



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

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

Meetings:

The Planning Board will meet on Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. An agenda was distributed in Council Packets last week.

There will be a City Council Informational Meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Agendas are enclosed in your Council Packets.

Other Items:

Last week, seemed at times to be “Library Week”. Once a month, the key members of the project team (owner/architect/builder) convene for a progress meeting. Outstanding issues are worked out, progress payments are authorized, change orders are discussed and approved or rejected, and foreseeable future issues are presented and discussed. Last Thursday we held our March meeting. I am happy to report that we still appear to be a couple of months ahead of the construction schedule and that we are comfortably within budget. No project of this scope proceeds without some glitches and unexpected contingencies (and we had several meetings during the week to address some of them) but those are being managed well - in particular by our Owner’s Representative Phil Johnson, the on-sight supervisors from JF Scott, and Library Director Betsy Pohl. Ralph St. Pierre is doing his usual diligent work overseeing the budget and purchasing issues. Leif Dahlin, as Community Services department head, is ensuring that important bureau and departmental co-ordination is on-going, and I weigh in as necessary. The Friends of Lithgow stay well-informed and tremendously supportive. As of last Thursday, the project was 60% complete and anticipation and excitement about the finished product is building.

The North Augusta fire station project cleared a major hurdle last week with the issuance by Maine DEP of the permits needed to proceed with construction. DEP had been waiting for clearance from the US Army Corps of Engineers (which included that sign-off from US Fish and Wildlife that Senator King’s Office helped to obtain a couple of weeks ago), which was finally issued. We can now proceed forthwith with land clearing and related prep work and, soon, the bid process.

On the topic of fire stations, last week I authorized Ames Engineering to prepare updated revisions to the conceptual place and price estimates that they did for us in 2008 when we applied for federal grant funding for renovation and expansion of the Hartford Street Headquarters facility. This new engagement is limited to schematic design floor plans and estimates of probable costs. If and when Council decides to proceed with the project, the architectural and engineering work will be awarded through a competitive RFP process. Council

put \$50,000 in last year's budget for A/E work associated with Hartford Station and Ames' fee will be \$4,970.00.

On Thursday night's informational meeting agenda we have an item calling for authorization for the City to issue debt (a five year note) to finance the renovation of the roof on Hussey Elementary School. The School Department successfully applied for State Revolving Loan Fund money to do this work and by City Charter both the Council and the voters must approve the borrowing (which would go on the June primary election ballot). The amount to be financed is \$337,750 at 0% interest rate, 50.46% of which is forgiven. Representatives of the School Department will be in attendance to respond to any questions. I note that of forty-eight applications received by the State, ours was tied with two others for first place.

In a sign that spring is nigh, Chief Gregoire advises me that downtown patrols have resumed for this year.

The FY 2017 budget preparation process continues with department head reviews concluding last week. Ralph and I will be immersed in our final phase of its development over the next two weeks

On a very sad note, Maine's city and town management community lost a dear friend and highly regarded colleague when Hallowell City Manager Stefan Pakulski passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Saturday evening. I very much enjoyed working with Stefan over the years (he was manager in Readfield for a number of years prior to taking the job in Hallowell). He was a person of strong ethics and principles –regardless the pressures on him. As importantly, he was a devoted family man and a dear friend to many. I miss him already.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation