



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. STOKES, MAYOR

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL

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DAREK M. GRANT         DAVID M. ROLLINS

TO:            Mayor and City Council  
FROM:        City Manager Bill Bridgeo  
RE:            Administrative Report  
DATE:        January 21, 2014

Meetings:

A meeting of the Strategic Communications Committee will take place tonight, January 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 6:30pm in Conference Room C.

The Historic District Ordinance Committee Meeting for January 22<sup>nd</sup> has been rescheduled to Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Conference Room A.

There will be a REX Committee meeting in Conference Room A beginning at 5pm on Thursday, January 23, 2014.

There will be an Informational Meeting of the City Council in Council Chambers beginning at 6:30pm on Thursday, January 23, 2014. An agenda has been included in your council packets.

Other Items:

The City is working collaboratively with the Court system, the Parking District and the County to create an 87 space parking lot in the vicinity of the new courthouse. Part of the Planning Board's project approval required more parking than is possible on the new courthouse site. Since the City and County both lobbied very hard for the new facility to be located adjacent to the existing historic building (and the county jail), it is incumbent upon us to do what we can to help the Court system solve their parking space needs. No City money will go into whatever solution is arrived at but City staff is available to lend their expertise (including Development Director Matt Nazar and his team). The goal is to acquire property, design and engineer a parking lot, finance it (if possible through the Parking District - not through general obligation bonds but from an arrangement with the Court system whereby it would lease the space for an amount equal to the annual debt cost of the improvements), and construct it in time for the February 2015 building opening date.

All this was discussed at a meeting this morning with Court system personnel (Supreme Court Justice Joseph Jabar and Project Manager Phil Johnson), Parking District Chair John Finnegan, Matt and me (County Administrator Bob Devlin, who regularly participates in these meetings was unavailable today). My hope is that we will have this element of the new courthouse project squared away and under construction by early summer. After this morning's meeting, we toured the construction project (which is about 50% complete). It is indeed a very impressive structure.

Tomorrow is the legislative hearing before the Appropriations Committee on the bill to independently fund municipal revenue sharing (and remove the existing threat to most of what remains in that program). Councilor Munson is testifying on behalf of the City. I encourage all members of Council and department directors to feel welcome to attend the hearing and make their presence known to the legislators. Ralph St. Pierre and I are in the midst of 2014-2015 budget preparation and I assure you that if we lose the \$800,000 + in revenue sharing that is at risk the consequence will be awful.

DPW Director Lesley Jones is doing follow-up work with Representative Gay Grant (D-Gardiner) who sits on the Legislature's Environment and Natural Resources Committee regarding the bill that proposed to institute a \$14 per ton fee on all waste brought into Hatch Hill. Rep. Grant has been very helpful in working to find a way to address some legitimate public policy concerns about the viability of the State's waste-to-energy facilities without unduly burdening municipal landfills like ours. She appreciates Lesley's knowledge and expertise and we appreciate her advocacy of our interests.

The proposed Capital Improvement Plan for the current fiscal year is up for discussion at this Thursday's informational meeting (and because of that I have asked for the meeting to be televised). I do not necessarily expect for you to get through it all in one sitting (although that's not out of the realm of possibility) and if necessary a follow-up discussion will be scheduled for the February 13<sup>th</sup> informational meeting. We do need to finalize authorization of a number of projects by March however if we wish to issue Council bonds effective this fiscal year. The draft plan is enclosed. Many of the items it contains will not be new to Council.

Also on the agenda for Thursday evening is a presentation by the Lithgow Library fundraising committee so as to update Council on the status of their efforts. I anticipate that discussion of the library project will be part of the goal-setting session on Saturday. Thursday's presentation will, according to Wick Johnson, be an opportunity to provide background information to tee up Saturday's conversation.

C: Department and Bureau Directors  
Augusta Legislative Delegation