



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. STOKES, MAYOR

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL

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TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: May 5, 2014

Meetings:

A special City Council meeting has been called for 5:00 pm this Thursday evening. There is one item of public business (sale of a parcel of tax-acquired property at 12 Green Street as recommended by the OREO committee) for the meeting and an executive session related to pending litigation. Because we will go into the regularly scheduled budget review at 6:00 pm and – if necessary – an informational meeting after that, I am arranging for a light supper to be available during the executive session.

As the Budget Review Schedule indicates, we will cover the Community Services and Development Services Department budgets during Thursday evening's meeting.

There will be a Mill Park Advisory Committee meeting on Monday, May 5th at 5pm in Conference Room A.

Other Items:

Laura Benedict, owner of the Red Barn, has applied for a mass gathering permit from the Police Department for an outdoor concert (an Elvis show) on Tuesday evening, May 13th from 4 – 7 pm. The City's noise ordinance exempts events granted such a permit between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm. In the opinion of the Police Chief and Director of Development there is no public safety or other reason to deny the permit (although a question about adequate parking has been raised and is under review). A Red Barn neighbor, Brian King, has objected and has been in conversation with Chief Gregoire and Matt Nazar. You will recall there were related issues last year over several Red Barn entertainment events. City staff is determined to show no favoritism in this matter and to fairly adhere to the City ordinances currently in place. Where warranted, staff will seek guidance from the City Attorney (it is anticipated that there will be a series of such mass gathering permits requested this summer).

I'd like to alert you in advance to a request from the Board of Directors of the Augusta Boys and Girls Club that will be part of the Community Services Department budget review this Thursday evening. Recently, the Club ended its affiliate relationship with the Spurwink organization. The Board would like to enter into an arrangement with the City in lieu of that. Part of the rationale would be to allow the Club to continue to use City facilities at Buker Community Center without the obligation to pay \$20,000 a year in rent. Board Chair Tobias Parkhurst has provided Leif Dahlin and me with some information on the Club and the services it provides. I frankly was unaware until recently just how many disadvantaged Augusta teens the Club serves and the

scope of services they deliver. It does appear to me that the Board is working hard to raise the money to keep the Club viable but that the rental costs at Buker are a big challenge for them. I encourage you to give serious consideration to this request.

Code Enforcement and Health and Welfare closed a former motel/apartment building off Riverside Drive today due to unsanitary conditions that included a failed septic system discharging into Riggs Brook. The owner and the occupants had been given a ten-day notice two weeks ago. All but two occupants had moved out by the time we followed up today. One of those two cases was referred to the State Child Protective Services bureau for intervention. The other individual had ample resources for relocation. Also today, Codes declared as “unfit for habitation” a vacant tax-acquired property at 4 Chase Avenue. Due to its condition, I anticipate that it will need to be demolished.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation