



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: January 11, 2016

Meetings:

A TIF Committee Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 12, 2015 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Conference Room A.

Also on Tuesday, January 12th there will be a meeting of the Planning Board in Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, January 14th there will be a City Council Informational Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. An agenda is included in your Council Packets.

Other Items:

As anticipated last week, the upcoming informational meeting starts the year of with several issues of substance. Among them is discussion of the need for some additional funding (\$500,000) to allow completion of the North Augusta Fire Station project. In this packet you will find a memorandum from Matt Nazar which illustrates the current land values for properties in that part of the City. I believe you will agree after reviewing it that there would likely be little if no opportunity for avoiding this extra expense were we to abandon this site and acquire a new parcel for the station. You will also find a memo and spreadsheet from Ralph St. Pierre that explains the funding plan for the station and how the additional necessary funds can be appropriated by you from the North Augusta, 2011 JS McCarthy, NRF 1 and NRF 2 TIF accounts – which were established explicitly for this purpose. I want to stress that the original architect's estimates for the building remain valid and that the terrible soil condition only became known when the in-depth geotechnical work was done to complete final design and construction drawings.

Also up for discussion next Thursday is the draft property maintenance ordinance, tabled from last month. I have distributed additional copies of the draft as well as input from Councilors Grant and Paradis originally provided last month as well.

You will also find a memorandum listing the results of a recent sealed bid process for several tax-acquired properties. As was mentioned at your last meeting by REO Committee Chair Bilodeau, these results are coming directly to the informational meeting as there is no issue at the committee level with proceeding with their sale.

Finally, Lesley Jones and Ralph St. Pierre have, after significant review, developed a recommendation (which I support) to reduce the per-capita fee that we currently charge to those seven communities (Manchester, Hallowell, Farmingdale, Gardiner, Randolph, Chelsea and Whitefield) from \$15 per capita to \$10. That will, I anticipate, result in a \$100,000 reduction in this revenue line-item for Hatch Hill Landfill but also result in greater usage that we project will offset the lost revenue with additional tipping fees. Failure to do so, we fear, will cause some of our participating municipalities to look elsewhere for their solid waste disposal options and have a greater negative impact on this enterprise.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation