



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. STOKES, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL

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WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo  
RE: Administrative Report  
DATE: April 14, 2014

Meetings:

There will be a Strategic Communications Committee Meeting on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Conference Room C.

On Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at **6:30pm** there will be a City Council Business Meeting in Council Chambers. A pre-meeting will take place at **6:00 pm** in Conference Room A. **Please note these time changes.**

A Senior Staff Meeting of Department Heads and Bureau Directors will take place at the Civic Center in the Piscataquis and Sagadahoc rooms beginning at 8am on Friday, April 18, 2014.

Other Items:

On Thursday's agenda, I have placed a proposed Council resolve, similar to one being adopted by city councils and town boards around the state, which petitions the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reconsider its recent interpretation of a rule that has the effect of denying disaster assistance to states/communities that have suffered from severe ice storms. This stems from FEMA's denial of Maine's request for disaster assistance for the late December storm event that struck many communities hard. I believe the request is prudent given the potential damage that communities like ours can incur from ice storms (think winter of 1998). The effort to get a proper policy interpretation from FEMA is fully support by all four members of our congressional delegation (as evidenced by the enclosed letter from them to FEMA).

Enclosed with this packet is a schedule for Council budget review. As was discussed last week, the review sessions all take place on Thursday evenings beginning this week.

C: Department and Bureau Directors  
Augusta Legislative Delegation

United States Congress

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 25, 2014

Mr. Paul Ford  
Acting Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region One  
99 High Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Acting Administrator Ford:

We write in full support of the State of Maine's February 21, 2014 request for assistance for all counties and municipalities of the State in the aftermath of a major ice storm and arctic temperatures beginning approximately December 21, 2013, through at least January 1, 2014.

This weather event required extraordinary measures to maintain transportation arteries and caused more than 200,000 power outages. The State had to implement emergency protective measures as the severe weather resulted in debris and damage to roads, public utilities and public facilities in these counties. The impact was especially severe in Maine's rural and economically challenged areas. As part of the Preliminary Damage Assessment, the State has already documented more than \$1.8 million in negative impact state-wide.

We would also note that this event was not just a snowstorm; it was an ice storm coupled with extreme cold. As a result, there were significant costs incurred for road treatment necessary to keep roads open and restore power. Consequently, we would strongly urge FEMA fully to consider the nature of the storm in determining eligible disaster costs.

We appreciate your prompt attention to Maine's request and respectfully request that you give it every appropriate consideration in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. The State of Maine has been through a particularly challenging period of weather, and we strongly support any assistance you can provide in helping Maine overcome this extreme weather event. Please keep us informed of the status of this request.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins

August King

Michael W. Hinkel

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A  
**RESOLUTION**  
of the  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**City of Augusta, Maine**

WHEREAS, The City of Augusta in the County of Kennebec and State of Maine has been recognized by representatives of the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) as having experienced extraordinary costly ice storm impacts to its road infrastructure as the result of the unabated winter storms that occurred in the past and will very likely occur again in the future; and,

WHEREAS The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) definition of a severe winter storm means an event that occurs during the winter season and includes one or more of the following conditions: snow, ice, high winds, blizzard conditions and other wintry conditions and that causes substantial physical damages or loss to property where Municipal and State governments demonstrate that the capabilities to effectively respond to the event are or will be exceeded; and,

WHEREAS the City of Augusta Council disagrees with FEMA's interpretation of this policy application of Policy 9523.1 to ice storms and advocates for an "ice storm" policy addendum; and,

WHEREAS the original, understandable, intent of FEMA Policy 9523.1 is that northern States such as Maine which are equipped for and budget for winter snowstorms should have to meet a very high standard to have a snowstorm qualify as a disaster. However, an ice storm with prolonged power outages in freezing conditions poses a more extreme threat to public safety in a northern than in a southern state where temperatures are likely to quickly moderate. Therefore the application of Policy 9523.1 to ice storms has unintended negative consequences for northern states; and,

WHEREAS FEMA policy in other types of disasters, such as floods or hurricanes, is that maintenance of all roads during and after the event for the purpose of emergency vehicle access is eligible for disaster assistance. In freezing temperatures, roads must be treated with sand and salt in order to carry out the emergency function of power restoration. Therefore Policy 9523.1 is actually in conflict with other FEMA policies; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City of Augusta Council does hereby strongly support the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in its advocacy for an amendment to the FEMA storm policy and will exercise its appointed authority to engage other Maine municipalities in a united effort to bring national attention to the extent necessary and put on notice, our Congressional representatives that the ice storm damage experienced in the past in these communities are very real and are worthy of their support and attention.



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO  
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo  
RE: Budget Review Schedule  
DATE: April 14, 2014

Below please find the budget review schedule.

April 17	6pm Pre-meeting, 6:30 Business Meeting Budget Review to follow	Revenues Legislative & Executive Utilities Retirement & Insurance Bonded Indebtedness County Tax
April 24	6pm Budget Mtg./8pm Informational Mtg.	Public Works Hatch Hill Central Garage Development Services
May 1*	6:30 Business Meeting start (no pre-mtg.) Budget Review to follow	School Department Finance & Administration
May 8	6pm Budget Mtg./8pm Informational Mtg.	Public Safety Community Services
May 15	6:30pm Business Meeting (no pre-mtg.) Budget Review to follow	School Department Civic Center
May 22	6pm Budget Mtg./8pm Informational Mtg.	Wrap-up
May 29	6:30pm Wrap up (continued- if necessary) and Special Meeting to adopt budget	
June 10	School Budget Validation Vote	

(\*May 1<sup>st</sup> – Public Hearing & Council Business Meeting)