

## 2013 Government Operations Committee Minutes

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**Government Operations Committee**  
**Monday, January 7, 2013**  
**5:15 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Hawes, Civiello, Nealley, Gallant, Longo, Baldacci, Sprague and Durgin

**Staff:** Farrar, Conlow, Goodwin, Heitmann and Willette

**Others:** Kathy Moriarty, BWD Trustees, Local Media

**1. Quarterly Update – Bangor Water District**

- Introduction of Trustees and Staff (Stan Miller)
- Corrosion Control Plans for Lead Compliance (Kathy Moriarty)
- Project Updates (Kathy Moriarty)
- Council Members' Questions/Comments (Stan Miller)

Kathy Moriarty with the Bangor Water District gave an update on corrosion treatment. All water systems must comply with E.P.A. regulations for lead and copper. Public Education materials have been sent out to inform residents and businesses of what they can do to reduce corrosion levels within their home or facility. Kathy explained that the Water District has been monitoring the levels more frequently by taking samples to evaluate treatment effectiveness.

Kathy Moriarty talked about current Project Updates. Construction on new UV facility is underway and must be in place by October, 2013. Original estimates were \$5 to \$10 million but after all bids came in, the cost came in under \$3.5 million.

Kathy also gave an update on the Johnson Pump Station and the upcoming repairs including replacing valves, electrical controls and pumps.

Pipe replacements continue as the District evaluates which pipes need replacement first.

**2. Council Referral – Ordinance 13-050 Amending Chapter 85, Business Licenses of the Code of the City of Bangor, By Allowing Five Year Automobile Recycling Permits.**

This amendment will allow the City Clerk's Office to issue five year automobile recycling licenses at a fee of \$300, which is equivalent to five one-year licenses available under the current fee schedule.

Lisa Goodwin, City Clerk said that Maine State law now allows up to five year automobile licenses. Lisa is requesting that we move our licenses from one to five year renewals. The fee will be the same and language could be added to inspect vehicles yearly. There will be a cost savings with advertising.

Nealley made a motion to move to Staff Recommendation, along with a requirement that inspections still occur annually; it was seconded and approved.

### **3. Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Tobacco Products in Certain City Parks**

This topic has been discussed on several occasions by the Parks, Recreation, and Harbor Committee and Government Operations Committee. At its last meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Government Operations Committee requested that staff prepare a draft Ordinance amendment incorporating the proposed list of Parks in which smoking products would be prohibited. The background memorandum from the last meeting is attached along with the proposed Ordinance.

Tracy Willette talked of new proposed options for tobacco use in City Parks. He asked how the Committee wanted to proceed from this point.

After lengthy discussions and difference of opinion between the Councilors, a motion was made by Baldacci to move to full Council, seconded by Hawes and doubted by Gallant.

Longo then asked to amend the motion to specify designated smoking areas in each park, and move to full Council. It was seconded by Baldacci and doubted by Gallant.

Willette agreed to present some new ideas on specific designated smoking areas within each park. A vote was taken, 3 were in agreement and 2 opposed, so it will go as first reading and move to full Council on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35p.m.

**Government Operations Committee  
Monday, February 4, 2013  
5:55 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Hawes, Civiello, Nealley, Longo, Baldacci, Blanchette and Durgin

**Staff:** Farrar, Arno and Yardley

**Others:** Bangor Daily News, Staff from St. Joseph Hospital

**1. Request by Community Health and Counseling Services for Lease Extension at Park Woods Transitional Housing Program.**

CHCS would like to extend their current lease of four units at Park Woods through June 30, 2013. CHCS provides services and assistance to the tenants at Park Woods in this space. The rent was adjusted two years ago from \$300 to \$550 per unit, and no further increase is proposed at this time. This has been a beneficial arrangement for all parties and staff recommends approval of the lease extension.

Bob Farrar, Assistant City Manager said that this is a six month extension of the current lease. The only change is adjusting the end date to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and staff recommends approval.

Baldacci made a motion to move consent agenda as presented, it was seconded and approved.

**2. Resolution for Membership and Appointment of Voting Delegate Representative and Alternate for the Maine Service Centers Coalition.**

This action will authorize the City's membership in the Maine Service Centers Coalition for 2013. It is further recommended that Assistant City Manager Bob Farrar, who serves on the Coalition Executive Committee, be appointed as voting delegate for MSCC business meetings, and City Manager Cathy Conlow be appointed as Alternate voting member.

Baldacci read this Item, then made a motion to move to consent agenda, it was seconded and approved.

**3. Request to Accept Funding from St. Joseph Hospital to purchase a Taser for use by the Police Department.**

Due to the increase of incidents at St. Joseph Hospital, officials from St. Joseph have offered to provide funds for the purchase of a Taser to be located at the Hospital for the exclusive use by Bangor Police Officers. This would ensure that a Taser was on-site and available for police officers who respond to or are on private detail at the hospital. A similar arrangement with EMMC was approved several years ago, is currently in place and has worked well. Two background memorandums are attached from the Police Department and St. Joseph Hospital. Staff recommends approval.

Interim Police Chief Peter Arno said that both the Bangor P.D. and St. Joseph Staff feel that purchasing a taser for use at the hospital will aid in keeping their employees safe, as well as others. This is an effective tool used in managing difficult and combative people. St. Joseph Hospital will fund the purchase. The taser will be locked up at the hospital at all times and used only by the Bangor Police Department.

Baldacci moved to approve as recommended, it was seconded and approved.

**4. Request to Upgrade Part Time Grant Manager position at Health and Community Services to Full Time.**

The Director of Health and Community Services has requested that the current part-time (30 hours per week) Grant Manager position be upgraded to full-time (37.5 hours/week). This is a grant-funded position and the proposed upgrade will not impact the general fund. A background memorandum from Director Yardley is attached providing more detail.

Shawn Yardley, Director of Health and Community Services explained that as his department receives new grants, (recently one for SNAP Education and one for Drug Free Communities) there is a need for additional staffing hours. These new grants require significant grant management including reporting to the Federal Government and the University of New England. Yardley said that in the past he has drawn on existing staff for coverage, but his administrative support has reduced drastically over the years.

Yardley asked for approval to upgrade the current part time position of Grant Manager to a full time position.

Bob Farrar, Human Resources Director said that the cost of this upgrade will be approximately \$12,000 which includes both the wage increase plus associated fringe benefit costs. Hawes reiterated that this is fully funded by grants, therefore does not affect the general fund or any other budgeting.

Longo moved staff recommendation, it was seconded by Nealley, and approved.

## **5. Request for the City to Support the Repeal of the Federal Defense of Marriage Act.**

Several Councilors have been contacted and Councilor Baldacci has requested that the Committee discuss whether the city should support the repeal of the Federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). A coalition of public and private sector organizations have formed and are preparing an amicus brief (friend of the Court brief) to be submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court opposing DOMA. The U.S. Supreme Court will be hearing an appeal concerning whether DOMA is legal under the Equal Protection guarantee of the Constitution. The City must indicate whether it would like to participate (sign on to the Brief) by February 14<sup>th</sup>; there is no cost involved. If there is interest in proceeding, a Council Order could be prepared for consideration at the February 11<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. The request and Background information is attached.

Councilor Baldacci explained that an email was received from the Equality Maine Organization about joining an amicus brief. The Defense of Marriage Act was enacted in 1996 which states that even if a state legalizes same sex marriages, the Federal Government would not recognize that as a legal marriage. After the last election, there are now ten states that have legalized same sex marriages. The Defense of Marriage Act creates two types of marriages; one recognized by the Federal Government where they would be entitled to benefits and one which is sanctioned by state law, but without the benefits of the Federal level.

Baldacci went on to say that huge companies such as Microsoft, Gap, Time Warner, and Levi Straus, have already signed on to this. There is no cost to the City of Bangor and Baldacci said that he supports this request to be considered.

Blanchette mentioned that with the last election, Maine voters agreed to same sex marriages, and they should have the equal rights that go along with a marriage.

Civiello said that she will not support; she felt the Supreme Court should decide this issue.

Nealley feels that there is not enough material impact on the citizens of Bangor.

Longo said that he supports states' rights, let the voters' voice be heard at the Supreme Court.

Durgin said that the laws are unfairly administered with same sex marriages. Both Federal and State benefits are affected by this and he supports it.

The motion to approve was opposed by Civiello, so Hawes called for a vote. Committee members voted 4-1 to support Bangor's participation in the Amicus Brief.

Hawes said the item will go forward to be discussed at full Council at the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

**Government Operations Committee**  
**Monday, March 4, 2013**  
**5:45 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Hawes, Civiello, Longo, Blanchette, Sprague, Baldacci and Durgin  
**Staff:** Farrar, Goodwin, Willette, Yardley  
**Others:** Bill Sullivan, BDN, Gilbran, Dan DeGraw, Josh Gass

**1. Establishing Voting Location**

With the pending demolition of the Civic Center at 100 Dutton Street this spring and the opening of the Cross Insurance Center at 515 Main Street, the City must designate a voting location. As the City's agreement with Global Spectrum permits the use of the Cross Insurance Center for voting purposes at no cost to the City, the City Clerk recommends that the Cross Insurance Center at 515 Main Street be designated as the new voting location.

City Clerk Goodwin said that with the old arena being demolished this spring she is requesting that the new voting location be in the new Cross Insurance Center.

Councilor Longo asked about accessibility for disabled and senior citizens. Goodwin said that they could use carts to transport folks into the building.

Councilor Blanchette asked what the plan is to inform voters of the new location. Goodwin said that the Clerk's Office will send out postcard notices to everyone on the voting list. They will also place a notice on facebook, in the local newspaper and any other avenues available. She also noted that there were savings from the November election which will be used on the cost of these notifications.

Baldacci moved staff recommendation, Longo seconded and it was approved.

Bill Sullivan, a Bangor resident publically thanked the Clerk's Office for a great job on accommodating disabled and senior citizens with the last election in November.

## 2. Discussion concerning potential relocation of Bandstand

The Parks and Recreation Department and the Bangor Band have been evaluating options for the relocation of the Bandstand previously located at Paul Bunyan Park. A potential site has been identified at Pickering Square. At this point, staff is seeking Council reaction to the possible use of Pickering Square for the site of the Bandstand.

Parks and Recreation Director Tracy Willette explained the desire by the Bangor Band to relocate to Pickering Square. Willette asked the Committee if Pickering Square could be considered allowing the Bangor Band to create a new shell or gazebo for their entertaining. This location also holds the Cool Sounds Concerts and outdoor movie showings during the summer.

Council Chair Durgin said that he is in favor of the band performing downtown, an ideal spot that will bring folks into the community.

Longo pointed out that although he is in favor of this location, there is a lot going on there and possibly an alternate location may better serve the community at this time.

Sprague is concerned about other conversations about future plans for Pickering Square. His feeling is that perhaps we're touching on too many ideas for one place. Sprague feels that the Waterfront may be a better choice.

Blanchette described her dissatisfaction with the Pickering Square location for the Bangor Band for such reasons as vandalism, graffiti, location of bus hub, the homeless and many other activities that take place in that location.

Baldacci asked who is covering the costs associated with the move and maintenance. Willette said the band has King Foundation funds and volunteers that plan on fundraising. Willette also explained that while the City will offer staffing support, it is not anticipated that the city is contributing financially to the relocation.

Gilbran spoke of his support of the Bangor Band. He is involved with the River City Cinema that shows movies in Pickering Square. Gilbran suggested Pierce Park as an alternate location for the band.

Bangor Resident Dan DeGraw showed his support of the Pierce Park location said that the acoustics are impressive there.

Joshua Gass, on behalf of Kabang, who kicks off each year in Pickering Square suggested Broadway Park as a location.

Baldacci said that in terms of moving forward, the group should come back and talk with the Bangor Band to look at alternative locations.

It was decided to further research options. Willette agreed to come back with Bangor Band representatives and update the Committee with new options.

**Approval of two Memoranda of Understanding between the City of Bangor Health and Community Services Department and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services – Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)**

These are two routine documents outlining the procedures, requirements and responsibilities of the parties regarding public health issues and data.

D.H.H.S. Director Shawn Yardley explained that this is a sharing of demographics and disease data. It formalizes our relationship, and puts the City in a good position in the future for being accredited in our Health Department.

Longo moved staff recommendation; it was seconded by Baldacci and passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**Government Operations Committee**  
**Monday, March 18, 2013**  
**5:17 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Hawes, Gallant, Longo, Blanchette, Sprague, and Durgin  
**Staff:** Farrar, Goodwin, Willette, Yardley, Conlow, Arno, and Heitmann  
**Others:** BDN

**1. Referral- Council Ordinance 13-103, Amending Chapter 61, Alcohol and Entertainment of the Code of the City of Bangor – B.Y.O.B. Function Permits and Off Premises Catering Licenses.**

This Ordinance amendment will allow the City Clerk to sign applications for BYOB Function Permits and Off Premises Catering Licenses, thereby expediting the filing process for applicants. Currently signatures of a majority of the Council is required, and this can be difficult as the applications have a quick turn-around time. Staff recommends approval.

Councilor Longo moved staff recommendation. It was seconded and approved.

**2. Ratifying Staff Action to Apply for and Accept Funding, if approved, from the United Way Neighbors Helping Neighbors 2013 Grant Project.**

The Health and Community Services Department has applied for a United Way Grant in the amount of \$2500 to provide fuel assistance for individuals/families in need, for whom no other options are available. Due to the short grant application timeframe, staff needed to submit the grant request last week. This Order will ratify the grant submission, and accept the funds, if the grant is approved. Staff recommends approval.

D.H.H.S. Director Shawn Yardley said that at this time of year, people have exhausted all other resources for fuel assistance with no other options available. If successful, this grant will give the City additional resources to help those in need.

Blanchette moved staff recommendation; it was seconded by Longo and approved.

### **3. Discussion of Municipal Rights and Responsibilities concerning sex offenders.**

Several Councilors have requested an opportunity to have a general discussion with City Solicitor Heitmann regarding this issue. A background memorandum is attached. Solicitor Heitmann will be present to brief the Committee and answer questions.

City Solicitor Norm Heitmann explained the state statute reads that municipalities can adopt ordinances for the residency of sex offenders. He added that there have been several discussions of this topic in the past with Council. He asked if there is an interest from Council to pursue an ordinance regarding residency requirements for sex offenders within state statute limitations. Currently there is no statutory restriction on where they can reside, but stipulations can be placed as part of their probation with the court system.

Attendees spoke in favor and against revisiting this issue and the previous ordinance proposal.

Norm agreed to pull together information from past Council discussions and come back to further discuss.

Gallant made a motion to revisit the original ordinance and to move it to First Reading as well, Sprague seconded it, and it was voted by a majority of the Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

**Government Operations Committee**  
**Monday, April 1, 2013**  
**5:35 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Council Members:** Hawes, Longo, Blanchette, Baldacci, Civiello, Sprague, and Durgin  
**Staff:** Conlow, Farrar, and Willette  
**Others:** Lori Wingo and Sue McKay of Bangor Band, and Nick McCrea of BDN

**1. Review of Proposed Resolve, Establishing a Position in Support of Legislation to Reduce Costs and Increase Access to Methadone Treatment.**

This Resolve would indicate the City Council's support for LD 1213 which would reduce costs and increase access to Methadone Treatment. A copy of the draft Resolve and LD 1213 are attached.

City Manager Conlow states this is the result of a piece of legislation that the City requested through the legislative process. It's to reduce cost and increase access to methadone clinics. The Council wants to support this.

Baldacci states it should be titled an act to decentralize the availability of methadone. It should help people who need it but should also benefit community so it doesn't cause a cluster but more spread out. Several Councilors spoke supporting the proposed Resolve

**Longo moved and seconded by Baldacci to recommend to full council. Approved by the Committee.**

**2. Continued Discussion Regarding Relocation of Bandstand.**

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Committee met with Parks and Recreation Director Willette to review a request by the Bangor Band to relocate the Bandstand to Pickering Square. Committee members and other Councilors in attendance expressed various opinions on the proposal, both in favor and opposed. Representatives of the Bangor Band have requested an opportunity to meet with the Committee to continue the discussion concerning relocation of the bandstand.

Director Willette of Parks and Recreation introduced 2 band representatives Sue McKay & Lori Wingo (President of the Band & Bangor citizen).

Wingo brings up 2 points of concern. First point is that the committee had heard nothing of their request for a permanent stage for the Bangor Band in Pickering Square. Second point was that the public had no clarity on the Council's decision making process. Wingo would like to make some clarification on these 2 points. Late Spring 2011 the band heard from Director Willette who informed them that the gazebo was to be demolished for the construction of the new Cross Center. He mentioned there could be a new bandstand constructed but cautioned it may not make it into the final construction plans. July 5<sup>th</sup> was the band's final performance at the park and the rest of their 8 concerts were held at the Waterfront Stage or other parks around the city. Husson University was gracious to offer Gracie Theatre for any of the remaining summer concerts if it rained. In the Fall of 2011 the board of the Bangor Band met to investigate options for a new performance stage. Willette mentioned the possibility of an amphitheatre down a ways from the Waterfront Stage but the board declined this site due to the remoteness of the venue, accessibility of the site for the set up and break down of band equipment and for our patrons. Other city parks were considered but were rejected due to parking, street noise and accessibility. Winter & Spring of 2012 we had many site location meetings and met with Mr. Willette at Pickering Square to discuss the possibility of a performance stage at this site. The advantages of this site are accessibility and visibility in a central location in Bangor. At this time, Husson University wanted to host us permanently for indoor and outdoor performances. The board decided to split the season in the two locations and let our patrons weigh in with their opinions by doing surveys. During this time, The Steven & Tabitha King Foundation graciously offered a \$25,000 grant for the construction of the new performance stage. Sept. 2012 the board met to review surveys from patrons and based on these surveys, the patrons disliked the Pickering Square venue due to safety concerns, feeling intimidated by non-concert goers, and the fact the paved site was not as conducive to an in the park concert like our former home at Bass Park. Band members had safety concerns as well as smoking and the cleanliness of the area. Before performances a member of the band had to show up early to remove garbage, cigarette butts and used baby diapers. Preferred site was Husson University but the board feared losing its identity with the City of Bangor. So the board voted to go forward with the permanent performance stage at Pickering Square provided the City could address safety concerns, lingering and the cleanliness of the area. We acknowledge Councilor Blanchette's concerns for graffiti and vandalism on a permanent stage, but we are hopeful that the City can address these concerns on a larger level for this area. We gave this suggestion to Mr. Willette to be brought to the Council in Fall 2012. It came to our attention at this time there was a larger scale meeting going on regarding

Pickering Square and solutions to some of the challenges in that area. It is now 2013 and we are coming up on 2 years of homelessness for the Bangor Band. We have represented and served this area for 153 years. Membership is growing and we are proud to serve this City but we are baffled as to why the City is not helping us more but only telling us where we can't build a permanent performance spot. We look forward to working with the City to find a permanent spot that is mutually agreeable so we can keep the long tradition of past, present and future musicians and listeners alive.

Councilors spent considerable time discussing the benefits and limitations of various possible locations including Pickering Square, the Waterfront and existing City Parks with the Bangor Band Representatives. At the end of the discussion, a majority of the Committee felt that the Waterfront offered the best possible location. Staff was directed to include an item on an upcoming Business and Economic Development Committee agenda to review the options and land parcels available on the Waterfront that could house the Gazebo and Bangor Band. The Band representatives agreed to meet with the B & ED Committee.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

**Government Operations Committee  
Wednesday, April 17, 2013  
5:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Blanchette, Baldacci, Civiello, Durgin

**Staff:** Farrar, Arno, Willette, Comstock, Heitmann, Conlow

**Others:** Steven Hicks, Ginger Ward-Green, Angel Shaw, Dana Wright

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for and Accept \$5000 from the Maine Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services to continue to implement strategies to increase awareness about problem gambling in the Healthy Maine Partnership service area.**

This grant will be used to increase public awareness about problem gambling in the Healthy Maine Partnership service area. Staff recommends approval.

- 2. Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for and Accept \$15,000 from the Maine Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services to continue to implement strategies to reduce prescription drug misuse and prevent marijuana use in the Healthy Maine Partnership service area.**

This grant will be used to continue public education and implement strategies to reduce prescription drug and marijuana misuse in the Healthy Maine Partnership service area. Staff recommends approval.

- 3. Ratifying staff action submitting a Letter of Intent to Apply for and Accept funding in the amount of \$20,000 from the Maine Health Access Foundation.**

As the letter of intent deadline was April 12, this order will ratify action by staff submitting the letter. The grant will be used to identify one or two critical health issues warranting attention in the Penquis Area. The City will be partnering with a number of other regional organizations. Staff recommends approval.

- 4. Referral – Council Ordinance 13-124, Amending Chapter 278 Taxicabs, of the Code of the City of Bangor, By Authorizing the Board of Appeals to Hear Taxicab License Appeal Hearings from the City Council to the Board of Appeals.**

This Ordinance Amendment transfers Taxicab License Appeal Hearings from the City Council to the Board of Appeals.

Councilor Baldacci moved the Consent Agenda, Mayor Durgin seconded and it was approved.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 5. Update – Discussion of Location for the Bangor Band.

Representatives of the Bangor Band met with the Committee on April 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss possible locations for the Band. The Committee asked Parks and Recreation Director Willette to meet with Band representatives to further discuss potential locations and to return with an analysis of the top locations. Director Willette and representatives of the Bangor Band will be present.

Director Willette showed the Council images of the 2 locations that are being looked at for a permanent home for the Bangor Band. One spot is at the Bangor Municipal Golf Course and the other is the Waterfront area. After discussing each location with the Band, Director Willette states the Bangor Band prefers the Waterfront area.

Councilors discussed the Waterfront area and a Gazebo that could be used not just by the Band but usable by the people of Bangor for weddings, picnics, and to enjoy the Waterfront, etc. Business & Economic Development needs to be involved in discussion to make sure there are not already plans for developing any of the 3 parcels. Parking and walking distance needs to be kept in mind as well in regards to the 3 parcels and which is the chosen spot.

Councilor Baldacci moved, it was seconded and recommended that further consideration be given to the Waterfront site(s) in conjunction with the Business and Economic Development Committee.

### 6. Council Ordinance 13-114. Amending the Code of the City of Bangor, Chapter 215, Police Regulations, by Adding New Section 215-13, Sex Offender Residency Restrictions.

This Ordinance amendment would add sex offender registry restrictions to the City Code, as permitted by Maine Law. As requested by the Committee, Staff members have been assembling information and data to provide to the Committee on this issue. City Solicitor Heitmann has distributed this information separately in your Council boxes. Legal and Police Department Staff will be present to update the Committee.

City Solicitor Heitmann provided a map highlighting areas that would be off limits to registered sex offenders convicted of certain crimes in the City of Bangor. This is only in regards to publically owned land by the City that would have these limitations by State Law. The Council can vote to make it less than the proposed 750 ft.

A few Bangor citizens gave brief comments in regards to this matter.

Councilors discussed the aspects of Bangor having a high person to sex offender ratio. Could lead to more offenders moving in and others leaving. This Ordinance will tell offenders where

they can live, not where they can't live. If any do not want to live in the designated areas, then they can look to live in other towns.

Councilor Baldacci stated that Bangor had a 5% increase in population from 2000-2005 which is a good thing. Some discussion on how far the City can go to take each on a case by case basis and how close this will make us to profiling people, etc. Interim Chief Arno states that it is possible to do on a case by case basis. This Ordinance takes into account the worst of the worst offenders who were convicted of crimes against children 14 years and younger.

City Solicitor Heitmann needs approval from this committee to be on the next Council agenda. No member opposed so it will be on the next upcoming Council Meeting agenda.

Adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

**Government Operations Committee  
Monday May 6, 2013  
5:15 p.m.  
City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Blanchette, Baldacci, Civiello, Durgin, Longo, Sprague, Longo

**Staff:** Farrar, Hathaway, Willette, Yardley, Heitmann, Conlow

**Others:** BDN, Mike Aube, Jon Farley, Glenn Ross, Amy Richard, Lucy Quimby

**1. Overview of Vocational and Housing Support Grant and Work Ready Program.**

At the request of Councilor Civiello, representatives will be present to discuss the Grant and Program. Invitees include Michael Aube and Jon Farley from Eastern Maine Development Corporation; Penobscot County Sheriff Glenn Ross and Amy Richard from Maine Pretrial Services.

Sheriff Ross summed up the grant program by stating it is basically an educational program that will help stop the high rate of recidivism by offering work training programs and peer navigators to help keep them stable with things such as making sure they are seeing their doctors and keeping up on their medications.

Amy spoke of the components of the grant program. The idea is to get them vocational training and treatment support to help the repeat offenders before they are re-incarcerated. The program will direct people to any help services they need and that are available to them such as housing. Also, they are being monitored by this program by checking in a few times a week to make sure they are on the right track.

Housing seemed to be a topic of concern and the cost it may impose on tax payers. Sheriff Ross stated that this grant money is only for educational purposes, not housing costs at all. They will educate people how to find housing services, not find actual housing for them.

**2. Update – Bangor Trails Committee**

Representatives of Bangor Trails will update the Committee on their plans and activities.

Director Willett stated this year they are planning and Bangor/Brewer trail ways event. June 2<sup>nd</sup> there is an event planned to walk trails from Bangor to Brewer. The Committee would like to have this event tied in to the unveiling of the Continuity of Community Sculpture to help showcase Bangor Trails.

Lucy Quimby of the Bangor Land Trust was in attendance. A list of things that have been worked on since 2006 was handed out. Lucy updated everyone on the wonderful help the City staff and Councilors have been.

Councilor Sprague stated that when you work on projects you don't see the great importance of some things until you look back. He feels the trail systems and the work done for Bangor Trails will be very highly valued. The link between communities such as Bangor, Orono and Brewer is a great thing to help spread the word and get people active and enjoying the outdoors.

Councilors congratulated Lucy and the others who've worked so hard on this. Great work! The Trail System is a great asset for Bangor.

### **3. Discussion and Review of Synthetic Drug Concerns and Proposed Ordinance.**

Concerns regarding the sale and use of synthetic drugs have been raised in the community. The Legal Department has been asked to review and provide an approach to deal with this issue at the local level.

City Solicitor Norm Heitmann opened the discussion about removing synthetic drugs off the shelf, namely "spice" as a proposed City Ordinance. Baldacci says he spoke to a store owner and his major concern was that this ordinance should be uniform for all businesses.

Councilors talked about the possible ordinance and the benefits it could bring to the City as well as possible down falls. How will the City monitor it, etc. Store owners were commended for volunteering to remove these synthetic drugs from their shelves.

Councilors believe this is a move in the right direction.

City Solicitor Heitmann suggests the Council move on this before the legislation goes through.

Councilor Blanchette moved for first reading to full Council and Councilor Longo seconded. So Approved.

**4. Referral – Council Resolve 13-139, Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate \$334,211 in Shelter Plus Care funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.**

The purpose of the grant is to provide rental assistance to qualified individuals and families living in Penobscot County for the period April, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

Director of Health and Human Resources Shawn Yardley described Shelter Plus Care and benefits of its help with lowering the costs of the General Assistance Program.

Councilor Longo asks if there are any other communities in Maine or New England using this program? Yardley states that Bangor is the only one that manages this program itself as a municipality.

Director Yardley stated we have about 120 families/people using this program.

Councilor Gallant moved and Councilor Blanchette seconded to recommend passage to the Council. So approved.

Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

**Government Operations Committee  
Monday May 20, 2013  
5:15 p.m.  
City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Blanchette, Baldacci, Civiello, Durgin, Longo, Sprague, Gallant, Nealley

**Staff:** Farrar, Hathaway, Heitmann, Conlow, Dr. Webb, Patty Hamilton, Paul Nicklas

**Others:** Drew Lane Residents

**1. Discussion concerning Charter Schools**

At the request of Councilor Baldacci, Superintendent Webb met with the Committee to discuss the various aspects and implications associated with the State law provision allowing Charter Schools.

Dr. Webb started by saying she is an advocate for public schools. Implications to Bangor School System will be limited with Charter Schools. Most concerns are due to money issues. Most of the Bangor students who have gone to Charter Schools were mostly homeschooled. Dr. Webb's concern is for example an application for a Charter School stated they would offer calculus where Bangor Schools have offered calculus for years. One person Dr. Webb contacted who had written a letter in support of Charter Schools said he did not write the letter of support and would come speak of it if needed. This was very concerning. Research collected on choice and charter schools has been mixed. Bangor has been rated as an out performer of students reaching their educational goals. Some feel the best educational interest should be the parent's choice not schools/superintendents agreement. This is concerning for example for some who make a choice due to sports teams they'd rather play for, or the dislike of a teacher in present school. Dr. Webb gave few examples of requests that are not in the best interest of the students' education. Dr. Webb described legislation LD791 and LD530 and feels LD530 is better.

Councilor Baldacci requested this meeting because Charter Schools get tax payer money so that means they are taking money from the already shrinking pool of money set aside for education. In regards to the choice issue, Bangor tax payers shouldn't have to pick up slack for students coming from different schools because they choose to attend a Charter School.

Councilor Gallant's concern with Charter Schools makes education more about business and money. This should not be what education is about; it should be about the student and their education. Gallant suggests looking at it through zoning areas and limit where Charter Schools could be in the City's zones.

Councilor Blanchette doesn't have a problem if there is a need for a Charter School but does have a problem if there are already public schools who meet the needs of students.

Councilor Civiello brought to attention the good of Charter Schools that offer things that public schools don't. The goal is to help as many students possible to graduate from school. She also stated that not all students are looking to go to college and prepare for that. They may do better learning "working skills" offered by Charter Schools. Dr. Webb stated that Bangor Schools do have those classes available as well.

Councilor Blanchette asked if the Council should be thinking about creating an ordinance that states if someone is looking to open a Charter School, they should offer things that are not offered already in the public school system. We need to know who is coming in to the city to start Charter Schools and the people/businesses backing them and possible motives.

Councilor Baldacci thinks we should have a resolve that City Council should have a say in decisions the Legislature makes concerning this subject. This is until we can vet issues that may affect the City of Bangor. Two other things to consider are the Moratorium issue and Superintendent Agreements.

Councilor Sprague moved to have City Solicitor Heitmann prepare language with the 3 issues above. Councilor Longo seconded and approved for first reading.

## **2. Proposed Ordinance – Prohibiting the feeding of Birds and Animals so as to create a Disturbance or Unsanitary Condition.**

This proposed Ordinance would prohibit the feeding of birds or animals in situations where it creates a disturbance or unsanitary condition. This request comes forward due to concerns expressed in a neighborhood where a resident is feeding/attracting large numbers of birds.

Assistant City Solicitor Paul Nicklas stated that some residents on Drew Lane have concerns of the attraction of animals/birds by putting lots of grains and food on the ground. This has caused lots of animal waste in the neighborhood. The proposed Ordinance is an adaptation from other cities ordinances. It states that you cannot feed animals in a way that creates an unsafe condition, or attracts large amounts of animals to cause a nuisance.

Steve Colman, Drew Lane resident, expressed concerns with this matter explaining what their neighbor has been doing to create a nuisance and unsanitary conditions. This neighbor has been approached over the years in a nice neighborly way, but refused to stop. Than a neighbor went to Code Enforcement who sent him a letter with all the negative effects it's causing for his neighbors. Nothing has changed and it's very frustrating. It's an unsanitary health issue and hopes this Ordinance will help.

The penalty for violating the Ordinance is a Civil Fine.

Councilors thank citizens for coming and bringing this to the Councils attention. This is a quite reasonable request.

Councilor Gallant asked if there were any possible loop holes; Civil Liberties, etc. Asst. City Solicitor Nicklas states the cities ordinances that he used have not had any issues as of yet so he hopes Bangor will not either.

Councilor Blanchette and citizens agree in the fact that the fine needs to be large and attention getting. Nothing else will work unless they are hit in the wallet.

Councilor Sprague moved to bring forward the proposed Ordinance to Council and Councilor Longo seconded. So approved.

### **3. Proposed Solicitation Ordinances**

- a. Amending Chapter 291 Vehicles and Traffic, Section II, Pedestrians – Vehicle Solicitation
- b. Amending Chapter 257 Sidewalks – Unreasonable Solicitation

These proposed Ordinances would place certain limits on solicitation activities associated with vehicles and pedestrians. They have been developed and are presented as part of the ongoing discussion concerning solicitation in Pickering Square and other parts of the community.

City Solicitor Norm Heitmann briefly tells what these Ordinances are intended to prohibit; to prevent safety hazards both for pedestrian and vehicles and conduct of pedestrians soliciting.

Councilors discuss how fines/penalties should be imposed for first and reoccurring offences. Community service could go along with fines.

Councilor Sprague moved and Councilor Longo seconded to recommend to the Council.

#### **4. Proposed amendments to the City's Personnel Rules and Regulations**

From time to time, it is necessary to update the Personnel Rules and Regulations handbook to conform with state or federal law changes, and make needed revisions and/or housekeeping changes. There are six proposed amendments which are outlined in the attached Council Action Page and Council Order.

Councilor Sprague moved and Councilor Longo seconded the proposed amendments and they were recommended to the Council for appeal.

Adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

## GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Monday, June 3, 2013  
5:40 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

### MINUTES

**Council Members:** Hawes, Blanchette, Civiello, Nealley, Durgin, Baldacci, Gallant

**Staff:** Farrar, Hathaway, Wardwell, Yardley

**Others:** Jane Gopan, Ron Green, John York

#### 1. Request for Parking Assistance Consideration-French Street.

The City Council recently enacted an Ordinance prohibiting parking on the westerly side of French Street, from Cumberland Street to Garland Street due to the narrowness of the street (Council Ordinance 13-095). City Councilors and City Staff have received correspondence from a property owner, Jane Gopan at 302 French Street, outlining a hardship that the Ordinance has created. Ms. Gopan has requested to speak with the Committee about her concerns and to see whether any consideration can be granted for this situation. Ms. Gopan will be present to address the Committee.

Assistant City Manager Bob Farrar introduces Jane Gopan, resident of French Street. This Ordinance has created a hardship for her and her family's home on the corner.

Ms. Gopan spoke about her family's property. She would have attended the public meeting a few weeks ago, but did not receive the letter at her residence in Massachusetts. She came to visit the home along with family and was shocked to hear of the new Ordinance that stated there was only parking on one side of the street. The only thing different about her home in regards to others on the street is that most have driveways and hers only has a small spot that is 5 feet from the sidewalk and not adequate parking. This new Ordinance has impacted them in a big way. She showed photos of all the other residences on French Street who have adequate parking. She is requesting that they be able to again park on the street on their side. She suggested using permit parking again.

Councilor Sprague asks City Staff if there are any recommendations.

Director of Public Works Dana Wardwell explained that the City could eliminate the No Parking Sign on Garland Street without any problem.

Chief Hathaway agreed that he and Dana could spend some time looking at the road ways and come up with something that would work for the neighborhood.

Councilors mostly agreed upon going back to the parking permit to solve this problem.

Asst. City Manager Farrar stated that staff can have things ready to come back to committee in 2 weeks.

**2. Resolve 13-184, Accepting and Appropriating a \$25,250 Amendment to the WIC Nutrition Program Grant.**

Councilor Sprague moved and Councilor Blanchette seconded to recommend to the Council, and so voted.

**3. Resolve 13-185, Authorizing Acceptance and Appropriation of a grant for \$26,000 from the Maine Office of Substance Abuse to implement strategies to increase awareness about problem gambling; to implement a risk reduction program for youth who have violated school alcohol or drug policies; to increase awareness about the risks of marijuana use; and to provide specialized VetCorps services in our Healthy Maine Partnership service area.**

Councilor Sprague moved and Councilor Baldacci seconded to recommend to the Council, and so voted.

**4. Resolve 13-186, Accepting and Appropriating a \$602,941 Healthy Maine Partnership Grant from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to Respond to Public Health Issues.**

Councilor Sprague moved and Councilor Baldacci seconded to recommend to the Council, and so voted.

**5. Resolve 13-187, Authorizing the City Manager to accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of \$37,250 from the Maine Centers for Disease Control Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund grant to support lead poisoning prevention activities in the Penquis Public Health District.**

Councilor Sprague moved and Councilor Blanchette seconded to recommend to the Council, and so voted.

**6. Resolve 13-188, Accepting and Appropriating a Grant from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Substance Abuse, in the amount of \$50,000 to Support an Overdose Prevention Program.**

Councilor Sprague moved and Councilor Blanchette seconded to recommend to the Council, and so voted.

Adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

## Government Operations Committee

Monday, June 17, 2013

5:35 p.m.

City Council Chambers

### MINUTES

**Council Members:** Blanchette, Civiello, Nealley, Durgin, Baldacci, Gallant, Longo, Sprague

**Staff:** Farrar, Conlow, Hathaway, Yardley, Nicklas, Wardwell

**Others:** Supt. Betsy Webb, Jane Gopan

#### 1. Referral – Council Ordinance 13-194, Enacting a Moratorium on Charter Schools.

Asst. City Solicitor stated this Ordinance would create an 180 day Moratorium to not allow issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for any Charter Schools in the Bangor area.

Councilor Longo moved and Councilor Gallant seconded to recommend to the Council, and so voted.

Discussion of the Moratorium with Councilors and Superintendent Webb in regards to homeschooled students.

Councilor Baldacci suggested that Superintended Webb ask a Charter School Representative come to the full Council meeting when this matter is discussed.

#### 2. Update and Recommendation – French Street Parking Concern.

At the last meeting, Ms. Jane Gopan of 302 French Street met with the Committee to discuss a parking concern. Following the discussion, the Committee directed staff to prepare options and a recommendation regarding the situation.

Chief Hathaway began with details about parking issues on French Street and resident's concerns.

Director Wardewell spoke of the 5 options for the committee to consider to help reduce the problems caused by the parking restrictions for residence. Recommendation was to remove the restriction of no parking from here to corner on the northwesterly corner of French and Garland Street.

Ms. Gopan stated that this recommendation would still be a problem because there would be competition with other residents for spaces. She does not feel this is the best option. She feels the option she prefers is the special permit to park in front of her house. This can be explained to all other residence by stating they have parking options where the Gopans do not have another option.

Councilor Longo felt that due to staff findings, permit parking would cause too many concerns with other residents.

Councilor Longo moved staff recommendation to remove the no parking sign from here to corner on French and Garland Streets. Councilor Civiello seconded to move staff's recommendation.

Councilor Gallant would like to see the street be one way all the way to State Street to not only help the Gopans out but for others who take care of plowing, etc., in this area. This would maximize the parking for residents.

Councilor Longo withdrew his motion. So noted.

Councilor Blanchette agrees with Councilor Gallant to make the entire street one way. If this were to pass recommendation, a public hearing would have to be held first.

Councilor Gallant moved to have a public hearing for option #3, one way option, on July 15<sup>th</sup> with notice to all land owners effected. Councilor Longo seconded and so voted.

3. **Draft Order – Ratifying City Staff action to Apply for Funding from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, Sodium Reduction in Communities Program.**

Given the short notice and response deadline, this order would ratify the application that has been submitted.

Councilor Longo moved staff recommendation with Councilor Gallant's second.

Councilor Civiello asked Director Yardley to explain this funding. Councilor Civiello is not in favor of this only because the City just cut 4 staff positions and this program calls for the hire of one staff member. She also felt that the government should not be telling people how much sodium we should be putting in our food.

Director Yardley stated we would not be telling people how much salt they should use, it would be to educate larger facilities how to be healthier in regards to sodium consumption.

Councilor Blanchette also does not support this grant program. It's frivolous in her mind.

Director Yardley states that even though people think it's an easy thing to limit sodium intake, but this is not what research and statistics revealed. It is an important health issue.

Vote ended up to be 3 in favor with 2 opposed. Vote approved to go to full Council.

Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

## Government Operations Committee

Monday, July 1, 2013  
5:15 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

### MINUTES

**Council Members:** Blanchette, Civiello, Durgin, Longo, Sprague

**Staff:** Farrar, Heitmann, Yardley, Goodwin

**Others:**

**1. Renewal of Lease with Bangor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for Office Space for Bangor Health and Community Services Department.**

This is a renewal lease for office space at BNRC at 103 Texas Ave. for the Department of Health and Community Services.

Asst. City Manager Farrar introduces the first item as the renewal of the lease with the Bangor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The renewal would be for \$10 a square foot for the next 3 years. There is an option for another 3 years renewal after that.

Councilor Sprague moved, Councilor Blanchette seconded and it was a vote.

**2. Referral: Council Ordinance 13-224, Amending Chapter 85 Business Licenses of the Code of the City of Bangor, by Increasing the fee for Taxicab Licenses.**

This Ordinance will increase the fee for taxicab license by \$5.00 to cover the cost of printing and supplying taxi meter seals to the Sealer of Weights and Measures.

City Clerk Goodwin has brought this item tonight to increase the fee for taxicab licenses to cover the cost of the seals since it was not bringing any revenue in and the cost of the seal needed to be covered.

Councilor Sprague moved staff recommendation and seconded by Councilor Blanchette. It's a vote.

Adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

## Government Operations Committee

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

5:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

### MINUTES

**Council Members:** Blanchette, Civiello, Nealley, Durgin, Baldacci, Longo, Sprague

**Staff:** Farrar, Conlow, Hathaway, Nicklas, Wardwell

**Others:** Rachel White and other French Street Residents

#### 1. Justice Assistance Grant Application.

This is a grant that the Police Department routinely applies for normally in conjunction with the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department. Staff recommends approval.

Chief Hathaway stated we share this grant with the Sheriff's office. It will be put towards patrol issues for example replacing a rifle, 2 taser units and upgrading firearm protection items.

Councilor Longo moved staff recommendation, seconded by Councilor Blanchette and approved.

#### 2. Update/Discussion – Council Ordinance 13-180, Prohibiting Feeding of Animals and Birds so as to Create a Disturbance or Unsanitary Condition.

Councilor Blanchette has requested a brief discussion with the Committee to review the interpretation/application of the Ordinance.

Councilor Blanchette brought all up to speed on the Drew Lane/Bangor Garden issues and the possible cause of unsanitary/unsafe conditions.

Asst. City Solicitor Paul Nicklas stated one problem had been taken care of with the Bangor Garden gentleman with a friend purchasing him a bird feeder. The Drew Lane issues seem to have been taken care of with this Ordinance. The Code Office has received no further complaints since the Ordinance has been enacted. There was no action necessary as this was an update.

### **3. Proposal to Consider Making French Street One-Way from South Park Street to Somerset Street.**

The City recently enacted an Ordinance prohibiting parking on the westerly side of French Street from Cumberland Avenue to Garland Street. This change and an ensuing parking problem resulted in further discussion concerning the narrowness of French Street. A suggestion was made to consider making French Street one-way, and the Committee asked that this be scheduled on the agenda for public input and comment.

Asst. City Manager Farrar brought all up to speed in regards to the French/Garland Street parking problems. The owner of the home that brought this issue to Council, has since sold the home to John Bapst High School. The overall consensus of remaining residents has strongly suggested to leave the parking and traffic flow the way it is now.

Councilor Sprague made a motion to keep French Street as it is without the proposed change to one way.

French Street resident, Rachel White, wanted to be sure that all know that if this is revisited again, that the reason why things were decided the way they were, was for safety reasons, not convenience.

Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

**Government Operations Committee**  
**Monday, August 5, 2013**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Baldacci, Blanchette, Civiello, Longo, Durgin, Nealley, Gallant, Sprague

**Staff:** Farrar, Conlow, Linscott

**Others:** Don Cooper, Media, Tom Crikelair

**1. Community Connector/Odlin Road Bus Route – Review of Public Comments and Discussion of Proposed Route Discontinuance.**

Several Councilors have expressed a desire to revisit the previous decision to cease operation of that route on September 1, 2013. The net cost to operate the route is approximately \$2,000 a month. Funding for two months of service (July and August) was included in the approved FY 2014 budget. The cost to reinstate the route for the remaining 10 months of FY 2014 is approximately \$20,000.

Assistant City Manager Farrar stated that after the decision to cease the Odlin Bus Route on September 1<sup>st</sup>, there was a public hearing held regarding this issue. Many of the public either attended or send word of their opinions. One business came forward on this route that offered \$2,000 toward keeping the route open. Before taking action to see if any other donors are willing to help fund the route we wanted to see if the committee has ideas, concerns, etc. Staff spoke of needing an order to allow solicitation for this fund.

Councilor Longo added that he was at the public hearing as well as rode this route and the stories he'd heard have been heartfelt.

Assistant City Manager Farrar, also spoke of the change in funding for public transportation by the State. Penquis Cap as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, is purchasing significantly fewer monthly passes, hence the lower revenue. This is an issue in addition to Odlin Road.

Discussion of numbers in regards to the Odlin Route. It is the route with the least number of riders, but no less important then others. Is it fiscally responsible to keep the route open if we can't get donors to cover most costs? Could other routes

that are not being utilized totally be cut down a bit to help spread the money around?

Councilor Baldacci proposed to authorize the creation of a fund so donations can be accepted and to keep the route open for 2 months while donation efforts get off the ground.

Councilors discussed different ideas of what could be done to save this route.

Councilor Longo moved to set up an account to solicit and accept funds as private donations to go into keeping the Odlin Route extension running. Councilor Blanchette seconded and it was approved.

## **2. Update from Crikelair and Associates, Transit Consultant, regarding Community Connector Hub Study.**

Crikelair and Associates were engaged to perform a study of the transit hub at Pickering Square and alternative sites. The Consultant has completed a portion of the work, and would like to update the Committee. Draft Chapters 1-6 of the study will be provided separately with Councilor's weekly packets due to their length. The Consultant will be seeking Committee input on Chapter 6, Preliminary Review of Candidate Sites.

Assistant City Manager Farrar introduced Tom Crikelair who is the Transit Hub Consultant. Crikelair wanted to go through some chapters of the study so he can be sure they are on the right path of their short list of what could be potentially done in regards to the hub. The study's purpose is to see if Pickering Square is the best option or are there other possibilities. Crikelair stated what they had found in regards to different sites and Pickering Square. They feel that buses at Pickering Square should be reduced to 5 buses or so and moving them to Water Street; it would still be at Pickering Square minus the confusion in front of the garage. First there needs to be a reduction in the number of buses at the hub at one time. This will allow vehicles to flow freely through there.

Crikelair spelled out all the options that they have come across in regards to different candidate sites but still feels that rearranging Pickering Square is still the City's best option. He discussed changing routes and making them more usable to more potential riders by intermingling routes.

Councilor Gallant asked why he had been told all along that the hub and spoke system is the best, not an intermingled system. Crikelair stated that it is the

most inexpensive, not necessarily the best system. There is a need to decrease transfers as much as possible because customers do not like that.

Councilor Baldacci asked for hard numbers for the top 4 or 5 sites to make an educated decision. Can Crikelair come back in 30 days with a strong recommendation with a fiscal impact out of the top 4? (Pickering Square, Water Street, Airport Hub, Quirk Property). Crikelair responded that he can return to the Committee later in the fall with the requested information on the top four potential sites.

**Government Operations Committee**  
**Monday, August 19, 2013**  
*Immediately Following the Special City Council Meeting-5:10pm*  
**City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Baldacci, Blanchette, Civiello, Longo, Durgin, Nealley, Sprague

**Staff:** Farrar, Conlow, Lucas, Rindy Fogler

**Others:** Media

- 1. Referral – Council Resolve 13-272, Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate \$391,990 in Shelter Plus Care Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the period 9-1-2013 to 8-31-2014.**

Moved, seconded and approved to recommend approval to the full Council.

- 2. Fire Department Presentation – Emergency Response Plans.**

Chief Lucas stated that the City of Bangor has numerous travel routes that pose a danger to transporting hazardous materials. Everyone in the Fire Department has been trained in hazard material operations. It's a very specific type of training and we share a regional resource with the City of Orono's Fire Department and we contribute a sum of money annually to their Hazardous Response Team. In this joint regional resource each fire department involved is in charge of different duties. We just found out that through the State there is more training that is fully funded that our fire fighters will be going through in the near future.

Chief Lucas also explained our relationship to both the State (MEMA) and Federal (FEMA) program in regards to Hazardous Material. Chief Lucas stated that the Chief, as appointed Director, can contact MEMA directly to utilize them as a resource. If the incident is on a larger scale MEMA can in turn directly contact FEMA at the federal level.

Baldacci suggested that we use the Government Channel for a 10 or 15 minute video for citizens about our plans if a Hazardous Material Incident occurs.

### **3. Discussion of SAFER Fire Grant Opportunity.**

Chief Lucas explained about the \$320,000,000 SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire Fighter and Emergency Response) Grant that has just come about again. The opportunity to apply for this grant has just opened and is only open for about a month. This would supplement our costs. Our goal would be to get 4 fire fighters to balance out our crews. It would fund these employees for 2 years. We would have to keep our numbers of employees the same during this 2 year period whether someone retires, resigns, or separates from employment.

Councilor Blanchette asked if we apply and we are awarded, at what point can we refuse the grant if we decide not to use it. Chief Lucas stated you can refuse the grant up until the hiring of new employees. The grant money is just for staffing.

Councilor Longo moved staff recommendation to write the grant, Councilor Blanchette seconded and approved.

Councilor Civiello asked what number of retirees is the Fire Department looking at? Chief Lucas stated it is an unknown but could be a third of the department. City Manager stated that by bringing these new people on, they could be ready when and if there are retirements so we'd be ahead of the game. Plus we do not have to maintain the new hires after the expiring of the grant in two years.

Adjourned at 5:45pm

**Government Operations Committee  
Tuesday September 3, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Blanchette, Hawes, Civiello, Longo, Durgin, Baldacci

**Staff:** Conlow, Farrar, Lucas, Nicklas, Hamilton, Fogler, Healy, Eyles

**Others:** Media

**1. Presentation of Fire Department Information/Recruitment Video.**

With the assistance of the New England School of Communications (NESCOM), the Fire Department has developed a short (10 minute) video that was shown to the Committee and then will be included on the City's Government Access Channel.

**2. Council Referral 13-290, Ordinance, Amending Chapter 291, Vehicle and Traffic of the Code of the City of Bangor, by adopting the State Disabled Parking Restriction.**

Modeled after the State Statue, this Ordinance would replace the City's existing Ordinance and would allow the City to collect enforcement fines rather than those funds being sent to the State. There are no other changes in the Ordinance.

It was moved, seconded and approved to recommend approval to the Council.

**3. Presentation by Health and Community Services Department Staff.**

Department Staff members presented an update and overview of Health and Community Services activities and programs. Committee members asked several questions, and thanked staff for the thorough and informative presentation.

Adjourned at 6:20pm.

**Government Operations Committee**  
**Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Blanchette, Hawes, Civiello, Longo, Durgin, Baldacci

**Staff:** Conlow, Farrar, Hathaway, Wardwell, Morgan, Fogler, Eyles, Comstock

**Others:** Julie Green, Bob Kilpeck, Peter Nowell

**1. Resolves to Accept and Appropriate Various Grant Funds – Health and Community Services**

- a. \$125,000 to implement the second year of the Drug Free Communities Program.
- b. \$90,000 to support the third year of Healthy Eating Active Living in the Penquis Health District.
- c. \$79,000 to implement the second year of marijuana and prescription drug prevention services for the three Penquis District Healthy Maine Partnerships.
- d. \$2,728,057 to provide for the Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

Councilor Longo moved, Councilor Baldacci seconded and approved to recommend to full Council.

**2. Proposed Memorandum of Understanding – City of Bangor and Community Housing of Maine.**

Community Services Manager Rindy Fogler explained about this assistance for housing for those who need it and qualify. Proposal to rehab the school building in Brewer to turn into housing for low income people. They are hoping to focus on our Shelter Plus Care population. We have been asked if we are willing to use some of our project based vouchers for this new rehab building (if they are awarded). There would be no increased staff/administration time since we are already writing these vouchers. This would not be additional vouchers added but redirecting some of the current ones.

Councilor Longo moved, Councilor Baldacci seconded and approved to recommend to full Council.

**3. Approval of Sub-Recipient Agreement between the City of Bangor and Piscataquis Public Health Council.**

Health Promotion Program Manager, Jamie Comstock explained that currently we have 2 Sub-Recipient Agreements. One with Mayo Regional Hospital and one with Katahdin Shared Services. Piscataquis Public Health Council was told they needed to find a new fiscal lead and Penquis was chosen. So this means we need to have a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the City of Bangor and Penquis/Piscataquis PHC.

Councilor Baldacci moved, Councilor Longo seconded and approved.

**4. Proposed Ordinance Amendment – raising the weight limit for vehicles parking for more than four hours in residential districts from three quarters of a ton to a one ton, including an exemption for moving vehicles.**

Police Chief Hathaway stated that this Ordinance was dated and needed to be updated to include one ton vehicles.

Councilor Baldacci moved, Councilor Longo seconded and approved to recommend to full Council for first reading then to Planning Board, and finally to full Council.

**5. Proposed Ordinance Amendment – creating no parking zones on Buck Street from Main Street to Sunnyside Greenhouse, due to recent repaving/restriping associated with the opening of the Cross Insurance Center.**

Director of Public Works Dana Wardwell stated that due to the new construction of the Cross Insurance Center and Buck Street being the new main entrance there needs to be no parking zones on each side of the street, from Maine Street to Sunnyside Greenhouse.

Councilor Baldacci moved, Councilor Blanchette seconded and approved to recommend to full Council for first reading.

**6. Discussion and Review of Traffic concerns on Kenduskeag Avenue.**

Concerns about traffic speed on Kenduskeag Avenue have been received by Councilors Baldacci and Civiello. As a result, they requested that this issue be discussed at a Committee meeting to allow residents to address the Committee with their concerns.

Chief Hathaway explained there are concerns about speeding and other traffic infractions on Kenduskeag Avenue. Tonight we are hoping to come up with some ideas to stop this.

Residents on this street spoke about their concerns.

Ideas spoken about were a speed hump, speed bump....

Julie Green & Bob Kilpeck of Husson University stated that their students, staff, faculty, visitors are a part of this problem and they would like to be a part of the solution.

Engineering Director Art Morgan spoke about a speed study of Kenduskeag and other areas. We will look at options after they get study back. Because of how Kenduskeag is set up, there are some options that would not work for traffic calming.

Councilor Civiello said maybe it's time to write more tickets.

Councilors, staff and citizens spoke about their own experiences with traffic in the Bangor area. Concerns for children and bicyclists.

Councilor Blanchette suggested that it is time for something new such as the flashing lights in front of the Library not the sign that tells you how fast you are going. That doesn't catch a driver's attention anymore. We need new ways to enforce old laws.

Julie Green stated that Husson will be emailing their students, staff, faculty, visitors from President Clark reminders to help keep their speed and infractions down.

Councilor Civiello thought we could also get the message across to City staff as well to help with these issues.

Councilor Baldacci thought that the speed hump, lighted signage and more traffic enforcement are the best options to slow traffic down.

Councilors asked Art Morgan to come back with update/recommendations in a month at the Government Operations Committee meeting on October 22.

Councilor Baldacci moved to have this discussion at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Councilor Blanchette seconded, so approved.

Adjourned at 5:48pm.

**Government Operations Committee  
Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Hawes, Baldacci, Blanchette, Civiello, Gallant

**Staff:** Conlow, Farrar, Willette, Hathaway, Johnston, Hamilton, Nicklas

**Others:** Brent Miller, News Media

**1. Overview/Presentation of Refinement Program – Volunteers of America.**

Keri Alley, Program Manager, Penobscot County Adult Justice Services – Volunteers of America provided an overview of the Refinement Program. This program, administered in conjunction with the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office provides opportunities for low income community members to pay Court ordered fines through supervised community service.

Program Manager, Keri Alley spoke about the Refinement Program and how it would work. This program is to give low risk people that have a warrant out for their arrest for unpaid fines, an opportunity to sign up for community service instead of paying their fines. Depending on the fine amount owed, hours of community service will be addressed accordingly. We have different options already for community service which includes both manual labor as well as sit down jobs for those who need it. This is potentially a huge money saver for the court systems. This is for fines only, not restitution.

Councilor Gallant brought up a concern of taking hours away from someone who needs a paying job. Ms. Alley explained that the positions they have already secured are not paid positions so these people will not be losing out on a paying job. Committee members thanked Ms. Alley for her presentation.

**2. Referral – Council Ordinance 13-340, Expanding the Number of At Large Commissioners on the Commission of Cultural Development.**

This Ordinance amendment would increase the number of at-large commissioners from two to five, thereby increasing total membership from seven to ten.

Jason Bird of Community and Economic Development explained this referral to add 3 members to the contingent.

Councilor Blanchette explained how hard it has been in the past to have a full committee for a number of different reasons. These 3 potential members come

with a large amount of expertise. The only person that does all the leg work for this commission is Jason Bird and that is too much for one person.

Councilor Blanchette moved to recommend to full Council, Councilor Baldacci seconded, so approved.

### **3. Update – Bangor Band Location.**

City Staff and the Bangor Band have been working to find a suitable location(s) for Bangor Band Concerts.

Parks & Recreation Director Tracy Willette refreshed all on the continued issue of where to house the gazebo for the Bangor Band. Some of the challenges have been concluded to have been too costly to construct a gazebo where the Bangor Band had wanted it. The Band has found another option, a portable, inflatable gazebo. They would raise the needed funds for the shell as well as risers. An agreement between the City and Band would spell out details on set up, storage and other community uses. The Band spoke with other groups that are currently using this product and the only downfall would be the weather such as wind.

Councilor Blanchette recalled in the past with other inflatable items that they were quite costly and didn't last long. She would like to know the warranty that would be on it. Another concern is if they will be using electrical items that could pose a shock issue. What about a portable floor to go with it?

Councilors discussed their concerns such as the wind issue. This could be a high safety concern. If it is decided to go with this inflatable structure, there should be a stipulation that if it were to be damaged or ruined, the City is not responsible to replace this.

Councilors decided that more discussion is needed and asked Director Willette to go back to the Bangor Band to see if any other options can be discovered and return findings to the committee.

### **4. Proposed Ordinance enacting a 180 day moratorium on permitting suboxone treatment facilities in the City of Bangor.**

This proposed Ordinance would impose a moratorium on permitting facilities providing suboxone treatment in the City of Bangor for a period of 180 days. This period is intended to allow the necessary time for the City Council to review the City's current land use regulations regarding chemical dependency treatment facilities and, if appropriate, reevaluate the provision of suboxone treatment in Bangor.

Asst. City Solicitor Nicklas explained that suboxone is an alternative medication treatment option instead of methadone for those with chemical dependency issues. In the past suboxone has been primarily prescribed by physician offices and now there has been some interest in adding this treatment to clinics that are already treating people with methadone. This moratorium would give the Council some time to do the research necessary to see if any regulations, etc. needs to be enacted to add this treatment as an option. The moratorium can either be lengthened if needed or shortened if all necessary research has been completed.

City Manager Conlow stated that we are currently working with the state concerning new legislation. We are currently in the planning stages of this. Is this something that can be community based or is it best to have it in area clinics.

Councilor Baldacci stated that this is really a state issue and decisions need to be made that does not make any hardships for communities.

Councilors seem to agree that dispensing should be community based for many reasons including travel time and costs to the City.

Councilor Gallant moved, Councilor Baldacci seconded to adopt the 180 day moratorium.

Residents spoke in opposition to the moratorium because it is limiting treatment to those who need it most.

Program Manager Brent Miller from Discovery House spoke about both medical and counseling treatment together to treat the epidemic of opiate addiction and the importance of coupling these therapies.

The motion by Councilor Gallant was approved for first reading then it will come back to the Government Operations Committee.

#### **5. Executive Session 1-MRSA Section 405 6 E. (Contemplated Litigation)**

Consultation with Assistant City Attorney regarding contemplated litigation.

Councilor Baldacci moved to go into Executive Session. Approved.

Following the Executive Session, there was no further business.

**Adjourned at 7:04pm.**

**Special Government Operations Committee Meeting  
Monday, November 4, 2013 at 5:30 PM  
City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Baldacci, Blanchette, Civiello, Durgin, Nealley, Sprague

**Staff:** Nicklas

**1. Executive Session 1 MRSA Sec. 405 6 (E) – Consultation with City Attorney.** Proposed Moratorium – Council Ordinance 13-351

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to enter Executive Session for the purpose of consulting with the Assistant City Attorney at 5:30pm.

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to return to public session at 6:10pm.

**2. Any Necessary Committee Action Regarding Agenda item #1.**

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to recommend postponing indefinitely the Moratorium first read at the October 28 Council Meeting – Council Ordinance 13-351.

It was then moved, seconded and voted unanimously to recommend a new Moratorium, which would cover both the prohibition of new facilities as well as the expansion of Suboxone beyond the number for which clinics are currently licensed. The new Moratorium is to be first Read at the November 13<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting and referred back to the Government Operations Committee for further review and discussion.

With no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made and voted to adjourn at 6:15 PM.

**Government Operations Committee**  
**Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Civiello, Baldacci, Gallant, Plourde, Graham, Blanchette, Sprague

**Staff:** Farrar, Hamilton, Conlow, Willette, Linscott, Hathaway, Johnson, Heitmann, Nicklas

**Others:** BDN, Bangor Band, Community Members: Bruce Campbell, Alan Scoobie, Ron Rideout, Pat Kimball

- 1. Referral, Council Resolve 14-007, Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate \$32,518 in McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the period 12/31/13 to 12/30/14.**

Director of Community Health and Human Services Patty Hamilton stated these are regular funds from the Federal Government for homeless citizens who need housing.

Councilor Gallant moved, Councilor Baldacci seconded, so approved.

- 2. Referral, Council Resolve 14-008, Authorizing the City Manager to Accept and Appropriate \$117,535 in McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the period 12/1/13 to 11/30/14.**

Councilor Baldacci moved, Councilor Gallant seconded, so approved.

- 3. Referral, Council Ordinance 14-009, Enacting a Moratorium on Expansion of Buprenorphine Treatment Facilities.**

Public comments were heard in regards to the moratorium. All public who spoke agreed and explained why a moratorium should not be enacted. It will cause more harm putting people on wait lists while the Council researches the issue.

- 4. Election Ballot for Municipal Review Committee Board of Directors.**

The MRC Board consists of nine Directors from charter communities who represent municipal interests regarding the operation of the PERC Waste-to-Energy facility in Orrington. Each year, three positions become available. Currently, City Manager Conlow serves as an MRC Director and staff recommends that Bangor cast its ballot for current Director and Board Chair Chip Reeves of Bar Harbor.

Assistant City Manager Bob Farrar explained this is something that comes around annually and we recommend Bangor's vote be cast for Chip Reeves from Bar Harbor.

Councilor Gallant moved, Councilor Baldacci seconded, so approved.

## 5. Recommendations Concerning Memoranda of Understanding at Health and Community Services.

The Health and Community Department serves as a regional public health department and community service provider. In these roles, the Department works with a number of other parties, and in many instances, these relationships are outlined in Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's). The Department is proposing to clarify which MOU's can be handled administratively at the Department level and which MOU's need Committee/City Council approval.

Director Hamilton explained that because of its status as a regional public health department and community service provider, Bangor Health and Community Services has relationships with many community organizations. In many cases the parameters of these relationships are detailed in MOU's so that each party has a thorough understanding of the expectations of the relationship. In some cases this relationship involves funding, but in many others it does not. Council review of these is unwarranted in many cases due to the fact that the MOU's regularly describe work that is already occurring at BHCS. They proposed to streamline the MOU process in an effort to save Council and staff time by bringing to Council for review:

- Any MOU involving funding from BHCS to another entity in the amount that exceeds \$5,000.

Under the plan, the Department Director has signing authority on MOU's that involve funding from BHCS to another entity in an amount that does not exceed \$5,000.

And Program Managers have signing authority on MOU's that do not involve funding commitments.

Councilor Graham asked that the Council receive a memo or monthly update outlining what is going on with MOU's that would not need Council review.

Assistant City Manager Farrar stated that this has been reviewed and endorsed by the executive & legal offices.

Councilor Graham moved staff recommendation, Councilor Baldacci seconded, more discussion.

Councilor Gallant explained his concern is that we don't start handing out \$5,000 checks for new MOU's without proper review.

Councilor Gallant moved to amend Councilor Graham's original motion for new MOU's to be brought forth to the Council for funding and matching City funds, Councilor Baldacci seconded, so approved.

## **6. Update-Bangor Band Proposal for Acquisition of a Band Shell for Performances.**

A representative of the Bangor Band and Parks and Recreation Director Willette will be present to update the Committee on efforts by the Band to secure a Band Shell for performances.

Parks and Recreation Director Tracy Willette reviewed the gazebo process we have been going through for a new structure and location for the Bangor Band's performances. The last option that was brought forth was the inflatable shell. At that time concerns about warranties and weather conditions were brought up. Director Willette stated there is a 5 year warranty that comes along with the shell. All references were checked out with others who have used this and all were favorable.

Laurie Wingo, the President of the Bangor Band, spoke in regards to the weather concern and stated that if there were winds over 20mph, the band would not be playing regardless.

Councilor Gallant explained his concerns of liability to the City.

Councilor Sprague asked if this temporary venue would be for a few years and then a permanent venue be built for others to use such as Penobscot Theatre.

Bill Miller, band member, explained that they are very cautious with weather due to the fact of damage to their instruments, equipment and themselves. He does not recall anyone getting hurt in the past 60 years he has been a part of the band. He urged the Council to support this option.

President Wingo researched the average wind speed anytime of the year and Bangor has shown a pattern of low wind speeds during the months they perform. If something did come up the inflatable shell can be deflated in 2 minutes. Safety is their number one concern.

Councilor Baldacci moved to authorize staff to go into negotiations for an agreement that contains the band shell as a stage for Bangor Band and asked that part of the agreement include provisions for liability to protect the City, Councilor Plourde seconded, Councilor Gallant doubted, so approved 4-1.

Band Treasurer McKay, who is also in insurance, asked that the agreement be broken into two parts since the band only uses it for two hours at a time. She asked the City be in charge of the liabilities when the shell is rented to groups other than the band.

## **7. Update-Variou Community Connector Issues.**

- **Odlin Road Bus Route – Funding Status for Route Continuation**

Assistant City Manager Farrar stated that we have raised funds to keep the Odlin Route running. To date we have raised \$11,085 of the \$20,000 needed so we are short by

\$8,900. There are funds in the bus budget (due to the delay in implementing federal ACA requirements) that can cover the remaining amount. We propose to use those funds to make up the shortfall to continue the route until June 30, 2014. Council had originally voted to cease the route so we will need to pass an order to continue the route.

Councilor Baldacci moved, Councilor Plourde seconded, so approved.

- **Penquis/MaineCare Revenue Shortfall**

Asst. City Manager Farrar explained that due to changes at the State level of Mainecare reimbursement there is a potential revenue shortfall. People who had received bus passes in the past, will no longer be eligible for them. We estimate that our shortfall will be approximately \$143,000. In the next few weeks staff will be creating a plan on how to deal with this shortfall and ways to supplement it and will come back to the committee with that plan.

- **Bus Hub Alternative Study**

Assistant City Manager Bob Farrar stated that at the next meeting our Transit Hub Study Consultant will be joining us to update the committee on the analysis done of the shortlist of sites they were given that could potentially be a new bus hub. Due to some personal issues with our consultant, he is a little behind but assured us that this study should be complete in the next few months.

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At 6:30pm the Committee voted to move into Executive Session to consult with legal staff (1 MRSA Sec. 405 6 (e)).

At 7:00pm the Committee moved out of executive session and returned to public session. Committee members discussed the benefits, limitations and impacts of the proposed Ordinance (14-009). It was then moved by Councilor Gallant, seconded by Councilor Baldacci to revise/amend 14-009 in a manner that would prevent Code Enforcement from issuing permits for physical expansion of an existing facility, or establishment of a new facility, at which buprenorphine is dispensed. It would not affect the prescribing of buprenorphine by doctors, regardless of where the prescribing takes place.

The motion was passed 4-1 (Graham opposed). This will be on the November 25, 2013 City Council Agenda in the form of an "as amended" Ordinance to the original 14-009.

**Adjourned at 7:21pm**

**Government Operations Committee**  
**Monday, December 2, 2013**  
**6:00pm**  
**City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Civiello, Baldacci, Plourde, Blanchette, Graham

**Staff:** Conlow, Farrar, Comstock, Hathaway, Johnston, Dan Scripture

**Others:** Media, Radio

**1. Health and Community Services – Council Orders and Appropriation  
Resolve**

- **Memorandum of Understanding with Sebecook Valley Health as Fiscal Agent**
- **Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Hermon – Healthy Maine Partnership Grant**
- **Accepting and Appropriating \$151,832 for Supplemental Nutrition Education Grant Program.**

Councilor Baldacci moved, Councilor Plourde seconded, so approved.

**2. Authorizing the Police Department to Accept Canine Endumin from the Transportation Security Administration, and then transferring Endumin to his handler, Police Officer Dan Scripture.**

Dan Councilor Baldacci moved, Councilor Plourde seconded, so approved.

**3. Referral, Council Ordinance 14-022, Extending a Moratorium on Charter Schools.**

Councilor Baldacci explained that we enacted this moratorium in June and since there has been a lot of discussion at the state level and volatility with process, we need to extend this moratorium. Originally we had set up a meeting with the Commissioner that was rescheduled due to his resignation and have since appointed a new Commissioner who we will meet with at the beginning of January. The City would lose \$9,000 for each child who leaves public school for a charter school.

Councilor Baldacci moved, Councilor Graham seconded, so approved to recommend to full Council.

#### **4. Review and Discussion of Community Safety Recommendations developed by the Quality of Life Committee.**

Chief Hathaway stated they support the drug court as well as the expansion of the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Deputy Chief Johnston updated the committee on a drug task force, like Lewiston, that is made up of federal, state and local officers that aggressively patrol targeted drug areas to combat drug issues. Lewiston received a grant for their group to help offset the overtime costs of these officers. Johnston would like to see this in Bangor but the difference with this area, we do not have the same amount of federal officers but we could modify the model to fit Bangor.

The final issue was regarding the downtown foot patrol and if that could be expanded to neighborhoods. Chief Hathaway felt it is a good idea, but the problem with this is manpower and funding. With current staffing levels, this is not possible but once we become fully staffed, it is something to look into.

Councilor Baldacci asked if they could come back in a few months with a plan for a drug task force that would include costs, possible options with federal money, staffing, etc. Chief Hathaway stated that they will work on a plan.

Councilor Baldacci suggested creating a resolve for the drug court issue, and there was agreement by the Committee

#### **5. Executive Session 1-MRSA sec. 405 6 E. Consultation with City Attorney – terms and conditions of proposed Agreement between the City of Bangor and the Bangor Band**

Motion made to move into Executive Session at 6:35pm, seconded and passed per 1 MRSA Sec. 405 6 e. The Committee reconvened at 7:00pm.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

#### **6. Any necessary action on Agenda Item #5 above**

There was no public action necessary.

**Adjourned at 7:00pm**

**Government Operations Committee  
Monday, December 16, 2013  
5:45PM  
City Council Chambers**

**MINUTES**

**Council Members:** Civiello, Blanchette, Plourde, Graham, Gallant, Durgin

**Staff Members:** Conlow, Farrar, Goodwin, Linscott, Morgan, Wardwell

**Others:** Dan Cooper, Tom Crikelair, Media, John York, Carol Epstein

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Acceptance of Two Pipeline Spur Easements at Bangor International Airport from the Air National Guard.**
- 2. Acceptance of Three Easements and a small parcel of land at Bangor International Airport from the Air National Guard previously used for a Ceilometer measuring device.**
- 3. Order, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Sub-Recipient Agreement with Mayo Regional Hospital as Fiscal Agent for Piscataquis Public Health Council.**

Councilor Sprague moved, Councilor Plourde seconded, so approved.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**4. Preliminary Discussion – Voting Location**

City Clerk Goodwin explained the issues with the venue for voting in regards to the Cross Insurance Center. There were issues with the distance some voters had to walk. Goodwin has been researching other venues in the City. Due to the large venue needed for voting, we are limited to the Cross Insurance Center. Hollywood Casino is willing to let us use the parking garage on days that there are smaller votes if we use the Ballroom. For the larger votes, we can use the Arena and use the back parking lot which would shorten the distance.

Councilor Durgin suggested that we set up handicap/disabled polling stations on the main floor where voters enter. This will give them an easier walk from the lots. We can have that set up for people who have trouble walking but still have the normal set up on the Arena floor for all others. It is also a possibility that we use the loading dock for handicap parking which would allow a shorter walking distance.

Councilor Plourde and Sprague agreed with Councilor Durgin about using the Main floor for handicap polls.

Councilor Blanchette stated that if we don't designate the handicap booths, then we will have others who are just in a hurry pop in there instead of its intended use.

Goodwin did explain that the set up of the voting booths, all things need to be viewable to the public at one time.

Councilors discussed different set up possibilities at the Cross Insurance Center, including the use of the Concourse space. The Clerk will explore that possibility further and check with the Secretary of State regarding feasibility. There is a need to be sure that we don't cause any loss of money in regards to paying acts/events, etc.

#### **5. Revised and Updated agreement between the University of Maine and City of Bangor – Community Connector, Free Fare Program**

This agreement increased the amount paid by the University of Maine from \$18,500 annually to \$25,500 annually effective 7-1-14, based upon passenger use.

Asst. City Manager Bob Farrar explained what the agreement would mean financially to the City.

Councilor Gallant moved staff recommendation, Councilor Sprague seconded, so approved.

#### **6. Update – MaineCare Program Changes and Impacts on Community Connector Revenue Projections.**

Staff presented updated projections concerning the loss of bus pass revenue due to changes in eligibility for the MaineCare Program.

Asst. City Manager Bob Farrar stated that there was a lot of revenue lost due to the MaineCare program changes leading to a significant drop of MaineCare bus pass purchases. The ridership is actually up from what had been projected and we have identified some grant funds that can hopefully be used to make up for the shortfall that was caused by lost bus pass purchases by MaineCare. By the end of the year we hope to be fairly close to the revenue number that we have projected.

Many of the citizens we serve are transit dependent. They need the ability to have public transportation to get around. Meaning they will find a way to use this system even with the loss of a number of bus passes.

Councilor Gallant asked if we have looked into possibly switching our fleet over to compressed gas which could in turn save money that could be shifted to our downfall of this revenue that will not be coming in due to the decrease in MaineCare passes. Is it feasible?

Asst. City Manager Farrar said they have started looking into that but what goes along with it, is the ability for our maintenance facility to work on these converted buses. It seems we would be better off financially buying new buses instead of converting our current fleet.

Farrar also stated that the fare structure needed to be looked at for possible fare increase. There is a timely process to go through due to Federal guidelines and staff proposed to the committee that they begin this process. Currently looking to raise the fare by a quarter (\$.25).

Councilor Gallant moved to allow staff to begin the initial process of a fare increase, Councilor Sprague seconded, so approved.

## **7. Community Connector Hub Alternative Study**

Transit Consultant Tom Crikelair presented a review of the options under consideration. The Government Operations Committee had previously selected several sites for additional analysis, which has now been completed.

Mr. Crikelair stated that at the last meeting there were some suggested alternatives for the bus hub. Options were discussed in regards to pros and cons. Crikelair stated that the problem he sees at Pickering Square is due to the design of it. It can be redesigned and the usage would be greatly improved. The basic idea on what he recommends is moving the area where the buses will pull up to the hub to pick up and drop off riders is to move this from in front of Pickering Square Garage to Water Street where it should resolve some of the issues.

Crikelair explained the options they have come up with, the different traffic routes buses would travel, etc. He explained timing on the comings and goings of buses. Talked about funding an extra bus during busy seasons. Reducing transfer time for riders was a goal from the beginning of this job and reconfiguring routes, # of buses, etc., should help with continued reduction in transfer time.

Councilor Sprague summarized the discussion stating that with all the different options that have been brought forth, there is not a complete unity within the Council to support one idea specifically. Business owner Carol Epstein spoke about her concerns with the proposed Water Street location. The Consultant will take all of this information under consideration as he prepares the final report which will be finalized and presented in late winter/early spring.

**Motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm.**