

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

MINUTES

DECEMBER 18, 2023 - 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE TO FLAG

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

James Augustine
Rosemarie Capone
Joanna Paulson
Marissa Donnelly
Robert Goffredo, Sr.
Barry G. Schweitzer

Others Present:

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

Absent:

James W. Kresge

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Rachel Giamoni was present from 845 North Broadway, Wind Gap to ask Council if she could plant a memorial tree and a small bench on public property in Bangor for her nephew. Council asked Ms. Giamoni to coordinate with Manager Reider on the details of the memorial.
2. James LaBar was present from 303 North Fourth Street to address the mayor regarding what he heard from three individuals who stated that the mayor was opposed and fighting the Veterans Home on Fourth Street. Mayor DeFranco stated that she does not oppose it completely but opposes the premise as to which it was presented. She feels that the premise needs to be reengineered to account for emergency services.
3. David Carhart from 139 Market Street hopes that there is a tax exemption compromise for Veterans.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. A **MOTION** to approve the minutes dated November 13, 2023 and November 27, 2023, was made by Donnelly, seconded by Capone. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.
2. A **MOTION** to approve payment of the bills totaling \$ 185,763.34 was made by Schweitzer, seconded by Capone. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.
3. A **MOTION** to adopt the 2024 Borough and Authority/Sanitation final budgets was made by Schweitzer, seconded by Augustine. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.
4. A **MOTION** to adopt the 2024 Tax Ordinance #1004 was made by Augustine, seconded by Schweitzer. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried. The general-purpose tax rate is 17.88 mills and the fire tax is 1 mill.
5. A **MOTION** was made by Augustine, seconded by Donnelly to approve the 2024 Borough observed holiday calendar. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.
6. A **MOTION** to approve the 2024 Borough Council meeting schedule, and Authority meeting schedule (meetings starting at 6:30 P.M.), was made by Augustine, seconded by Capone. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.
7. Manager Reider stated that Joanna Paulson has submitted a letter of interest to fill a vacant seat on the Bangor Borough Authority Board. Ms. Paulson addressed Council and stated that she has attended Authority meetings and is aware of the current functions/goals of the Authority. A **MOTION** was made by Schweitzer, seconded by Capone to appoint Joanna Paulson to the Authority Board. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried.

8. Manager Reider provided Council will a copy of the Resolution that was passed in Holton Township, Michigan to protect their second amendment rights. Council Member Paulson mentioned this at the last Council Meeting. Manager Reider and Council discussed the Resolution. Manager Reider will provide Council with a draft Resolution for their review that would pertain to Bangor.
9. Manager Reider provided a list of the 2024 Board and Commission vacancies to Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

1. Chief Engle reported that all is well with the fire department and thanked the borough for all their support and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
2. Chief Jones reported that the full-time police officer hiring process is moving forward. He thanked the Mayor, Manager Reider and Council for all their support and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
3. Council Member Paulson complimented the police department for doing a wonderful job and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
4. Council Member Donnelly wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She thanked Council for their support of the downtown borough events.
5. Council Member Schweitzer updated Council on the recent Authority activities.
6. Council Member Capone wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.
7. Mayor DeFranco praised Authority Chairperson Schweitzer on how well the Authority has been run and all his hard work.
The mayor praised the fire and police departments.
The mayor thanked Council Member Goffredo for all his service and wished him all the best. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
8. Council Member Augustine wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He acknowledged Council Member Goffredo and stated he was a valued member of Borough Council.
9. Solicitor Ceraul wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and wished Council Member Goffredo the best.
10. Manager Reider thanked Council Member Goffredo for his eight years of serving on Borough Council.
Reider thanked Rescue Fire Department for donating a Christmas tree for the borough office.
Reider wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
11. Council Member Goffredo wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He commented that working with Chief Engle and Todd Albert was a pleasure. He praised Chief Jones for his work at the police department and thanked Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Donnelly, seconded by Capone. All were in favor. **MOTION** carried. The Bangor Borough Council Meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy Palmer, Secretary