



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: William R. Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: March 18, 2019

Meetings:

The next meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Committee will be Monday, March 18th at 6:00 p.m. here at the City Center in the Learning Gallery. The topic will be volunteerism, churches, and non-profit organizations.

There will be a City Council Business Meeting on Thursday, March 21th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agendas are in your Council Packets. There will be a pre-meeting at 6:30 in Conference Room A.

Other Items:

I've placed an order on Thursday's agenda, that will, if you approve it, authorize the reprogramming of certain street construction funds within this year's Capital Improvement Program budget to allow us to proceed right away with awarding a construction contract for the reconstruction of Commercial Street and the work necessary to effect the change of Water Street from one-way to two-way. I'm bringing this directly to a business meeting because time is of the essence in getting this contract signed and locking Sargent Construction Company into the job and getting it as a priority on their work schedule. As I mentioned a week ago, we initially received no bids for this project. Only after we modified our deadline requirements (by pushing them out almost a year for substantial completion) did we get two bids – with Sargent being the low bidder by \$200k. Even then, their bid was \$810,000 over our allocated amount in our current CIP. The reason we've been given for the high bids is basically the abundance of work out there right now and the dramatic shortage of skilled trades workers throughout the construction and building trades industries squeezing how much work these companies can take on.

To enable us to go forward with the project, we have negotiated with Sargent to take the portion of the originally bid work that was to improve Cony Street from the bridge to Cony Circle out of the scope of work. That will reduce our cost by \$185,000. That still leaves a shortfall of \$625,000. To cover that, I recommend that you transfer \$585,705.52 from the following other 2019 CIP projects (with that work to be done in future years): \$138,975.52 from Cony Street; \$308,248.46 from Columbia Street; and \$138,481.54 from paving. In addition, the order authorizes \$40,000 to be reallocated from last year's paving that has been completed (this money is a remaining balance). This project has been designed in collaboration with the Greater Augusta Utilities District and their piece of the project costs comes to approximately \$1m over and above our costs.

City Engineer Nick Hartley, who has been managing this process, will be available to address this matter.

The other action item on Thursday's agenda is the second reading of the proposed plastic bag ordinance. Two possible amendments (submitted by Councilor Lind) that were discussed by you at your last meeting are enclosed with you packets as was requested.

We also have several presentations scheduled for Thursday evening including welcoming and congratulating Anita Gendreau Fecteau on her 100th birthday, hearing an update on the ongoing comprehensive plan process from co-chairs Darek Grant and Heather Pouliot, and introducing our new DPW Deputy Director Doug Fowler and recognizing the DPW for completing a full year of work with no lost time injuries.

State Senator Matt Pouliot has submitted a bill (LD 897) that would revitalize the Capital Riverfront Improvement District (CRID) and appropriate \$50,000 in each of the two years of the upcoming State biennium. He's asked me to testify in support of the bill and a copy of my testimony (to be delivered tomorrow afternoon at a public hearing before the Legislature's newly created Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee) is enclosed with this packet. I was a part of the process that originally created the CRID and I can assure you that when it was functioning as intended it was a uniquely valuable source of cooperation between the City and the State and a source of significant funding for a number of valuable projects to the downtown area of the City. If the bill passes and the Appropriations Committee allocates the funding, I will be recommending that you also appropriate a matching amount. If after reading my testimony you have any questions or would like more background please let me know.

Ralph St. Pierre and I are deep into the 2019/2020 budget preparation process. I will be delivering my proposed budget to you next Friday (the 29th). Our first workshop will be on Tuesday April 9th (with the Board of Education).

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Legislative Delegation