



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: August 24, 2015

Meetings:

On Wednesday, August 26, 2015 between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm there will be a (rescheduled due to rain) City Employee Appreciation BBQ at Bicentennial Nature Park. Councilors should feel welcome to attend and participate in thanking our employees for their dedicated work.

On Thursday, August 27th there will be a City Council Informational Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. At the Mayor's request, there will also be a brief special Council meeting that night at 6:00 pm to discuss pending litigation. Agendas are included in council packets.

Other Items:

On the agenda Thursday evening, is review and deliberation on the proposed 2015-2016 Capital Improvement Program. In your packet, you will find two separate documents (which were previously distributed to you for discussion at the CIP workshop of Monday, August 10). The first is the overall five-year plan that puts our capital investments into long-range context. The second is the plan for the current fiscal year which requires formal authorization by you in order to initiate the necessary bond issuance procedure and to form the basis of an upcoming Council order that appropriates the funds necessary to implement the CIP.

By City charter, Council may issue up to \$750,000 annually in bonds for capital improvements without voter approval. The proposed CIP does that and those funds, if approved, would fund improvements to the Buker Community Center, the East Side Boat Landing, Fort Western palisades replacement, and \$100,000 in City-wide sidewalk improvements. The current year CIP also proposes a voter-approved bond issuance – to appear on the November ballot – of \$1,675,000 for street improvement projects (\$1,155,000) and City-wide paving (\$520,000). To meet the legal requirements to get a bond question on the November ballot, the Council bond resolution must be approved no later than September 10th and a special Council meeting has been scheduled for that date to provide for that. Because the charter also requires a public notice of that meeting no sooner than ten days prior, we have placed the requisite legal ad in this week's Kennebec Journal. The entirety of the \$1,675,000 voter-authorized street and paving bond program would be paid for by Gas Tax Increment Financing proceeds – a tremendous boon attributable to the new gas infrastructure in the City.

Turn over →

The remainder of the proposed General Fund CIP (\$593,000) utilizes a variety of cash sources (Mill Park reserves, Childcare surplus, Downtown TIF cash, and \$225,000 in one-time surplus funds remaining from pension obligation bond refinancing last year) to fund an array of projects identified on the 2015-2016 spreadsheet as cash projects.

Also required for Council authorization (and part of the 2015-2016 proposed CIP) are \$532,985 in cash expenditures for Hatch Hill Landfill equipment; \$531,000 in cash expenditures for Central garage vehicle and equipment replacement; and \$62,000 in cash expenditures for Civic Center equipment replacement.

This \$4,143,985 all-funds capital improvement program represents City staff's best professional assessment of the long-term capital investment needs of our community, balanced against the availability of cash and bonded resources. I look forward to our discussion Thursday evening.

You will also note that further discussion of the proposed Historic District Ordinance is not on Thursday's agenda. This responds to a request from Mayor Rollins to have that discussion on September 10th.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation