



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: November 10, 2014

Meetings:

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 is Veterans Day and a City of Augusta holiday. All administrative offices will be closed for business for the day.

On Wednesday, November 12th there will be a Planning Board Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. An agenda is enclosed in council packets.

Also on Wednesday, November 12th there will be a School Board Meeting in Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 p.m. A pre-meeting will take place in Conference Room A beginning at 6:30 p.m.

There will be an OREO Committee Meeting in Conference Room A beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 13th.

The City Council will hold an Informational Meeting on Thursday, November 13th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. An agenda is enclosed in your council packets.

Other Items:

We have quite an ambitious agenda scheduled for discussion on Thursday evening's informational meeting. Mayor Rollins and I discussed how best to manage it to meet reasonable time expectations. Thus a couple of items that are not urgent have been moved to the December informational meeting.

The first item for Thursday night is consideration of the use of the construction-management-at-risk method of contracting for the renovation and construction of the Lithgow Library project. I have engaged the services of the engineering firm of Woodward and Curran to assist us in understanding and proceeding with this approach should Council deem it to be the proper way to proceed. W&C has provided engineering and consulting services to the City (most notably as our Hatch Hill engineers for many years) over the years and they are authorities on C/M at-risk. If this is how we decide to proceed, W&C would assist us with and RFP for C/M firms and help us select the right firm. Also present Thursday evening will be Ellsworth City Manager Michelle Beal. Ellsworth is just completing a \$4 million adaptive reuse of an historic school into a community center using the C/M at-risk approach (and using W&C as their engineers, coincidentally). Our library construction advisory committee and city staff members all support going forward in this manner and on balance, I do too. It is worth emphasizing that C/M at-risk is not intended to be a cost-saving technique; rather, its purpose to ensure the highest quality project possible given the amount of funding available.

There has been a considerable amount of discussion amongst the members of the Parking District board, the Downtown Alliance members and the City staff about parking regulation in the core downtown area. With the wonderful increase in new apartments and new downtown residents, it is clear that modifications need to be

made to reduce confusion and inconvenience, especially in the winter. Some of the changes can be accomplished by the Parking District (they have, by ordinance, control over parking regulations in much of the downtown). A change in the winter parking ban ordinance is required of Council and will be taken up this Thursday. New signage is also needed and may require a Council appropriation but that is not ready for discussion as yet. In one sense, it's great to have this problem to deal with as it signals the resurgence of our downtown.

Once again, Laura Benedict and the Red Barn have stepped forward to address a charitable need in our community. In this instance it is to raise funds to assist the Gregoire family as they contend with the costs not covered by insurance associated with the Chief's ongoing rehabilitation from the injuries sustained in last September's accident. At this time, Bob is dependent on a wheelchair and there are equipment and home modification costs that are not covered by insurance. Thus, Laura has committed to a fund-raiser at the Red Barn on Monday, November 24th (from 4 pm to 6 pm) with all of the proceeds to go to assisting the Gregoires. I urge all who read this report to mark their calendars and join us that evening for great food for a great cause. (Plans are also in the works for an evening event – sponsored by the law enforcement community – sometime after the holidays to respond to the statewide outpouring of support for Bob. More information will be forthcoming on that as it develops.)

On a sad note, we all offer our condolences to our friend and colleague Dave Smith on the occasion of his wife Dot's passing from cancer. I last had the chance to spend time with Dot at last August's neighborhood block party. She was a wonderful, caring member of our community and she will be greatly missed.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation