



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: May 2, 2016

Meetings:

On Thursday, May 5, 2016 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers there will be a City Council Business Meeting immediately followed by a Budget Review Meeting and Public Hearing. Agendas are included in your council packets. A pre-meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A.

There will be a Senior Staff meeting at the Civic Center in the Hancock Room at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, May 6th.

Other Items:

I have placed a draft emergency ordinance on the agenda for this Thursday's Council meeting. I take this action based on the discovery last week of bedbug infestations in a number of boarding house units in the City. The problem was originally discovered by City public safety personnel and referred to the Code Enforcement Bureau. Once Codes had conducted inspections, it was clear that the extent of the infestations was very serious. Consequently, I convened meetings on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning that included City Codes and public safety personnel, the City Attorney, a representative of the Maine Center for Disease Control (who license a number of the units in question and who have suspended those licenses pending remediation), our City Health Officer, the Fire Department's medical officer, an attorney from Pine Tree Legal Services, the Assistant City Manager and me. As a task force, we are addressing the matter (we meet again this afternoon). At the moment, we are focused on one landlord's properties – and that individual is cooperating with the City at this time -but we are aware of infestations involving at least one other landlord. One of the things that we have discovered is that state law treats bedbug infestations as a nuisance not as a more serious health hazard (regardless of the extent of the problem). Thus there is little that the state can do to address circumstances like this beyond suspending the license of those facilities they regulate (which are only those boarding houses that they have classified as hotels). As well, our code of ordinances does not provide sufficient authority for the City to take necessary enforcement action to ensure proper remediation when cases of infestation are discovered. Thus, we are proceeding on a couple of different fronts simultaneously. First, we are continuing to work with the landlord and the tenants to address the immediate problem with the resources we have. Second, I am asking for the draft ordinance to be adopted Thursday night as an emergency ordinance so we can better remedy this and any subsequent situations we encounter. The draft may not be perfect – we can always

amend it as we go forward – but it will give us better tools to deal with this unfortunate set of circumstances. (According to the attorneys, if the infestation is bad enough, it may breach the implied warranty and covenant of habitability (14 MRSA 6021) but that leaves the matter to be adjudicated between the parties in a civil action.)

On a brighter note, Mayor Rollins is (by memo enclosed with this package) appointing an ad-hoc committee to pursue the Council's goal of having Augusta gain designation as an "age friendly" community. The committee, supported by staff from our Development Services Department, will file application with the state offices of AARP and proceed from there with a plan of action to be approved ultimately by Council.

Budget deliberations continue Thursday evening immediately following the business meeting. We will be covering Public Works (including Central garage and Hatch Hill Regional Landfill), Civic Center and Finance and Administration.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

DAVID M. ROLLINS, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL

MARCI A. ALEXANDER
JEFFREY M. BILODEAU
ANNA D. BLODGETT
LINDA J. CONTI

DAREK M. GRANT
DALE McCORMICK
CECIL E. MUNSON
PATRICK E. PARADIS

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

Memo

To: Council

From: Dave Rollins, Mayor

Date: May 2, 2016

Re: Ad-hoc Age-Friendly Community Committee

As you know, Council order number 16-045 moving to establish Augusta as an Age Friendly Community with the AARP was passed back in March. Therefore, I am establishing an ad-hoc Age Friendly Community Committee to investigate how best to pursue this designation.

I am appointing the following individuals to serve on this committee:

Bob MacDougall, Chair
Sue Bell
Paul Potvin
Sara Grant
Dwayne Scott
Mary Saunders
Councilor Anna Blodgett

Thank you to the committee members for their willingness to serve our community in this important way.