

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, July 6, 2026 @ 5:15 PM
Council Chambers, First Floor of City Hall

MEETING MINUTES

City Councilors Present: Leonard, Faloon, Mallar, Fish, Carson,
Beck, Walker, Hawes, Deane

City Staff Present: Krieg, Lear

Chair Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:27 P.M.

1. Proposed Lease with Bangor International Airport

A. Varney Aviation

Chair Leonard introduced the agenda item.

Assistant Airport Director Francis Robbins presented on the proposed lease.

Chair Leonard expressed he had no issues with the proposed lease, and asked for input or questions.

Councilor Mallar asked if the City's Legal Department reviewed the lease – Assistant Airport Director Robbins confirmed the City drafted the initial lease.

Councilor Carson moved to staff recommendation. Seconded by Councilor Faloon. Vote unless doubted, no doubt.

2. Economic Development Initiatives

A. Venture Forward with the Roux Institute

B. AI Hub Partner

Chair Leonard introduced the agenda item.

Community and Economic Development Director Krieg presented on the Venture Forward with the Roux Institute partnership, outlining the goals to increase the Institute's entrepreneurship program presence in Bangor and to strengthen the City's existing businesses, emphasizing business retention.

Chair Leonard asked for Committee questions, and shared he believes the partnership is in alignment with the Department's vision.

Councilor Beck asked for an example of how business owners would get connected to the partnership. Community and Economic Development Director Krieg discussed the outreach process to the business community, which entails 6-9 months of curating connections.

Community and Economic Development Director Krieg presented on the AI Hub collaboration with the University of Maine.

Chair Leonard discussed AI utilization with business cultivation, expressing he believes that Bangor needs innovations such as this to attract young people. Councilor Fish expressed excitement surround the partnership.

Councilor Beck commented he would like to explore if there is an opportunity to offer a pipeline for high school students.

3. Executive Session: *Acquisition of real property or economic development 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C) – 2 items*

Councilor Carson moved that, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C) Acquisition of Real Property or Economic Development, there are two items to enter into Executive Session. Seconded by Council Faloon. Roll call vote conducted – all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed

4. Possible Actions on Executive Session Items

Councilor Carson moved staff recommendation on the sales for 45 Allen Street and 299 Essex Street. Seconded by Councilor Faloon. Vote unless doubted, no doubt.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted,

Kayleigh Rienas
Development Assistant
Community & Economic Development Department