



CITY OF BANGOR

Government Operations Committee Monday, March 2, 2026

Committee Members: Beck (Chair), Fish, Walker, Mallar, Faloon

Non-Committee Members: Carson, Leonard, Hawes

Staff Present: C. O'Donnell, ACM; City Clerk Lisa Goodwin

Appointment of Councilor Faloon as Committee Member in the absence of Councilor Deane.

Opened at 6:35 p.m.

1. City Clerk Update-Lisa Goodwin:

City Clerk Goodwin reported that the billing system is back up and running. They are back on track with the on-line bill payment and hoping to implement it soon. Plate issuance for trees or no trees will come full cycle in April. Rental vehicle registrations are done for the airport rentals through the clerk's office.

Clerk has nomination papers for the federal and state officers for anyone running in a party. Upcoming primary is June 9th; there will be a candidate ballot and a county ballot, building the jail somewhere other than the county seat. As well as two state ballots and a local one regarding the bond issue on the recreation center. Absentee ballots will be available starting April 9th. Starting January 1st, anyone can request an ongoing absentee ballot. In person absentee voting will be done at City Hall. Orders to appoint election clerks, serve a two-year term, for the next two years coming in April as well as the voter registration appeals board, two members nominated by each of the political parties and the City Clerk will nominate the chair for that committee. Registration appeals board only meets if they deny a voter registration and the individual appeals the decision.

New state's voter registration program is rolling out and everybody in clerk's office must be trained on that which is like a 5-hr. training. On April 8th the City Clerk's office will be closed for staff development day. The Customer service window will still be open because all other departments will be open that day.

2. Order: Authorizing the Application to NASTAD for \$500,000 Grant Funding to Support a Two-Year Program to Increase Support for People Living with HIV

Public Health Director Jen Gunderman provided an overview of this item. This funding would assist with helping to get individuals who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS but have not received certain lab tests in past 6-12 mos. to help relink them back to care.

She shared that Public Health is contemplating applying for this funding and are working through the information to determine if we are even eligible. \$500,000 is per year for two years. It would go to expand intensive case management program, get another van that could



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collaborate with our street medicine partners and help with other cost to breakdown barriers for people to engage in services. Data is still being looked at to see if it is appropriate for this grant but wanted to get your approval if we land on a yes, we meet criteria.

Councilor Fish moved to accept authorizing the application to NASTAD for the \$500,000 grant, Councilor Walker seconded the motion. No objection.

3. Revised Homelessness Committee/Task Force Drafts

City Manager Lear explained that at the previous meeting they discussed a version of a joint homelessness and affordable housing committee and had several edits to make to the proposed Orders. Primary edit was to break apart two concepts homelessness and affordable housing, and to focus on the homelessness committee for our first committee. It was suggested to add a superintendent or a designee as a member and that we set a non-mandatory goal of a 1/3 members for the lived experience component of that committee. Reduce number of seats to nine, a list of expertise that we were seeking a non-mandatory list to give council some flexibility to evaluate those applicants as they came. Councilor Fish had asked to add mention of medication assisted treatment experience. Councilor Mallar asked to clarify the voting requirement for the passage of the committee's recommendation.

All changes have been made in drafts. There was discussion about whether it should be a permanent committee or a task force. There was further discussion surrounding how the appointments of committee members will occur going forward and the make-up of the committee and how elections would occur from one year to another.

Councilor Fish made a motion to recommend adoption of the Homelessness Committee as a permanent committee seconded by Councilor Faloan. No objection.

4. Referral: Resolve Appropriating from Undesignated Fund Balance in the Amount of Up to \$50,000 to Fund a Director of Human Resources Position

CM Lear explained that currently the assistant city manager shoulders an incredible workload. In addition to being the assistant city manager, our assistant city manager is responsible for being the department head of the Community Connector bus system and is also the Chief Human Resources officer (or HR Director). With a staff of more than 600 employees, the HR Director role is significant and there is concern that adequate attention is not being paid to either role because they are expecting one person to essentially do three jobs.

Request to pull the Human Resource Director duties out of the Assistant City Manager role and make that a stand-alone position that will oversee human resources for the city. A review of other cities the same size as Bangor and all other cities have a HR Director as a stand-alone position. She is seeking approval to hire the position eminently rather than having to wait for the next fiscal hiring cycle using unassigned (undesignated) fund balance.

Councilor Walker motioned to approve, Councilor Fish seconded motion. No objection.



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5. Executive Session: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E) – Consultation with Legal Counsel

Councilor Fish Motion to move to Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Faloon. Roll call vote was taken and motion passed.

6. Referral: Ordinance Amending the Code of the City of Bangor to Establish Chapter 46, “Employee Authority in Immigration Matters”

Councilor Faloon made a motion that the Ordinance is not passed as presented. Councilor Beck seconded. There was discussion as to the wording of the motion with the City Solicitor, as motions are typically in the affirmative.

Motion was clarified that it is recommending that the motion ought not to be passed as the ordinance is written but instead ask staff to draft an order that would have the city comply immediately with LD 1971.

Roll call vote was taken with three voting yes and two no, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52.