on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Roseto Big Time Celebration.
3. Fire Chief Engle stated that some equipment was lost during the flooding event. He provided a list to Manager Reider.
4. Council Member Capone updated Council on the Park Board Events.
5. Manager Reider thanked the Fire Company, Police Department, and Public Works for their quick response during the flooding event. Reider gave Council an update on the damage amounts that the borough submitted to Northampton County for potential reimbursement.
6. A **MOTION** was made by Augustine, seconded by Donnelly to amend the agenda to add consideration of the Messinger properties regrading, topsoil and seed project not to exceed \$15,000. In addition to authorize Manager Reider to work with Waste Management on dumpsters for the clean-up. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.  
A **MOTION** was made by Capone, seconded by Donnelly to approve re-grading the back yards including straw, topsoil and seed, not to exceed \$15,000. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.  
A **MOTION** was made by Capone, seconded by Schweitzer to approve Manager Reider negotiating a discount with Waste Management for dumpsters. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.  
Manager Reider updated Council on two incidents at the pool. Mayor DeFranco is suggesting a picnic basket event some days at the pool so residents can bring food in. Manager Reider suggested that any changes be made next year since the pool season will be ending soon.  
Manager Reider stated that the two dump trucks that the borough had on order for snow removal have been cancelled due to various reasons. A **MOTION** was made by Schweitzer, seconded by Augustine to amend the agenda to include the ordering of a mason dump truck. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried. A **MOTION** was made by Augustine, seconded by Schweitzer to approve Manager Reider ordering a mason dump truck not to exceed \$130,000. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.
7. Council President Kresge stated that tonight demonstrated the value of patience and working together and everybody has a role to make things better in the borough. Kresge thanked the Police, Fire Department, Public Works, and Manager Reider for their work during the flooding event. Kresge felt that Marc Sperling did a good job organizing the Pride Event and it was handled in a mature and disciplined way.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A **MOTION** to go into Executive Session at 9:24 P.M. to discuss legal matters with potential action to follow was made by Donnelly, seconded by Capone. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.

Open session was re-entered at 9:30 P.M. A **MOTION** was made by Augustine, seconded by Capone to amend the agenda to add the action item of appointing someone to negotiate with Washington Township. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Donnelly, seconded by Capone to appoint Stephen Reider with Barry Schweitzer as back-up to negotiate with Washington Township regarding the status of Quarry Ridge and the ultimate resolution of the outstanding issues. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Augustine, seconded by Donnelly. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried. The Bangor Borough Council Meeting adjourned at 9:34 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tracy Palmer, Secretary