



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO  
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Bill Bridgeo  
RE: Administrative Report  
DATE: January 29, 2018

## Meetings:

There will be a Business Meeting of the City Council on Thursday, February 1, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Agendas are included in Council Packets. A pre-meeting will take place in Conference Room A beginning at 6:30 p.m.

A senior staff meeting will be held beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Civic Center on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Old Fort Western Winter Lecture Series will kick-off this Sunday in Council Chambers at 2:00 p.m. All proceeds go to help fund school programming at the Fort.

## Other Information:

With deep mixed emotions, I received correspondence from Police Chief Bob Gregoire informing me of his intention to retire on June 1<sup>st</sup>, concluding thirty years of exemplary service to our community. As he says in his thoughtful memorandum to me (enclosed), Bob began his law enforcement career as a young rookie patrol officer and successfully progressed through the ranks to become a highly respected leader in his community and his profession. As someone who recognized his potential and encouraged his advancement over the past two decades, I am saddened that he will be leaving the organization. As someone who admires Bob as a friend and colleague, I am happy for his opportunity to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

To immediately put to rest any unnecessary speculation as to the future of the Police Department (and to reassure all of the dedicated members of the APD that there will be no disruption in the quality leadership they have enjoyed in recent years), I am also happy to announce that I will be appointing Deputy Police Chief Jared Mills to the chief's position once it is vacated— subject, of course, to a vote of confirmation by the City Council as provided for in the city charter. As we get closer to June, I will have more to say about Jared's appointment and will schedule the proper opportunity for Council consideration of that matter. Suffice it to say for now that I have never been more confident in the likelihood of success of a department head appointee than I am of Jared Mills as the City's next Chief of Police.

On the idea that when it rains it pours, we also were notified last week that our dedicated City Engineer Lionel Cayer has decided that the time is right for him to also retire from city government, effective May 29<sup>th</sup>. Here again, the City has been blessed with the capable services of a committed professional – in this case for almost thirty-four years. It's hard to imagine all of the positive changes to the infrastructure of our city that have occurred under Lionel's watchful

eye (and in many cases under his engineer's stamp). The good news in Lionel's case is that he is going to open his own civil engineering consulting practice and we are going to retain him to complete any outstanding projects he has been working on as we determine how best to go forward in filling the void his retirement will create. Like Bob Gregoire, Lionel Cayer is one of the most decent people you will ever meet. Their high professional standards are a reflection of their personal values and ethics.

Finally, in the area of personnel transitions, we say good-bye this week to Associate Economic Development Director Dan Nichols. Dan, an Augusta native, came to the City eight years ago after a long and successful career in the banking industry. His expertise has been a great fit for us in the work he has done and in the value of his community contacts. We wish Dan all the best in his retirement.

I was recently made aware of a bill submitted by Representative Matt Pouliot (LD #1604), at the request, I am advised, of Councilor Wilson, that would authorize the State to sell to a not-for-profit or public/private partnership the property on the former AMHI campus that is the site of three vacant residential buildings. By this legislation which modifies a prior bill that was enacted a couple of years ago under then-Representative Wilson's sponsorship, the property must be used for veterans for transitional housing or substance abuse services. This property abuts the Kennebec Arsenal. Representative Pouliot dropped by my office late this morning after the State and Local Government Committee had just reported the bill out of committee with an "Ought to Pass" recommendation. He provided me with a copy of the bill as amended this morning by the committee. As this property is in Councilor Grant's ward, he has asked for a discussion of this matter to be placed on the informational meeting agenda for next week and I will be doing so. A copy of the bill as amended is enclosed.

With a wary eye on the river, Public Works has cleaned the ice off the Front Street parking lot and reopened it. Should fresh flooding threaten us, we will close it again.

Our recycling bins were quite popular over the weekend – spilling over with popularity you might say. Lesley Jones has some ideas about how best to address the need for more capacity and over the next few weeks we will be discussing that as part of budget review (one thought is that with the advent of three phase power at Hatch Hill we will be able to install a recyclables compactor thus allowing us to more frequently empty the bins around the City as well as more cost effectively trucking the material to Eco-Maine in Portland).

C: Department and Bureau Directors  
Legislative Delegation

January 23, 2018

Lionel Cayer

Matt Nazar, Director of Development Services

16 Cony Street

Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Matt,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that I am leaving my position with the City of Augusta on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

I want to thank you and the City of Augusta for the many years of employment that I have enjoyed during my time with the City. I am more than grateful to have had the opportunity of working with so many talented and dedicated people from across all City departments.

If I can be of any assistance during this transition, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lionel Cayer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Lionel Cayer, P.E.



ROBERT C. GREGOIRE  
Police Chief

AUGUSTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

33 Union Street  
Augusta, Maine  
04330



JARED J. MILLS  
Deputy Chief

**To:** William Bridgeo, City Manager

**From:** Chief Robert C. Gregoire

**Date:** January 25, 2018

**Re:** Retirement

I would like to inform you that I will be retiring on June 1, 2018. I will have completed 30 years with the Augusta Police Department. I have experienced so much over those 30 years progressing from a patrol officer to the Chief of Police. It's hard to believe that at one time I was the youngest officer on the force.

I would like to commend the men and women of the Augusta Police Department for their professionalism and unwavering dedication to duty. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with them to fulfill the department's mission to serve and protect the citizens of Augusta.

Being the Police Chief has also provided me an opportunity to work and partner with exceptional city staff members who strive daily to make Augusta the best it can be.

Over the past several months as I have reflected on this tremendous opportunity and honor, I have determined that it is time for me to transition to a new segment of my life's journey and allow a new chief to lead this wonderful department and city through its next chapter of growth, development and opportunity. As for a successor, I highly recommend Deputy Chief Jared Mills. Jared was hired in 1998 and has continually demonstrated his abilities, skills and talents. He is highly respected and well-liked by staff, peers and members of the community. I have watched him progress up through the ranks and he was my choice for Deputy Chief in 2011. He has taken every opportunity to learn and improve and he is well prepared to be the next Chief of Police. I fully understand it is your decision but I thank you for your consideration of my recommendation.

I would like to take this time to thank you for your two decades of mentorship, your trust and support for allowing me to serve as the Deputy Police and Police Chief for the past 17 years. This has been a great experience for me and I can only hope that I have served you and the City of Augusta well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Gregoire".

Telephone (207) 626-2370  
Fax (207) 623-6047

**LD 1604, Resolve To Amend Authorization To Sell Certain Property in Augusta**  
**Proposed Amendment - Presented by Representative Pouliot**  
**January 24, 2018**

**Further Amended as follows 10:00am Monday 1/29/18**

**Amend the LD 1604 to read as follows:**

**Sec. 1) Resolve 2013, c. 98, §3, amended. Resolved:** That Resolve 2013, c. 98, §3 is amended to read:

**Sec. 3 Property to be sold "as is" to a nonprofit organization; master plan. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services may negotiate and execute purchase and sale agreements upon terms the commissioner considers appropriate; however, the state property described in section 2 must be sold "as is," with no representations or warranties, to a nonprofit organization or a public-private partnership. ~~that provides services and shelter to homeless veterans and has done so for at least the past 2 years and agrees~~ The buyer must agree to use the property exclusively for veterans for transitional housing or substance abuse services for veterans. Title must be transferred by quitclaim deed without covenant or release deed and executed by the commissioner. This resolve constitutes a change to the 2001 Capitol Planning Commission master plan; and be it further  
; and be it further

**Sec. 2) Resolve 2013, c. 98, §5, amended. Resolved:** That Resolve 2013, c. 98, §5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. Use as transitional housing or substance abuse services for veterans once conveyed. Resolved: That the buyer of the state property described in section 2, if it fails to use the property as transitional housing or substance abuse services for veterans as required by section 3, must convey ownership of the property to the State.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment authorizes the State to sell the property to a non-profit organization or a public private partnership. The buyer must agree to use the property exclusively for veterans for transitional housing or substance abuse treatment services. If the buyer fails to use the property as required, the buyer must convey ownership to the State.