

**Special City Council Workshop
Meeting with State Legislators
Monday, January 5
Council Chambers, City Hall, 73 Harlow St.
5:15 p.m.**

- 1. *Tentative Council Priorities*** – Bangor City Council met on December 10 to begin the process of establishing the Council’s priorities for the upcoming year. After an initial brainstorming session and straw poll, the following priorities were of highest focus but Council has not formally established these topics as priorities for the coming year.

Establish a Comprehensive Plan to Address Homelessness

The creation of a comprehensive strategy that leverages both outside regional and nationwide experts alongside local stakeholders to craft a comprehensive plan for how the City supports organizations addressing homelessness in the City and considers the effectiveness of past strategies and recommends new strategies to decrease the incidence and impact of homelessness in Bangor.

Continue to Address Housing Needs

Several housing projects are in various stages of completion around the City including the completed Theresa’s Place project, and in progress projects such as Sunrise Senior Living, a recently approved tiny home project, and a supportive housing project led by BangorHousing. Council intends to continue to focus on housing by focusing on gaps and unmet needs. Ideas considered include a standing committee focused on housing and/or housing bonds.

A Fairer Share of Regional Costs & Participation

As a service center, Bangor proudly hosts a number of businesses, non-profits, educational organizations, and medical service providers that are of broad regional importance. However, there are attendant costs associated with being a service center that are born by Bangor alone. At the same time, many of these institutions are exempt from property tax and Bangor shoulders a disproportionate impact from those property tax exemptions. City Council would like to explore creative and innovative ways to encourage broader regional participation and cost sharing.

- 2. *Other Council Priorities***

- Attract and Retain Businesses
- Property Tax Affordability & Relief
- Increase Proactive City Communication

- Strategy for Infrastructure Maintenance & Investment

3. Budgetary Challenges & Opportunities

- State Funding for County Budget/Jail Operations
- Preserve and Expand Municipal Revenue Sharing
- Full Reimbursement for Property Tax Exemptions
- General Assistance Reimbursement and Administrative Costs
- Special Education and School Construction Funding

4. Specific Legislation – The City will monitor legislation during the upcoming session and reach out to the delegation if we have input or concerns. If you have or will sponsor legislation or amendments that will have a municipal impact, we are prepared to proactively provide information about the impact and review drafts. Council has not yet taken a position on any carry-over or anticipated new legislation, but we would draw your attention to several proposals of particular municipal significance:

- LD 978, An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement to Municipalities and Indian Tribes – discussions have also included a statewide database component which would assist municipalities in better determining benefits eligibility.

5. Legislator Priority Sharing

6. Ongoing Council-Legislator Meetings