



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

---

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO  
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo  
RE: Administrative Report  
DATE: June 8, 2015

## Meetings:

On Tuesday, June 9, 2015 there will be a Special Municipal Election and School Budget Validation. Polling Places for each ward will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There will be a Planning Board Meeting in the Lecture Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

The City Council will meet in Council Chambers on Thursday, June 11, 2015 beginning at 6:30 p.m. for a brief special meeting (to validate the Tuesday election results and swear in a new Council member and new School Board member) and an Informational Meeting. Agendas are included in your council packets.

## Other Items:

On the Thursday informational agenda you will find a presentation by the Elder Abuse Prevention Task Force.

Also scheduled is consideration of a lease renewal between the City and the Augusta Housing Authority. AHA has been a good tenant of the City at the Police Headquarters building (Naval Reserve Building) for many years. Given the limited resources of the AHA, Director Bartlett is requesting that their rent for the coming year remain the same. The agreement would just be for the coming year while AHA gets a better handle on their future finances. A copy of the renewal contract is included. They are coming off a five-year agreement that had 6% annual increases which got them to \$4.28 a square foot per annual which we calculate to cover our costs of operating the facility.

Chief Gregoire and the Traffic Calming Committee have recommended a minor change to the Water Street parking ordinance at the intersection of Water and Green Streets (yes – that intersection!). With the placement of the new island, a new section of curbing on the west side of Water Street was created. Since that stop had been open street in the past, there is no reference in the parking ordinance to it and since the intersection was reconfigured people have begun parking there. This interferes with sightline for vehicles entering Water Street and thus the ordinance should be amended to prohibit parking in that area before a problem develops.

**Please turn page over →**

The Community Services Department has secured a carnival operator for the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities and is recommending Kavanaugh Amusements be awarded a contract to proceed. As the enclosed information shows, they provide amusement rides for a number of Maine events (including the Pittston Fair locally). The City's share of the proceeds will go to offsetting the costs of our July 4<sup>th</sup> activities. The carnival would be in operation at Mill Park July 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Finally on the agenda is consideration of the FY 2016 wage adjustment for non-union employees. This happens each year at the conclusion of the budget process. This year the amount is 2% which is consistent with our eight bargaining unit agreements (which cover 80% of our workforce). The 2% was provide for in the recently approved 2016 City budget.

This morning, I forwarded to you an e-mail I received from Ernie Martin, the project manager for MDOT's Mt. Vernon Avenue reconstruction project. It was good news, especially considering that recent bids for the project came in significantly over budget estimates. We can look forward to construction commencing very soon.

The word from across the river at the Legislature is that a state budget plan that can gain the two-thirds of both chambers necessary for timely implementation is in doubt. It is also apparent that our State Senator has continued his consistent efforts to be a voice of reason in this process (notwithstanding some pretty intense pressure being applied to him, including recent robo-calls). The compromise reached by Appropriations is fair to municipalities and municipal taxpayers, particularly in the areas of revenue sharing, General Assistance reimbursements and business equipment taxes. Hopefully, when the full House and Senate take up consideration of the Appropriations Committee's recommended budget this week they will follow the committee's recommendations.

C: Department and Bureau Directors  
Augusta Legislative Delegation