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


PROCLAMATION: Declaring May 5, 2017 Jean-Paul Fortin Day.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2018 Proposed City and School Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA:

17-076 City Manager (Bureau of City Clerk) ORDERED, that the minutes of the City Council Meeting held April 20, 2017, submitted by the City Clerk’s office be approved.

Motion for passage of the Consent Agenda order 17-076
By: Wilson Second by: Blodgett
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

OLD BUSINESS AND TABLED MATTERS

SECOND READING (Ordinances)

17-075 Councilor Conti and Elliott WHEREAS, the City is in the process of reviewing and implementing potential changes to the Mineral Extraction Ordinance, in particular the blasting requirements; and

Motion to suspend the reading.
By: Wilson Second by Grant
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

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 be it ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Augusta that the Code of Ordinances, Land Use, be amended to add the following subsection to Section 198-5(A):
(3) All mineral extraction licenses which include permission to conduct blasting, and which are valid as of April 20, 2017, shall be automatically extended through September 30, 2017 unless a complete application for renewal licensure has been submitted approved by the Planning Board prior to April 20, 2017 May 4, 2017. The terms and conditions for any license extended by this subsection shall remain in effect through December 31, 2017 September 30, 2017. The Planning Board shall not issue renewal licenses for licensees which are subject to this subsection prior to January 1, 2018 August 30, 2017. Licensees subject to this subsection shall submit an application for renewal licensure to the City not earlier than November 1, 2017 nor later than December 31, 2017. All such renewal applications will be processed according to the terms of the Mineral Extraction Ordinance and Blasting Ordinance in effect at the time the application is deemed complete of August 30, 2017. Notwithstanding 1 M.R.S.A. §302, this Ordinance shall apply to all applications for renewal licensure that were not granted final approval as of May 4, 2017.

Motion for passage of the order 17-075
By: Conti Second by: Elliott

Motion to amend order 17-075 as noted (strike through and bolded italics)
By: Conti Second by: Elliott
Yea: 5
Nays: 2 - Blodgett and Wilson
Amendment passed

Vote on main motion as amended
Yea: 3 – Conti, Grant and Elliott
Nays: 4 – Blodgett, O’Brien, Wilson and Alexander
Motion failed

NEW BUSINESS PART 1

17-077 Mayor and Council
ORDERED, that the Mayor shall appoint an ad-hoc committee to study the feasibility of full or joint City ownership of the Togus Pond dam.

Motion for passage of the order 17-077
By: O’Brien Second by: Grant
Yea: 7
Nays: 0

17-078 City Manager
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council does hereby grant approval pursuant to Title 15 of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, section 5824(3) & 5826(6) to the transfer of $3,617.00, or any portion thereof to the Augusta Police Department, on the grounds that the City of Augusta Police Department did make a substantial contribution to the investigation of the criminal case, namely, State of Maine vs. Leo C. Dyer.

Minutes 05/04/2017
Motion for passage of the order 17-078
By: O’Brien                Second by: Elliott
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

17-079  Mayor and Council
ORDERED, that the City Manager is authorized to contract with the City’s realtor, REMAX Realty, for the listing of three tax acquired properties located at 7 Clark Street, 12 Cumberland Street and 8 Maine Street.

Motion for passage of the order 17-079
By: Conti                Second by: Blodgett
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

17-080  Mayor and Council
WHEREAS, the city continues to review and study the issue of recreational marijuana regulation as a result of the November 8, 2016, vote to legalize it; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that adequate progress is being made by the city on the issue of regulating recreational marijuana;

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it will take an additional one hundred and eighty (180) days from this date to complete its work;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ORDERED by the City Council of the City of Augusta, that the Moratorium Ordinance enacted on December 15, 2016, as ordinance number 16-205 be extended an additional one hundred and eighty (180) days.

Motion for passage of the order 17-080
By: O’Brien                Second by: Alexander
Yeas: 6
Nays: 1 – Wilson

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

17-081  Mayor and Council
WHEREAS, the City Council finds that overlapping regulations related to demolition is not necessary;

WHEREAS, the Augusta Historic District Review Board recommends eliminating unnecessary demolition delay regulations for designated local historic districts;

NOW THEREFORE be it ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Augusta, that the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:

Chapter 134-5(B) be amended to add a new subsection 3 that states:
(3) This section shall not apply to applications for demolition that are regulated by Chapter 300-316.5 Historic District Ordinance.

COMMUNICATIONS
   Committee Reports
   City Manager’s Report

17-082 City Manager
Executive Session: Application(s) for Abatement of Property Taxes; 1 M.R.S.A., §405(6)(F)

Motion to approve order 17-082 to enter executive session at 8:35pm in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A., §405(6)(F), Application for abatement of property taxes.
By: Conti Second by: Elliott
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

Motion to leave executive session at 9:40pm.
By: O’Brien Second by: Grant
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

Motion to adjourn at 9:40pm.
By: O’Brien Second by: Grant
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta L. Fogg, City Clerk
May 5, 2017