



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: November 7, 2016

Meetings:

Tuesday is Election Day! Staff has worked diligently to ensure that this monumental election goes smoothly and I am sure that it will. The weather looks to be about perfect as we exercise our most important democratic franchise. If you happen to be in City Hall, stop by the Manager's Office for a cookie.

There will be a City Council Informational Meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2016 beginning at 6:30 p.m. See my narrative below for some discussion about pending business items.

City Center and other City of Augusta Administrative offices will be closed for Veteran's Day on Friday, November 11, 2016.

Other Items:

I just finished lunch with Mayor Rollins and we went over the items discussed at last week's informational meeting as well as other pending business (with Ralph St. Pierre and Matt Nazar in attendance as well). As you can see from the Informational Meeting agenda enclosed with this packet, continued discussion of the proposed amendments to the Blasting Ordinance is included. We are expecting a technical presentation from the mining industry on the effects of different permitted levels of blast. No doubt pit owners and affected residents will also want to be heard.

The other major issue discussed last week – the various Land Use Ordinance amendments proposed by the Planning Board – has a number of moving parts. Several of the proposed changes (16-183 definition of dwelling units; 16-184 definition of group homes and community living arrangements; 16-185 definition of rooming houses; 16-186 definition of shelters) seemed to be acceptable to all members of Council and do not require further review before their second reading at next week's business meeting. The remaining two (16-187 definition of meal centers and of food pantries; 16-188 definition of religious activities and associated uses) require further Council discuss and deliberation. To that end, Mayor Rollins has advised me that he intends to appoint an ad-hoc committee of stakeholders (council members, Planning Board members, residents and the Faith Community) to spend some time studying the issue and see if something of an accommodating nature can be suggested. So for that reason, those items are not included on this week's agenda. It also appears that concerns that prompted the six-month moratorium that Council adopted in August (definitions of group homes, boarding homes and rooming houses)

may well be resolved within the next month and – that being the case – Council could lift the moratorium early, should you so choose.

Last Thursday evening, Councilor McCormick introduced three proposed amendments to the Complete Streets policy you have under consideration. The next day, I asked the staff members who drafted the policy (Lionel Cayer, Lesley Jones, and Matt Nazar) to review them and advise as to their potential impact. As yet I do not have their responses but will try to have them for next week.

Also the agenda for Thursday evening is authorization for the City to apply for State funding for a substance abuse diversion program. Deputy Police Chief Mills has been working for weeks on this initiative and has come up with program that would engage several of our partners in law enforcement in the area. I think it's a very promising opportunity and I would encourage you to support it. I'm including a memorandum from Jared that lays out the particulars.

Finally, our outside auditors from Runyon Kirsten and Ouellette have completed their 2015-2016 audit of the City and will be at the Informational Meeting to present their findings and recommendations. I am very pleased to report that it is, again this year, a clean audit with no significant findings.

Copy: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation