



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

MARK S. O'BRIEN, MAYOR

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL

JEFFREY M. BILODEAU      CECIL E. MUNSON  
MICHAEL G. BYRON        PATRICK E. PARADIS  
DALE McCORMICK         DAVID M. ROLLINS  
DAREK M. GRANT

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: City Manager, William Bridgeo  
RE: Administrative Report  
DATE: August 25, 2014

Meetings:

A meeting for the purpose of additional review of the updated MEO with pit owners has been scheduled by Councilor Bilodeau for Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4pm in Conference Room A.

The OREO Committee Meeting previously scheduled for 5pm that day will be rescheduled for a later time.

A Planning Board Meeting will take place in Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. An agenda for this meeting has been included in council packets.

There will be a special Council meeting at 6:00 pm this Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup>. The purpose is to hold a public hearing for the NRF Phase II TIF District. (Action on that item will be schedule for the business meeting of Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>). After the public hearing, there will be an executive session to discuss pending litigation. The regularly scheduled informational meeting will begin at the conclusion of the executive session. An agenda for this meeting is included in council packets.

Other Items:

Sadly, as I write this, there is a major house fire underway at the corner of State Street and Laurel Street. Our Fire Department, assisted by a number of area mutual aid departments, is fighting it. All residents were evacuated safely but it appears there will be substantial damage to this 100+ year old property (which, as it happens, was once home to Councilor Paradis' grandparents). Watching from the street, one appreciates the tragedy that this represents to the families involved and the tough challenges it poses for our firefighters (who, at one point, could be seen, on the ladder above the roof as they were ventilating it virtually engulfed in flames).

The agenda for this Thursday includes a discussion of the library project. My primary purpose (beyond a briefing on how things are progressing) is to review the architect's proposal for the project between now and completion of construction and be prepared to have an agenda item for the 4<sup>th</sup> of September authorizing me to contract with Stewart Roberts. Mr. Roberts has submitted a draft contract (the standard American Institute of Architects or AIA template) that the Corporation Counsel's office has been reviewing and a fee proposal. The fee is in line with what other municipalities tell me they have paid for comparable projects and is less than what the

State allows for comparable projects (historic restorations coupled with new additions). A copy of the fee proposal is included with this package.

You will also see an item for consideration of refunding of two older City bond issues. One is for the downtown parking facilities and the other is the Cony High School bond. The intention would be to take advantage of lower interest rates. There is no intention to extend the life of the bonds (as we did to finance the library). The Cony issue would primarily save the State money as they reimburse us for 85% of that debt service but we would still be able to book savings. Ralph estimates that the annual savings for the parking bond (primarily) will be about \$10,000 and for our share of the Cony bond (which will impact the School budget) will be \$11,000. That is after all issuance costs are taken into account.

C: Department and Bureau Directors  
Augusta Legislative Delegation