



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: May 11, 2015

Meetings:

There will be a MDOT Public Hearing to discuss Darin Drive improvements beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall this evening.

On Thursday, May 14, 2015 beginning at 5:00 p.m. there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the Lithgow Library construction project. This ceremony will take place in the parking lot adjacent to the addition off State Street. Parking will be in the old CVS lot just north of there.

The City Council will meet in Council Chambers on Thursday, May 14, 2015 beginning at 6:30 p.m. for an informational meeting to be followed by a budget wrap-up session. Agendas are included in your council packets.

Household hazardous waste, e-waste and unwanted prescription medication can be dropped off at public works on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 9:00 am to noon. Pre-registration may be required. A flyer with more information has been included in council packets.

Other Items:

There are five items on the agenda for Thursday's informational meeting. The first is recognition of the Augusta Fire department on the occasion of its 40th anniversary as a provider of EMS services. Mayor Rollins will present a proclamation to Chief Audette in recognition of the occasion.

The second agenda item is a request from the Augusta Downtown Alliance for Council to authorize an appropriation from Downtown TIF proceeds to cover the cost of retaining an artist to develop a site specific art exhibition to be held at the Colonial Theater. A representative of the Alliance will be in attendance to explain the particulars.

Third on the agenda is consideration of a recommendation from the Council's Tax Increment Financing Committee to authorize establishment of a TIF district at the Augusta State Airport to assist the fixed base operator, Maine Instrument Flight, with the financing of a new hanger to house its expanding fleet of planes associated with the joint MIF/ UMA pilot training program. The committee (Mayor Rollins and Councilors Bilodeau, Conti and Munson) reviewed this application at its last meeting and has unanimously recommended it. (In discussing this with Councilor Paradis this morning, he made me aware that notification of the TIF Committee meeting was left out of that week's administrative report – though I understand that it was on the calendar. My apology for that oversight.)

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The fourth agenda item for Thursday is an initial discussion of the 2015 Council goal topic of addressing childhood hunger in our community. This comes at the request of Councilor Grant who advises me that he is conscious of the need to limit informational items while we are finalizing the budget. He wishes to get the discussion on the table, determine whether a separate committee is in order, and perhaps give staff some direction as to how to proceed with accumulating data and integrating with into future discussions.

In a conversation with Councilor Blodgett last week, her request was similar. She would like an initial Council discussion of the concept of establishing a local minimum wage. Depending on how a majority of Council feels this topic should be addressed, I will potentially have some direction on how to proceed at the staff level. As you are aware, there is a bill under consideration at this time in the Legislature that would preempt the ability of Maine municipalities to adopt any minimum wage legislation at the local level. In addition, both the cities of Portland and Bangor are in the process of considering local minimum wage ordinances (and Bangor's draft ordinance is included with this package at Councilor Blodgett's request). Also included is a copy of a legal memorandum from the City of Portland's Corporation Counsel to the Mayor and Council of Portland addressing the same topic (which Mayor Brennan provided to Mayor Rollins at a recent Mayors' Coalition meeting).

Final planning and design for the Lithgow Library project are proceeding. We will be breaking ground on Thursday and I hope everyone can make it. Security fencing should go up shortly thereafter and demolition of the addition commence right away. Ralph St. Pierre is overseeing the bond sale this week, as well.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation