



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: November 9, 2015

Meetings:

Due to lack of agenda items, the Planning Board Meeting for November 10th has been cancelled.

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 is Veteran's Day and City of Augusta administrative offices will be closed for the day.

On Thursday, November 12th there will be a City Council Informational Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. An agenda for this meeting is included in your council packets.

Other Items:

Again this year I am happy to note that the enclosed final audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending last June 30th contained no finding for city government (a "clean" audit) and two modest findings for the School Department (which have been addressed by the Superintendent). A clean audit is the gold standard and my compliments go out to Ralph St. Pierre and those other members of the City staff whose diligence throughout the year yields such commendable results.

Consistent with discussion at last Thursday's Council business meeting, you will find material prepared by City Attorney Langsdorf and Development Services Director Matt Nazar related to the implementation of a 180 day moratorium on any permits for structural demolition within the district delineated for the proposed historic preservation ordinance (currently under review by the State's Historic Preservation Commission).

DPW Director Lesley Jones has been in contact with the project manager for the Mt. Vernon Avenue reconstruction project and she offers the following:

The continuous south bound detour that has been on Mount Vernon Avenue for the past three months is scheduled to be dismantled on Friday, November 20, 2015 (a week from this Friday). It will take a bit of time to physically remove all the detour signage so the road should be open to two-way traffic over the weekend.

It is important to remember that this is still an active construction project and although the permanent detour will be gone there will still be times when there is alternating one-way traffic through work zones which will be controlled with flaggers. Traffic will be monitored, especially

during the am/pm commute and operations can be adjusted if there should be excessive delays. The traveling public should continue to expect some traffic delays when they are traveling Mount Vernon Avenue.

The contractor has made good progress on the project and although it won't be (and wasn't expected to be) completed this fall much of the drainage and base pavement will be done before winter sets in, improving the road immensely.

Finally, related to the State's request for proposals for a privately owned 225,000 square foot office complex within one mile of the Capitol to be leased to the State Department of Health and Human Services, I have enclosed a copy of the response provided to questions that Senator Katz had the Appropriations Committee submit to the Commissioner of the Department of Financial and Administrative Services. You may draw your own conclusions from the responses.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation