



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: February 22, 2016

Meetings:

A Planning Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. An agenda is included in Council Packets.

On Wednesday, February 24th there will be a Public Hearing to discuss the Patterson Street Reconstruction Project. This meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall at City Center.

There will be a City Council Informational Meeting on Thursday, February 25th beginning at 6:30 p.m. Agendas are enclosed in your Council Packets.

The Workforce and Economic Development Committee will meet on Friday, February 26th at noon in Conference Room A.

Other Items:

Among the items up for consideration at this Thursday's informational meeting are two proposed tax increment financing programs. The first involves the building at 275-287 Water Street now owned by Richard Parkhurst which he proposes to completely rehabilitate into commercial uses on the first floor and housing on the upper floors. This is a "credit-enhancement TIF" meaning that a portion of the property tax resulting from the improvements is returned to the developer/owner to make the project viable. The second proposed TIF would capture the new tax value of the Homewood Suites hotel under construction on Western Avenue. In this case there is no credit enhancement involved so the private developer does not reap any benefit (but the City has the ability to use the new tax revenues for allowable municipal purposes). Both of these proposed TIF agreements have been reviewed and endorsed by Council's TIF Committee.

Also on the agenda is a proposed agreement between the City –specifically the Police Department – and the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency wherein the department would assign one of our drug detectives for a period of about 2 – 3 years to the Augusta office of the MDEA to work in coordination with Augusta and other local law enforcement agencies combatting the illegal drug trafficking problems impacting us. In return, the state would compensate the City for the full cost of this officer and we would use those funds to create an additional APD detective position (effectively adding an additional drug detective to this area – with much of the workload focused on Augusta). Chief Gregoire and I both support this MDEA request.

Per Councilor Alexander's suggestion, I am enclosing some material on a grant opportunity sponsored by the Maine Arts Commission for your review and discussion at Thursday's meeting.

Last week, Janice and I vacationed in Washington. Our daughter, Claire, works there for Senator King and on a visit to her office I had a chance to meet personally with the staff member who facilitated our US Fish and Wildlife Service permit for the new North Augusta fire station. I made sure he knew how much his great staff work was appreciated. I suspect it's not often that "thank you's" to DC staffers are able to be delivered in person but it was great fun to do so.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation