



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. STOKES, MAYOR

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL

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MICHAEL G. BYRON MARK S. O'BRIEN
DANIEL M. EMERY PATRICK E. PARADIS
DAREK M. GRANT DAVID M. ROLLINS

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: April 16, 2013

Meetings:

On Thursday, April 18, the City Council will hold its regular Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers. The agenda is enclosed with your package. Budget review will continue immediately afterward.

Other Items:

We received two responses to our RFP for natural gas services – one from Maine Natural Gas and one from Summit Utilities. I immediately had both posted on the City's website. I've since had some preliminary discussions with Development Director Matt Nazar and Mayor Stokes. The proposals are, of course, somewhat complex and it will take some effort to analyze and compare them. I've asked Matt to identify a potential outside expert resource to assist us in the process. I've also discussed with the Mayor the possibility of him appointing a three-member Council committee to oversee this process and ultimately formulate a recommendation for the full Council on how to proceed. The RFP did not specify a deadline for the City to respond with a decision however we clearly want to do this in an expeditious fashion (without unduly rushing it). Look for an update on process later this week.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of the tragedy yesterday in Boston. A few years ago for moral support, I ran the last leg of the marathon with my brother, Kevin. It's hard to describe the atmosphere that prevails at the approach to the finish line. It's even harder to imagine the awful scene that transpired yesterday. Those of us with some responsibility for public safety in the community cannot help but think about what such a horrific event occurring in our community would mean. It reinforces our need to always be prepared for the worst and to maintain our emergency response resources at a proper level.

Once again, Councilor Munson devoted a morning to testifying at the Legislature, this time on Senator Katz's and Senator Alford's revenue sharing bills. His testimony was well prepared and well delivered and very helpful to the cause. As a "retail politician" (his term, not mine), he brought an important perspective to the hearing and it was clear that the Appropriations Committee and Taxation Committee both appreciated it. I tag-teamed with Councilor Munson and appreciated the chance to do so.

WRB/pec

Enclosure

cc: Department and Bureau Directors
Legislative Delegation