



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: November 14, 2016

Meetings:

On Tuesday, November 15, 2016 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Lecture Hall there will be a Mayor's Forum on Electric Vehicles presented by Maine Clean Communities. All of Council is invited to attend and test drives will be available.

There will be a meeting of the Planning Board on Tuesday as well beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

There will be a City Council Business Meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Agendas are included in council packets. A pre-meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A.

A Senior Staff meeting will take place on Friday, November 18th beginning at 9:15 a.m. at the Civic Center in the Somerset Room.

Other Items:

Regarding the six proposed amendments to the Land Use Ordinance (Numbers 16-183 through 16-188) that are scheduled for second reading and possible adoption this Thursday evening, it is anticipated that there is broad Council support to go forward with all but the last two (defining "Meal center and Food Pantry" and defining "Religious Activities"). Those two will need further discussion and deliberation and will, I expect will be tabled so that may occur.

As well, given the amount of information being generated related to the blasting ordinance amendments under considerate and up for second reading on Thursday, I expect that you will table this item as well and continue deliberation at the informational meeting level until you have established standards that will withstand legal challenge. It is anticipated that residents will be present at the public hearing/public comment section of the meeting to voice their opinions on the topic.

Also tabled at the last business meeting was the proposed City "Complete Streets" policy. As I indicated I would, I have solicited input from City staff of the amendments that Councilor McCormick offered at the last business meeting. I will plan to include further discussion of the policy and amendments at the next informational meeting.

With this packet, I am enclosing a notice that we have recently received from our health insurance carrier (the Maine Municipal Association Health Trust). As you can see from it, in January we will experience a 15% increase in our premium costs (as will our employees on their portion – typically 20% - of the premium costs). We budgeted for a projected 12% increase so we will have to watch this cost center as the fiscal year progresses. Ralph St. Pierre does note that, notwithstanding this large price hike, our premium costs as an independently rated group are less than the MMEHT pool rate which covers most of the municipalities in Maine.

Loretta Lathe advises me that at the conclusion of this year's combined charitable appeals drive City employees (including Mayor and Council) raised \$17,794. Although off from last year's effort (we raised \$20,964) it is, nonetheless a very good demonstration of the charitable spirit of the people in our organization.

Speaking of the great people in our organization, last week two of our dedicated City Hall employees marked the 30th anniversary of their employment with the City. Claire True (our Deputy Auditor) and Gary Fuller (our senior Code Enforcement Officer) both epitomize the positive qualities that, in my opinion, make the City of Augusta's workforce the best in Maine. We thank them both for their service to the community.

Copy: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation