



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: August 17, 2015

Meetings:

On Wednesday, August 19th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a public meeting hosted by City Engineer Lionel Cayer in the Lecture Hall to discuss the upcoming Civic Center Drive Sidewalk Continuation Project.

On Thursday, August 20th there will be a City Council Business Meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agendas are included in council packets. A pre-meeting will take place beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A.

On Friday, August 21, 2015 between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm there will be a City Employee Appreciation BBQ at Bicentennial Nature Park. Councilors should feel welcome to attend and participate in thanking our employees for their dedicated work.

Other Items:

Please see the enclosed letter from the Maine Department of Labor resolving the outstanding matter of last fall's City-wide safety inspection. Thanks go out to Kristy Gould and those who assisted her in achieving a full abatement of proposed penalties. Speaking of Kristy, she delivered a first rate presentation on Maine Human Rights Commission law and procedures last Thursday at the annual state municipal managers' conference. The hundred or so managers in attendance were clearly appreciative of the morning-long program and I was proud that our HR Director is recognized as a leader in her field. (In conversation with my colleagues that day, it was evident that many have had very similar experiences with Department of Labor inspections over the past year.) On Friday, the last morning of the conference, I co-hosted an ethical practices session focused on employment issues.

Last week, a question related to the presence of the propane tanks on Commercial Street came up during the discussion of the proposed Capital Improvement Program (and the reconstruction of Commercial Street). A review of the file shows that the City awarded a five year license to Augusta Fuel Company to place those tanks on the west side of the street. That five year period ends in April of 2016. In the meantime, Development Department staff will assess the potential impact to buildings using the propane so that we can have a recommendation for Council when the time comes to either renew or end the agreement.

Turn page over →

City staff continue to work with the Downtown Alliance and other interested parties to seek a positive resolution to the unfortunate situation at 275 Water Street (the Gagliano's Restaurant building). That said, the recent actions by the building owner do not help matters and may be difficult to overcome. We will try our best.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation