There was a pre-meeting of the City Council in Conference Room A at 6:30 p.m. No Council actions were taken at pre-meetings. Pre-meetings are open to the public.

**Present:** Mayor Rollins, Councilors Conti, Judkins, Elliott, Lind, Day, and Alexander.

**Absent:** Councilors O’Brien and Wilson.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA:**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

19-034 City Manager (Bureau of City Clerk)
BE IT ORDERED, that the minutes of the City Council Regular Business Meeting held February 21, 2019, submitted by the City Clerk’s office be approved.

19-035 City Manager (Bureau of Audit)
BE IT ORDERED, that the Roll of Accounts for the month of February 2019 in the amount of $5,975,232.89 be approved.

19-036 Mayor
BE IT ORDERED, that Roberta Record is hereby reappointed to the Conservation Commission, said term to expire March 7, 2022.

19-037 Mayor
BE IT ORDERED, that Ansley Sawyer is hereby reappointed to the Conservation Commission, said term to expire March 7, 2022.

19-038 Mayor
BE IT ORDERED, that Paul Castonguay is hereby reappointed to the Board of Assessment Review, said term to expire March 7, 2022.

Motion for passage of the Consent Agenda orders 19-034 to 19-038.
By: Lind Second by: Day
Yeas: 6
Nays: 0
NEW BUSINESS:
PART 1 – ORDERS AND RESOLVES

19-039 Mayor and Council
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to proceed with a loan of the historic William Herbert Dunton paintings to the Farnsworth Art Museum from April 2020 to November 2020.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that said loan shall be subject to such terms and conditions as approved by the City Manager and Corporation Counsel.

Motion for passage of order 19-039.
By: Alexander Second by: Lind
Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS PART 2 – ORDINANCES - FIRST READING
NO VOTE REQUIRED

19-040 Mayor Rollins, Councilors Conti and Day
Whereas, the City of Augusta desires to protect the natural environment; and

Whereas, the use of single-use carryout plastic bags has negative environmental impacts on a local and global scale; and

Whereas, despite recycling and voluntary solutions to control pollution from single-use carryout plastic bags, few single-use carryout bags are recycled; and

Whereas, studies have documented that single-use carryout plastic bags litter the environment, block storm drains, and endanger wildlife; and

Whereas, the City of Augusta’s taxpayers bear costs associated with the effects of single-use carryout plastic bags on the solid waste stream, litter, drainage and wildlife; and

Whereas, the City, through its policies, programs, and laws, supports efforts to reduce the amount of waste that must be disposed of by supporting the waste management hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, waste-to-energy landfill) and supports efforts to achieve Maine’s recycling goals; and

Whereas, evidence indicates that the vast majority of single-use carryout plastic bags are used for the bagging and carryout of products purchased from stores, as those business are defined in this ordinance; and

Whereas, studies document, and participating municipalities report, that charging for single-use carryout plastic bags will dramatically reduce the use of those types of bags; and
**Whereas**, the City Council of the City of Augusta believes that residents and visitors should be encouraged to use reusable bags and that charging for the distribution of single-use carryout bags is appropriate to incentivize the use of reusable bags; and

**Whereas**, it is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of citizens and visitors of Augusta to reduce the cost to the City of solid waste disposal, and to protect our environment and natural resources by reducing the distribution of single-use carryout plastic bags and incentivizing the use of reusable bags.

**Now therefore**, the City Council of the City of Augusta adopts the following ordinance regulating the use of single-use carryout bags.

Motion to suspend further reading of order 19-040
By: Day Second by: Lind
Yea: 6
Nay: 0

**Single-Use Carryout Bags**

**Section 1. Definitions.**

As used in this article, the following terms have the following meanings:

*Single-use Carryout Plastic Bag.* Single-use Carryout Plastic Bag means a plastic bag, other than a Reusable bag, provided at the check stand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment. The term Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bag includes compostable and biodegradable bags but does not include:

(a) Produce bags or Product bags, as defined herein;
(b) Reusable bags, as defined herein;
(c) bags provided by pharmacists that contain prescription drugs;
(d) newspaper bag or dry cleaning bag;
(e) a bag that a restaurant gives a customer to take prepared, carryout, or leftover food or drink from the restaurant; or
(f) a once-used or re-used bag, such as those given out at thrift and antique stores.

*Produce bag or Product bag.* The terms produce bag or product bag mean any bag without handles used exclusively to carry produce, meats, other food items or merchandise to the point of sale inside a store or to prevent such items from coming into direct contact with other purchased items.

*Reusable Bag* means a bag that is:

(a) designed and manufactured to withstand repeated uses over a period of time;
is machine washable or made from a material that can be cleaned and disinfected regularly;

(c) at least 2.25 mil thick if made from plastic;

(d) has a minimum lifetime of 75 uses; and

(e) capable of carrying a minimum of 18 pounds.

*Retail.* Retail means the sale of goods to the public in relatively small quantities for use or consumption rather than for resale.

*Store.* Store means any retail establishment, located within the City of Augusta; that engages in the retail sale of goods, products, clothing, or merchandise.

*Restaurant.* Restaurant means any lunchroom, café, or other establishment located in a permanent building for the accommodation of the public, equipped with a kitchen containing facilities and utensils for preparing and serving meals to the public, and outfitted with a public dining area. A restaurant does not include any area of a supermarket, department store, or other retail establishment beyond the kitchen and public dining area.

**Section 2. Single-Use Carryout Bag.**

(a) No Store shall provide a Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bag to a customer at the check stand, cash register, point of sale or other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of the establishment except as provided in this Section.

(b) A Store may make available for sale to a Customer a Single-Use Carryout Bag for a minimum charge of five cents ($0.05).

(c) All monies collected by a Store for Single-Use Carryout Bags under this Chapter may be used by the Store for any lawful purpose.

(d) All Stores must post signage clearly indicating the per bag charge for Single-Use Carryout Bags.

(e) Notwithstanding this Section, no Store may make available for sale a Single-Use Carryout Bag unless the amount of the sale of the Single-Use Carryout is separately itemized on the sale receipt.

(f) No Store shall rebate or otherwise reimburse a customer any portion of the minimum charge required in Subsection (b).

**Section 3. Exemptions.**

During the first year of this ordinance, a Store may provide a Single-Use Carryout Plastic Bag or a Reusable Bag at no cost at point of sale to a customer who purchased the items with food instruments distributed by the Department of Health & Human Services pursuant to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program of the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966.

A Store shall be exempt from the provisions of this article, in a situation deemed by the City Manager to be an emergency for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety.
Section 4. Violations and enforcement.

The code enforcement officer or his/her designee(s), or other official designated by the City Manager, shall have the primary responsibility for enforcement of this article. If the code enforcement officer or his/her designee(s), or other official designated by the City Manager, determine(s) that a violation of this article has occurred, he/she shall issue a written warning notice to the Store that a violation has occurred. Penalties for violation of this article shall be as follows:

(a) A warning for the first violation in a one-year period.
(b) A fine not exceeding $250 for the second violation in a one-year period.
(c) A fine not exceeding $500 for each subsequent violation in a one-year period.

Section 5. Effective Date.

Enforcement of this article shall begin on July 1, 2019.

Section 6. Severability.

If any part or provision of this article or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the article, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, provisions of this article are severable.

COMMUNICATIONS

Committee Reports
City Manager’s Report

19-041 City Manager
Executive Session: Personnel Matter; 1 M.R.S.A., §405(6)(A)

Motion to move order 19-041 to enter executive session at 7:30 p.m. for pending litigation in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A., §405(6)(A).
By: Conti Second by: Lind
Yeas: 6
Nays: 0

Motion to leave executive session and adjourn at 8:15 p.m.
By: Alexander Second by: Lind
Yeas: 6
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta L. Fogg, City Clerk
March 7, 2019