



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. STOKES, MAYOR

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL

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TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: May 20, 2013

Meetings:

On Thursday, May 23, the City Council will hold a Special Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with a Budget Workshop (wrap-up session) to follow.

Other Items:

With the advent of installation of gas pipelines throughout the City, the need has arisen to occasionally approve construction at times not ordinarily permitted under our Land Use Ordinance. We have received our first request – this time from Maine Natural Gas – to allow nighttime construction (to avoid causing traffic congestion and horizontally drill under I-95 at the safest time). I anticipate that there will be a number of future requests from both companies (MNG and Summit Utilities). Time is of the essence for the MNG request so I have placed an order authorizing me going forward to approve such requests (on the recommendation of senior staff) on an as-needed basis. The alternative would be for Council to meet and review every future request individually as they arise. As we already have a special meeting scheduled for this Thursday for the budget public hearing, it works out well.

The news of our receipt of the \$200,000 CDBG grant for Haymarket Square was terrific. Kudos are due to a lot of individuals including the Augusta Downtown Alliance members who championed this idea and City staffers (Leif Dahlin, Jim Goulet, Matt Nazar, Keith Luke, Dan Nichols and Ralph St. Pierre). Special thanks go out to Larry Fleury, Jenn Curtis and Amanda Bartlett of ADA, Jesse Patkus of UMA and ADA, and Raegan LaRochelle, our consultant who wrote the grant, for all they did. The prospects for downtown just keep getting better and better and that is most encouraging and exciting.

WRB/pec

Enclosure

cc: Department and Bureau Directors
Legislative Delegation