



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO  
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo  
RE: Administrative Report  
DATE: May 4, 2015

## Meetings:

A City Council Business and Budget Review Meeting will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2015 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Agendas are included in your packets. A pre-meeting will take place in Conference Room A beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, a reception hosted by the Historic Preservation Commission will begin on the first floor of the City Center to kick off an art exhibit highlighting the architectural details of Water Street and downtown Augusta in recognition of National of Historic Preservation month.

There will be a Senior Staff Meeting on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center in the Hancock Room beginning at 9:15 a.m.

The Lithgow Library groundbreaking ceremony originally scheduled for this Thursday has been rescheduled for next Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 pm on the Library grounds.

## Other Items:

Speaking of the Library, I am happy to report that the latest project budget estimates provided by Construction Manager J.F. Scott are approximately \$600,000 less than those provided two weeks ago. J.F. Scott reports that there has been very strong interest on the part of sub-contractors in the project and as architectural design drawings have been refined bid prices have come in lower. Add to this that the Friends of Lithgow Library have committed to sufficient additional contributions in excess of the \$2 million they have already turned over to the City and we are essentially at a point where I can sign a construction contract well within our means (including a prudent 5% project contingency reserve). Next week, I will distribute a detailed memorandum describing the status of the project. Ralph St. Pierre has scheduled a bond sale for May 12<sup>th</sup> that includes the \$8 million for library construction funding that the voters approved last June.

There are several items on this Thursday's business meeting agenda that I should comment on. The first is a reminder that the formal public hearing on the proposed FY 2016 budget will be held at the beginning of the meeting. This public hearing is mandated by the City Charter. We try to schedule it after most of the review sessions have been completed and before the wrap-up session so as to give the public as opportune a time as practical to express opinions pro or con.

I trust that most questions stemming from the \$250,000 Elsie Viles donation to the Alumni Field Improvements project have been addressed (and I've included another copy of the related back-up material on that project) so that you are comfortable moving forward with accepting that generous gift. **Turn Over →**

You'll note that there is a request from the owner of Lisa's Restaurant on Bangor Street for permission to expand the restaurant's patio and have outdoor live entertainment on Saturday's throughout the summer as well as a Wednesday fund-raiser as soon as May 9<sup>th</sup> (thus the reason I have not placed this on an upcoming informational meeting agenda). Because there has been an objection filed by a resident of Cony Street, the Licensing Board has referred this matter to Council for review and decision. Council has granted approval in the past for this activity. There will be a representative of the Police Department at the meeting to address any questions you may have.

There are three City-owned properties that are up for authorization for sale. 110 Northern Avenue and 10 Kennedy Road will, if approved, be sold by sealed bid. 94 Winthrop Street will, if approved, be sold at public auction. All were so recommended by the REO Committee. Absent from this agenda is 9 Patterson Street. The Augusta Housing Authority has advised us that they are interested in acquiring it for rehabilitation and once I have a more concrete proposal from them I will refer it back to the REO Committee.

There are three easements involving small parcels of City-owned land that the Maine DOT needs to proceed with the reconstruction of Mount Vernon Avenue. Two are simply construction easements and the third is a permanent taking of a small strip near the Mt. Vernon Ball Field. Consistent with their statutory authority, MDOT has established a value for these properties (contained in the paperwork you have in your package). I recommend I be given the authority to execute the agreements.

A few months ago, Chief Gregoire and I encouraged Deputy Police Chief Jared Mills to apply to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government Senior Executive in Local Government program. Jared has during the past year demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and I felt (based on my own attendance in the program a decade ago) that he would benefit greatly from this internationally renowned leadership school. It's an intensive three week residential program that costs about \$12,000. Jared applied and was accepted (no surprise). The most recent good news is that he applied for and been awarded an \$11,000 scholarship from the University- thus greatly reducing the need for City financial support for his attendance.

C: Department and Bureau Directors  
Augusta Legislative Delegation