THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: February 27, 2017

Meetings:

There will be a meeting of the Religious Services Advisory Committee tonight, Monday, February 27th, at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room C.

The Age Friendly Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A.

Richard Parkhurst has invited you to tour the renovated building at 238 Water Street beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 2nd. Refreshments (to help you get through the evening) are planned. Please advise Loretta of your intention to attend.

There will be a City Council Business Meeting on Thursday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agendas are included in Council Packets. A pre-meeting will take place in Conference Room A beginning at 6:30 p.m.

A Senior Staff Meeting will be held at the City Center in Conference Room A beginning at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, March 3rd.

Other Items:

We have completed the snow removal effort associated with the heavy accumulation of last month (and before). DPW Director Lesley Jones is projecting that the winter maintenance budget will be approximately $230,000 over expended. Ralph St. Pierre and I are discussing how best to address that and I will have a recommendation for Council within the next few weeks. Hopefully, the worst of the winter of '17 is behind us.

Fire Chief Audette and Battalion Chief Bennett flew to Nebraska this morning to conduct a final inspection of the new Quint ladder truck. Barring any unforeseen concerns, we should be taking delivery of the vehicle immediately thereafter. Construction of the new North Augusta station is just a few weeks away from completion and the building can house the new truck whenever it arrives. We will plan appropriate ribbon-cutting and truck dedication ceremonies in the near future.

Copy: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation
AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, March 2, 2017
7:00 P.M.

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

PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Presentation: 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.

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

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.

NEW BUSINESS
PART I

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.

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.

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.

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;

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Agenda 03/02/2017
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, 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.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Committee Reports
City Manager’s Report

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta L. Fogg, City Clerk
February 27, 2017
MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, February 16, 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:

Councilor O’Brien became Mayor Pro-Tem when Mayor Rollins stepped down to make a presentation with City Manager Bridgeo to Councilor Bilodeau on the occasion of his resignation from the City Council.

Councilor Bilodeau left the meeting at 7:30pm

Presentation School Board Future Search Executive Summary – Kim Martin.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA:

17-029 City Manager (Bureau of City Clerk)
ORDERED, that the minutes of the City Council Meeting held February 2, 2017, submitted by the City Clerk’s office be approved.

17-030 City Manager (Bureau of Audit Accounts)
ORDERED, that the Roll of Accounts for the month of January, 2017 in the amount of $5,569,608.83 be approved.

Motion for passage of the Consent Agenda orders 17-029 and 17-030
By: Grant Second by: Blodgett
Yea: 7 Nay: 0

OLD BUSINESS AND TABLED MATTERS

SECOND READING (Ordinances)

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

Minutes 02/16/2017
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

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**

17-031  
City Manager

**BE IT ORDERED,** that the City Manager is authorized to accept grant funding in an amount not to exceed $2,000.00 from the Walmart Community Grant Program for the purchase of puncture resistant gloves. There is no monetary match required.

Motion for passage of the order 17-031
By: O’Brien  Second by: Alexander
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

17-032  
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 $673.15, 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. Donald Bowden.

Motion for passage of the order 17-032
By: O’Brien  Second by: Alexander
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

17-033  
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. Clover S. Baxter.

Motion for passage of the order 17-033
By: Blodgett  Second by: Elliott
Yeas: 7
Nays: 0

17-034  
Mayor and Council

**ORDERED,** that the City Manager is authorized to apply for AARP grant funding consistent with the recommendations of the Age Friendly Advisory Committee.

Minutes 02/16/2017
Motion for passage of the order 17-034
By: Conti           Second by: Blodgett
Yeaes: 7            Nays: 0

17-035 Mayor and Council
ORDERED, that the City Council hereby adopts the attached “Final Draft 2017 Council Goals and Actions” and does authorize the City Manager to take all appropriate executive actions to advance their timely accomplishment.

Motion for passage of the order 17-035
By: Blodgett        Second by: Elliott
Yeaes: 7            Nays: 0

17-036 City Manager
ORDERED, that the City Manager is authorized to accept two permanent trail easements for the Kennebec River Rail Trail extension from the current trail head down into the Waterfront Park. The two property owners to grant the easements are the Augusta Parking District (Map 33, Lots 287 and 288) and Edward Gall (Map 33, Lot 266).

Motion for passage of the order 17-036
By: Alexander       Second by: Conti
Yeaes: 7            Nays: 0

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

COMMUNICATIONS

  Committee Reports
  City Manager’s Report

Motion to adjourn at 8:25pm.
By: Elliott          Second by: Blodgett
Yeaes: 7            Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta L. Fogg, City Clerk
February 16, 2017
Subject: FW: Committee Membership Application (form) has been filled out on your site.

Loretta Lathe
Executive Assistant
Office of the City Manager
City of Augusta
16 Cony Street
Augusta ME 04330
Phone: 207-626-2300
Fax: 207-620-8174
www.augustamaine.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Please Do Not Click Reply [mailto:support@govoffice.com]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Loretta Lathe
Subject: Committee Membership Application (form) has been filled out on your site.

Your Site has received new information through a form.
Form: Committee Membership Application
Site URL: www.augustamaine.gov

Choose from the following:
    Historic Preservation Commission
Name: Susan Williams
City: Augusta
State: ME
Zip Code: 04330
Phone (w):
Fax:

Reason for seeking appointment: I have always had a love for and interest in old houses and structures, even as a child. The architectural elements fascinate me, and I believe that the history that each one holds is valuable, and should be acknowledged and preserved. Once an historic structure is gone, a piece of the history of what made the community, and how life was lived is gone forever. In addition to the personal and societal history, I appreciate the design and features of old homes, that also will never be replaced once they are gone. My personal desire is to promote the blending of historic structures with the modern needs of family and community, in order to preserve the physical and culturally history of those structures.

Education, training or experience relevant to appointment sought and any prior service on community boards: I have no formal training or education in historic architecture, only personal interest that has prompted self-education, primarily through reading, workshops, and viewing old homes. However, I have served on many boards and committees in various capacities through the years, including chair positions.

Special skills, knowledge, talents, insights, or point of view that you might offer to the Board or Committee and any objectives you may have for the position: I have lived most of my life in older homes, and appreciate the advantages and disadvantages. I would like to see the City of Augusta, and its residents, promote and preserve its history through historical buildings.
Your Site has received new information through a form.
Form: Committee Membership Application
Site URL: www.augustamaine.gov

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Choose from the following:
  Lithgow Library Board of Trustees
Name: Jennifer Bechard
Email: fbechard@kennebecsavings.bank
Address: 46 Meadowrue Dr
City: Augusta
State: ME
Zip Code: 04330
Phone (w): Xxxxxxx
Phone (h):
Phone (c):
Fax:

Reason for seeking appointment: I would like to become more involved in my community and I have a special enthusiasm for the library. I grew up in Augusta going to the library, and now take my children to the library. I want to see Lithgow thrive for many more generations to come.

Education, training or experience relevant to appointment sought and any prior service on community boards: I have not served on another community board, but as my children get a little older I am wanting to find ways to give back to my community. I have a B.S. in Marketing Management, but have worked in Human Resources for the last 20 years.

Special skills, knowledge, talents, insights, or point of view that you might offer to the Board or Committee and any objectives you may have for the position: As mentioned, having worked in Human Resources for 20 years, I have a lot of experience in human relations, collaborative efforts, and coaching. I work well with people and bring positive energy to each situation. I would like to serve as a Trustee for Lithgow, promoting and supporting its very essential services for Augusta and the surrounding communities.

Do Not Click Reply - This e-mail has been generated from a super form.