



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: December 4, 2017

Meetings:

There will be a City Council Business Meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on Thursday, December 7, 2017. Agendas are included in Council Packets. A pre-meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A.

A Senior Staff Meeting will take place at the City Center in Conference Room A at 9:15 a.m. on Friday the 8th.

Other:

Mayor Rollins and I have reviewed the January calendar and agreed that we should schedule Council's 2018 goal setting session for Saturday, January 20. As in past years, I have asked local consultant Frank O'Hara to assist us as facilitator of the process. Please mark your calendars.

The Planning Board has decided to change its schedule for the next few meetings. The changes are as follows:

December 12th – Remove
December 19th – Add
December 26th – Remove
January 2nd – Add

The Greater Augusta Utilities District (GAUD) has scheduled its follow-up capital projects planning meeting for next Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 pm. The Mayor and Council are invited to attend. For now, the meeting is scheduled to take place at the conference room at the wastewater treatment plant on Jackson Avenue. If a large turnout is expected they will find an alternate location to meet.

The other day, Fire Chief Audette provided me with the following brief update on progress at the Hartford Fire Station construction project. At a January informational meeting, I will have a more comprehensive report for you on the status of the project:

Hi Bill, The Hartford project is moving along fairly well. This week McGee has been working hard to complete excavation work and install catch basins. The concrete contractor is supposed to be all done with the foundation by December 10th. Yesterday they had a major pour of some walls and footings on the back side of the building. It will be close for them to meet their deadline. The structural steel is set to be delivered on December 10th. Steel

contractors are in the waiting ready to get started. The site is very congested right now but will only improve as McGee completes the bulk of his site work. CMP will be here on Tuesday to make a major switch over on our electrical entrance.

I am pleased with the work as it has progressed. I have learned that the work force issues in the construction industry are a continual challenge to stay on schedule. The most important issue is to maintain the highest quality of work and that is being done.

After last Thursday's informational meeting, the City Attorney and I reviewed the City Charter provision related to the Mayor's role regarding creation of Council Ad Hoc committees. It says:

Sec. 3 Powers and duties.

The Mayor shall be recognized as the official head of the City. The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the Council and shall perform such other duties not inconsistent with his office as the Council may impose. The Mayor shall vote only when there is a tie vote of the Council unless otherwise provided in this Charter. The Mayor shall appoint and the Council confirm all members of municipal boards and commissions, except the Mayor may exclusively appoint members to ad hoc committees.

The title of Mayor shall not be considered as conferring upon him or her any power of a Mayor under the general laws of the state inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter.

Thus, in the matter of the creation of and appointment to an ad hoc committee to study and make recommendation to the full Council of a recreational marijuana ordinance, once Council has expressed its desire to proceed in this fashion, it would be the Mayor's responsibility to appoint such a committee. Mayor Rollins has advised me that he intends to do so this Thursday evening and welcomes input from all members of Council prior to that.

Speaking of the recreational marijuana issue, I have enclosed in this package copies of South Portland's recently enacted regulatory ordinance for your review. I have also placed the moratorium ordinance on the agenda (under my sponsorship). Reflecting the discussion I heard last week, I have modified the proposed length of the moratorium to 120 days instead of 180 days. You can, of course, modify that timeline as you wish.

An excellent opportunity has arisen for the City to acquire a significant parcel of vacant land abutting Hatch Hill Regional landfill for an appraised value of \$36,000 (included in your packets is the executive summary of the appraisal which was prepared by Dwyer Associates). Sufficient funds exist in the Hatch Hill Enterprise Fund to accomplish this and doing so would create a valuable buffer to the landfill. As the current owners are strongly motivated to close by year-end and I don't see this matter as controversial, I have added this item directly to the business agenda. Please see DPW Director Lesley Jones memorandum (included) for further explanation.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Legislative Delegation