

**MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY CENTER
7:00 p.m.**

All members of Council were present; Mayor Rollins presided.

Presentation - White Cane Safety Day 2015

Public comments were held on items listed on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

HAS BEEN READ AND PASSED

15-157

WHEREAS, Roger Katz, former Mayor of our City and presently our State Senator has distinguished himself by working with every group and every point of view to achieve consensus; and,

WHEREAS, Roger Katz has been steadfast in his efforts to protect the Land For Maine's Future Program to set aside private land so that the public may enjoy Maine's beauty and natural resources; and,

WHEREAS, Roger Katz has recognized the value of Municipal Revenue Sharing Program and how its funding is essential to the stability of the local property tax; and,

WHEREAS, Roger Katz has engaged all Maine's legislators and recognized that Augusta has, with 25% of its property tax exempt, a unique relationship with State Government; and,

WHEREAS, Lord Tweedsmuir, in his memoirs, proclaimed that "Politics is an honourable profession and, for young people public service should be considered the crown of a career." and,

WHEREAS, Margaret Chase Smith professed: "My creed is that public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation with full recognition that every human being is entitled to courtesy and consideration, that constructive criticism is not only to be expected but sought, that smears are not only to be expected but fought, that honor is to be earned and not bought."

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Mayor and Council of the City of Augusta do hereby acknowledge the many important bipartisan efforts of our Senator Roger Katz and do hereby commend him for his distinguished public service.

Motion to suspend the rules to move item to first on agenda by: Paradis
Second by: Munson
Yeas: 8; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
Bilodeau, Munson, McCormick, Emery
Nays: 0

Motion for passage by: Paradis Second by: Munson
Yeas: 8; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
Bilodeau, Munson, McCormick, Emery
Nays: 0

OLD BUSINESS AND TABLED MATTERS

HAS BEEN READ AND PASSED, FINAL READING

15-141

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that vacant and abandoned properties pose a significant public safety risk and that such properties should be identified, and a responsible ownership entity established, the City of Augusta Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to establish a vacant building and property registry.

WHEREAS, a Vacant and Abandoned Property registry that will provide a just, equitable and practicable method for identifying, managing and responding to the numerous issues associated with vacant buildings throughout the City of Augusta.

WHEREAS, This ordinance is intended to prevent or mitigate dangers to health, safety and welfare, promote responsible management, provide a safe neighborhood for residents, safeguard property values, expedite housing repairs, and provide for prompt contact with owners or managers by Police, Fire, and Code Enforcement when issues or emergencies develop.

BE IT ORDAINED, By the City Council of the City of Augusta that Chapter 6, Article I, § 6-92 through 6-99, Property Maintenance – Vacant Building Registration ordinance be enacted (full ordinance language attached).

Motion for passage by: Grant Second by: McCormick
Yeas: 8; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
Bilodeau, Munson, McCormick, Emery
Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS (Con't)

HAS BEEN READ AND PASSED

15-155

ORDERED, That the revised minutes of the City Council meeting held September 17, 2015; submitted by the City Clerk be approved.

Motion for passage by: Munson Second by: Bilodeau
Yeas: 8; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
 Bilodeau, Munson, McCormick, Emery
Nays: 0

15-156

ORDERED, That Patricia Sevigny be appointed Ward 4 Warden, Jane Dumas be appointed Ward 4 Ward Clerk and Nancy Glavin be appointed Ward 2 Ward Clerk for the November 3, 2015 State Referendum and Municipal / Referendum Election; in accordance with the City of Augusta Charter, Article V, Section 2.

Motion for passage by: Munson Second by: Bilodeau
Yeas: 8; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
 Bilodeau, Munson, McCormick, Emery
Nays: 0

15-158

ORDERED, That Voter Registration hourly schedule for open session for the November 3, 2015 State Referendum and Municipal / Referendum Election be:

Thursday October 29, 2015 from 1:00 p.m.to 6:00 p.m.

The intent of this order is to change the evening session time in accordance with M.R.S.A., Title 21-A, Section 122(8), as amended.

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: McCormick
Yeas: 8; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
 Bilodeau, Munson, McCormick, Emery
Nays: 0

15-159

ORDERED, That the City Council authorize CTV-7 to produce and cablecast the 2015 City Council and Board of Education Candidates' Forum to be held on October 6th in the Cony High School Auditorium with students from the AP US Government class asking questions of the candidates.

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: Emery
Yeas: 8; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
 Bilodeau, Munson, McCormick, Emery
Nays: 0

15-160

ORDERED, That the City Council authorize a Beer Tent to be held on Sunday, October 18, 2015 or alternative inclement weather date at the City's Bond Brook Recreation Area during the Augusta Trails Fourth Annual Tread Fest.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That the Beer Tent be managed and operated by a duly licensed vendor with all applicable licenses, permits and insurance in place prior to the event and that all servers will be properly TIPS trained and certified.

Motion for passage by: Paradis Second by: Emery
Yeas: 7; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
 Bilodeau, Munson, Mc Emery
Nays: 1; McCormick

15-161

ORDERED, That the City Council adopt the General Assistance maximum levels in accordance with Title 22 M.R.S.A. Section 4305 (3-B).

Motion for passage by: Munson Second by: Conti
Yeas: 8; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
 Bilodeau, Munson, McCormick, Emery
Nays: 0

15-162

ORDERED, That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a drainage and sewer easement over the former Buker School property, assessor's map 21-3 for Capital City Holding LLC in a form approved by Corporation Counsel.

Motion for passage by: Bilodeau Second by: Blodgett
Yeas: 8; Conti, Grant, Paradis, Blodgett,
 Bilodeau, Munson, McCormick, Emery
Nays: 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. Wardwell, City Clerk
October 5, 2015