



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: January 5, 2015

Meetings:

This Thursday evening (the 8th) at 7:00 pm, there will be a Council business meeting for the purpose of swearing in the new members of Council and School Board. Prior to the meeting (6:15 – 6:45) there will be a reception in honor of the newly elected officials. Immediately following the meeting, there will be an informational meeting. That agenda is enclosed.

Other Items:

On Wednesday, the Lithgow Building Advisory Committee will spend the day interviewing the four companies selected (from the ten that submitted proposals) as finalists for construction manager for the project. All four firms are Maine-based and have extensive experience doing projects of this scope. A staff level committee that included Matt Nazar, Betsy Pohl and Lesley Jones – with critical guidance from our engineering consultants at Woodward and Curran – conducted an in-depth review of all of the original submissions and employed a sophisticated ranking system provided by Woodward and Curran to arrive at the four finalists. Once a decision is reached this Wednesday, we will immediately proceed with project development meetings with the architect, construction manager and City staff. This week, we will be issuing an RFP for a full-time contractual Owner's Representative to oversee on our behalf the construction project. This position is a key insurance policy for a quality project.

City Engineer Lionel Cayer has two items on the informational agenda for Thursday evening. The first is completion of the last leg of the Kennebec River Rail Trail from the Maine State Housing Authority parking lot down the hill to the waterfront park area. The local share for this funding is potentially available from Downtown TIF proceeds. The second project is a much needed pedestrian safety one, a sidewalk along Civic Center Drive from Community Drive to Darin Drive (the entrance to the Business Park) Here again the bulk of the funding is State/Federal and the local match can be appropriated from TIF funds – this time the natural gas TIF.

I am anxiously awaiting the release this Friday of the Governor's proposed biennial budget. How he treats key issues to us like revenue sharing, highway funding and excise tax, and general assistance will greatly influence how things go in 2015.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation