MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
THURSDAY, March 2, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

There was no pre-meeting of the City Council at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A, because of the Special Informational Meeting at 6:00 p.m.


PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Presentation of the State Champion Cony High School Girls Swim Team.

Councilor O’Brien became Mayor Pro-Tem when Mayor Rollins stepped down to make a presentation of the Mayor’s Recognition of Excellence (REX) Committee Award for Outstanding Contributions to the People of Augusta by Rick and Patty Tardiff and Family.


PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA:

17-037 City Manager (Bureau of City Clerk)  
ORDERED, that the minutes of the City Council Meeting held February 16, 2017, submitted by the City Clerk’s office be approved.

17-038 Mayor  
ORDERED, that Councilor Linda Conti be appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission, said term to expire February 2, 2018.

17-039 Mayor  
ORDERED, that Susan Williams be appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission said term to expire March 2, 2020.

17-040 Mayor  
ORDERED, that Kirsten Hebert be reappointed to the Greater Augusta Utility District Board of Trustees, said term to expire March 2, 2020.

17-041 Mayor  
ORDERED, that Jennifer Bechard be appointed to the Lithgow Library board of Trustees said term to expire March 2, 2020.
17-042 Mayor
ORDERED, that Roberta Record be reappointed to the Conservation Commission, said term to expire March 2, 2019.

17-043 Mayor
ORDERED, that Rex Turner be reappointed to the Conservation Commission, said term to expire March 2, 2020.

17-044 Mayor
ORDERED, that Rachel Dyer be reappointed to the Conservation Commission, said term to expire March 2, 2020.

Motion for passage of the Consent Agenda orders 17-037 and 17-044
By: Conti Second by: O’Brien
Yeas: 5
Nays: 0

OLD BUSINESS AND TABLED MATTERS

SECOND READING (Ordinances)

16-188 Mayor Rollins and Councilors Blodgett, Conti, Munson, Paradis
Tabled from 11/17/2016

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the current definition of “Religious Activities and Associated Uses” is outdated and does not provide adequate clarity for religious organizations or citizens regarding accessory activities conducted in relation to such uses; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that clarity of interpretation is critical to creating certainty for residents and others; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the faith community is a critical part of the fabric of the community, but as the nature of worship changes, certain activities conducted by religious organizations, like their secular counterparts, could have an impact on the health, safety, and general welfare of the neighborhoods where they are located;

WHEREAS, the City’s Planning Board reviewed this issue and the proposed amendments at two public hearings, at which residents and business owners voiced concern over the impact of social services, traffic and parking on residential neighborhoods and business districts, and religious entities discussed how activities such as community suppers, clothing drives and educational activities are components of their religious practice;

WHEREAS, the City Council respects the needs of all property owners and is interested in limiting traffic, noise, parking, and other impacts of uses in keeping with the nature of the district in which they are located; and

Minutes 03/02/2017
WHEREAS, in keeping with the Comprehensive Plan, the City Council intends to regulate accessory uses conducted by religious entities only to the extent they are significant in scope and, due to their potential impacts, would not otherwise be allowed as primary uses in the district in which they are located;

NOW THEREFORE be it ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Augusta, that the Code of Ordinances, Land Use, be amended to repeal the current term and definition of a “Religious Activities and Associated Uses” in Section 300-202 and replace it with the following term and definition:

PLACE OF WORSHIP: Any building used for nonprofit purposes by an established religious organization holding either tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or under the state property tax law, where such building is primarily intended to be used as a place of worship, or for ceremonies, rituals, education, and related social events. The term includes, but is not necessarily limited to, church, temple, synagogue, and mosque. Any new or expanded use conducted on the premises of a Place of Worship shall be considered a separate principal use if it is operated for more than 16 hours a week, for a total of four or more weeks per year.

and that Religious Activities and Associated Uses in the Table of Uses (300 Attachment 4) shall be changed to the new use “Place of Worship”; and

that “Place of Worship” shall be allowed in the same districts, and with the same designations, as Religious Activities and Associated Uses were in the Table of Uses (300 Attachment 4); and

that, additionally, Places of Worship shall be allowed as a permitted use (designated with an X) in the following districts in the Table of Uses (300 Attachment 4): RPDS, RV.

Remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS
PART 1

17-045 City Manager
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager is authorized to accept grant funding in an amount not to exceed $14,688.36 from the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety for the 2017 Click It Or Ticket / Buckle Up No Excuses Enforcement and Education Program. Grant funding will be utilized to provide directed seatbelt enforcement and traffic related laws. Funds are to be expended from May 22, 2017 to June 4, 2017. There is no monetary match.

Motion for passage of the order 17-045
By: Grant Second by: Blodgett
Yeas: 5
Nays: 0
17-046  City Manager
ORDERED, that a special municipal election for vacant City Council and School Board seats shall be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

Motion for passage of the order 17-046
By: Grant          Second by: Conti
Yeas: 6
Nays: 0

17-047  City Manager
ORDERED, that the City Manager is authorized to continue representation of the City of Augusta with the Maine Service Center Coalition for 2017 with Assistant City Manager, Ralph St. Pierre, designated as alternate.

Motion for passage of the order 17-047
By: O’Brien        Second by: Grant
Yeas: 6
Nays: 0

17-048  Mayor and Council
WHEREAS, the City is in the process of reviewing and implementing potential changes to the Mineral Extraction Ordinance, in particular the blasting requirements; and

WHEREAS, mineral extraction licenses which allow blasting will expire in June, 2017 prior to the City having completed its review and implementation of changes to the Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

All licenses for mineral extraction issued pursuant to the City of Augusta, Mineral Extraction Ordinance, §§ 6–69 Chapter 198, Article I, et seq., which include permission to conduct blasting, will be automatically extended until December 31, 2017. All applications for renewal licenses must be received by the City no earlier than November 1, 2017 nor later than December 31, 2107. All applications will be processed according to the terms of the Mineral Extraction Ordinance in effect at the time the application is deemed complete.

The terms and conditions for all licenses, including blasting, will continue in effect through December 31, 2017, including the number of blasts allowed.

Motion for passage of the order 17-048
By: Conti          Second by: Blodgett
Yeas: 2 – Councilors Conti and Elliott
Nays: 4 – Councilors Grant, Blodgett, O’Brien and Wilson
NEW BUSINESS
PART 2 – ORDINANCES - FIRST READING
NO VOTE REQUIRED

COMMUNICATIONS

Committee Reports
City Manager’s Report

Motion to adjourn at 9:20pm.
By: Conti Second by: Elliott
Yeas: 6
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta L. Fogg, City Clerk
March 2, 2017