



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: November 17, 2014

Meetings:

There will be a Conservation Commission Meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room C.

On Wednesday, November 19th there will be a Historic District Subcommittee Meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A.

The City Council will hold a Business Meeting on Thursday, November 20th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. An agenda is enclosed in your council packets. A pre-meeting will take place in Conference Room A beginning at 6:30 p.m.

A Senior Staff Meeting will be held at the City Center in Conference Room A beginning at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, November 21, 2014.

Other Items:

Enclosed with your package this week is the final FY 2013 -2014 audited financial statements prepared by our outside auditors, Runyon, Kersteen and Ouellette. I am very pleased to report that the audit is an unqualified clean audit. Aside from a couple of minor findings related to the School Department (which the superintendent is taking steps to address), the auditors found nothing warranting comment in their examination of the City's finances and there were no recommended management actions. The one item of concern that the audit does reflect is a negative fund balance in the Civic Center Enterprise Fund. It has accumulated over several years and about equates to the amount we annual transfer from the Civic Center to the General Fund for administrative services. Director Dana Colwell and his staff have been diligent and creative in managing costs and expenses at the Civic Center so this is not a management question. Ralph and Dana and I all agree that a number of factors – including changes in the market - contribute to this situation and it will need to be addressed this year either in goal-setting or during budget or both.

The clean audit is quite a remarkable accomplishment and speaks to the integrity of the City's fiscal management practices and procedures. Kudos go to Ralph St. Pierre, his deputy Tracy Roy and the entire City management team for this signature accomplishment. With the heavy number of agenda items of late, I'm including the talking point slides that RKO would typically present in person and foregoing a formal auditors' presentation. If you have questions about the audit or would like to discuss and the related exhibits, please let me know and I will schedule something.

I am meeting this week with the owners of the Ballard Center (the former Maine General Hospital building) to discuss the terms of a proposed lease agreement for interim library space. Once we have something concrete, I will present to Council at an informational meeting. **(Please turn over for page 2 →)**

I'm advised that there will be a progress tour of the Cony Flatiron Building on Friday morning. Any member of Council wishing to join in should contact my office so we can arrange to include you.

I met on Friday with Frank O'Hara of Planning Decisions, Inc. to begin planning for the 2015 Council goal-setting process. As veteran councilors appreciate, this process has proved most valuable over the years and Frank has been a popular and effective facilitator. We are tentatively targeting Saturday, January 24th for a full day's work.

Next Monday, the 24th, the Red Barn Restaurant will be holding a fund-raising event to benefit Chief Gregoire and his family. Mayor Rollins, Deputy Chief Mills and I will be there to greet patrons (and take home some of Laura Benedict's great food!). Hopefully all who read this report will have an opportunity to stop by and lend support.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation