

**MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY CENTER
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.

Public Hearing - 58 Mt. Vernon Avenue Demolition

Public comments were held on items listed on the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS AND TABLED MATTERS

TABLED

16-079

ORDERED, That Karla Black be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals, said term to expire May 19, 2019.

(NO MOTION TO REMOVE FROM TABLE)

NEW BUSINESS

HAS BEEN READ, FIRST READING

16-108

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that amending the Code of City of Augusta, Land Use Chapter, was unanimously recommended by the Planning Board after a public hearing;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, By the City Council of the City of Augusta, that the Code of the City of Augusta be amended as follows:

A portion of the lot known as Assessor's Map 9 Lot 62, shown on Rezoning Plan for MJH LLC by ES Coffin Engineering & Surveying dated March 4, 2016, zoned Rural River District (RR) shall be rezoned in accordance with Section 300-106.B.(d)[1] of the Augusta Land Use Ordinance. The new zone shall be Civic Center District (CD).

(FIRST READING, NO VOTE TAKEN)

NEW BUSINESS (Con't)

READ AND PASSED

16-099

ORDERED, That the minutes of the City Council meeting held June 2, 2016, submitted by the City Clerk, be approved.

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: Munson
Yeas: 7; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett
 Munson, Bilodeau, McCormick
Nays: 0

16-100

ORDERED, That the Roll of Accounts for the month of May, 2016 in the amount of \$5,855,739.60 be approved.

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: Munson
Yeas: 7; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett
 Munson, Bilodeau, McCormick
Nays: 0

16-101

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2016, it came to the attention of the City of Augusta that the building located at 58 Mount Vernon Avenue, Augusta appeared to be extremely structurally unstable, and

WHEREAS, an independent structural engineer determined that the building was in jeopardy of an immediate and catastrophic collapse, and

WHEREAS, the building was located less than ten feet from the sidewalk and Mt. Vernon Avenue, and

WHEREAS, the City, after consultation with Corporation Counsel, determined that the only way to avoid an unacceptable risk to public safety was to immediately demolish the building, and

WHEREAS, the City, by and through a contractor it hired, safely demolished the structure, and

WHEREAS, The City seeks to recoup from the owner all costs of demolition,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the following property located at: 58 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Augusta, Maine, Tax Map 35, Lot 17 be retroactively declared a “dangerous building” that is:

- a. structurally unsafe, and
- b. unstable, and
- c. constituted a fire hazard, and
- d. constituted a health or safety hazard because of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence or abandonment, and
- e. was otherwise dangerous to life or property.

Therefore, the above-mentioned property is adjudged to be a dangerous nuisance. Because of the immediate risk to public safety, the City of Augusta appropriately acted to cause the above-mentioned dangerous nuisance to be removed on May 13, 2016.

Accordingly all expenses attendant thereof shall be repaid to the City by the owner or co-owner within thirty (30) days after demand or a special tax may be assessed by the City Assessor

against the land on which said building was located for the amount of such expenses and such amount shall be included in the next annual warrant to the City's Tax Collector for collection, and shall be collected in the same manner as other state, county, and municipal taxes are collected. In addition to levying a special tax, the City may recover its expenses by means of a civil action brought against the owner.

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: Paradis
Yeas: 7; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett
 Munson, Bilodeau, McCormick
Nays: 0

16-102

BE IT ORDERED. That the City Manager is authorized to accept grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00 from Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for the 2016 Fall ATV Enforcement Grant. Grant funding will be utilized to provide directed ATV Patrol and Enforcement.

Motion for passage by: Munson Second by: Bilodeau
Yeas: 7; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett
 Munson, Bilodeau, McCormick
Nays: 0

16-103

ORDERED, That the City of Augusta property taxes for the 2017 fiscal year shall be due and payable at the Office of the Tax Collector as follows:

- ONE HALF shall be due on September 15, 2016
- ONE HALF shall be due on March 16, 2017

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That interest is charged on any outstanding amount commencing one (1) day after the due date at the rate of 7% per annum.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That any tax payment received as payment for any property tax be applied against outstanding or delinquent taxes due on that property in chronological order beginning with the oldest unpaid tax bill. (36 M.R.S.A. §906).

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: Blodgett
Yeas: 7; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett
 Munson, Bilodeau, McCormick
Nays: 0

16-104

ORDERED, That the City Manager is hereby authorized to sell or otherwise dispose of all surplus property situated at the temporary Lithgow Public Library. Proceeds from the sale of said property shall be temporarily deposited in a reserve account pending a determination by Council of their disposition.

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: McCormick
Yeas: 7; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett
 Munson, Bilodeau, McCormick
Nays: 0

16-105

ORDERED, That, based on information recently made available, the City Council does hereby reaffirm order number 16-073 authorizing the City Manager to apply for federal COPS grant funding.

Motion for passage by: Munson Second by: Bilodeau
Yeas: 5; Conti, Grant, Paradis,
 Munson, Bilodeau
Nays: 2; Blodgett, McCormick

16-106

ORDERED, That the tabulation results for the Municipal Referendum & School Budget Validation Election held June 14, 2016, submitted by the City Clerk, be and hereby certified.

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: McCormick
Yeas: 7; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett
 Munson, Bilodeau, McCormick
Nays: 0

16-107

BE IT ORDERED. That the City Manager is authorized to accept grant funding in the amount \$23,292.83 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, FY2016 Local Solicitation. The grant of \$44,680.00 is distributed between three agencies. In accordance with grant specifications, grant funding will be allocated as such: \$23,292.83 awarded to the Augusta Police Department, \$14,976.64 awarded to the Waterville Police Department, \$6,410.53 awarded to the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office. The Augusta Police Department will be the administrative agency for the grant. Grant funding to the Augusta Police Department will be utilized to purchase In-Car Video cameras and mobile radar units.

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: Paradis
Yeas: 7; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett
 Munson, Bilodeau, McCormick
Nays: 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. Wardwell, City Clerk
June 20, 2016