



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: November 2, 2015

Meetings:

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2015 all polling places will be open in the city and will operate from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, November 4th there will be a follow-up Mayfair Neighborhood meeting in Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a City Council Business Meeting on Thursday, November 5th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agendas are included 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 take place at the Police Department on Friday, November 6th beginning at noon.

Other Items:

There are a couple of items on the business agenda Thursday that have not been discussed at an informational meeting. The first is approval to accept a grant from Wal-Mart Corporation for \$2,500 for digital cameras for police officers (not to be confused with body cameras) and the second is to allow for donating two "grow lights" to the Buker youth gardening program. The equipment was confiscated by the Police Department and has minimal (likely under \$50.00) resale value but would be considerably more expensive if the program had to buy it new. It will be used to get an early indoor start on next season's vegetable plantings.

Also as relates to Council's agenda, I remind you that the Tax Increment Financing items that were discussed at your last informational meeting will not come to a business agenda until they have been reviewed by the State and ten-day public notices have been posted (hopefully by year-end).

I learned this morning that the State Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is proposing new rules for the Community Development Block Grant program that would, for the next five years, eliminate any possibility of CDBG grants for downtown redevelopment projects as well as the annual \$100,000 in CDBG funding that has gone to support the Maine Downtown Center. This, I believe, would constitute a serious blow to one of the few remaining resources available to cities and towns (like ours) to stimulate combatting

blighted conditions and encouraging private investment in our core infrastructure. CDBG funding has been a vital component in our successful efforts over the past decade or more in our downtown. I plan to have testimony submitted on the City's behalf at Wednesday's DECD public hearing on the matter.

I'm including with this packet a land use concept plan that was independently commissioned and prepared three years ago by Grow Smart Maine. It focuses on an area of the City that takes in the properties bounded by Western Avenue, Sewall Street, Capitol Street and Florence Street (which includes the former MDOT maintenance facilities and the Capital Shopping Plaza). Matt Nazar found it last week as he was reviewing his files as part of the discussion centered around the recent State RFP request for 225,000 square feet of new leased office space within a mile radius of the State Capitol complex. It presents some interesting concept ideas in the context of the current public conversation about this latest State initiative.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation