



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: William R. Bridgeo  
RE: Administrative Report  
DATE: June 10, 2019

## Meetings:

Election Day is Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and all wards will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Due to elections, the Planning Board will meet on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> in the Lecture Hall. Agendas were included in last week's Council Packet.

A City Council Informational Meeting will take place in Council Chambers on Thursday, June 13, 2019, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Agendas are included in your Council Packets.

## Other Items:

I am very happy to announce that I have appointed Susan Robertson to the position of Assistant City Manager/Director of Human Resources. Susan, who for the past six years has served as City Administrator of Sun Valley, Idaho, will start with us on Monday August 12<sup>th</sup> (after she completes Sun Valley's annual budget process and wraps up other pressing duties there).

I have known Susan for many years – dating back to the three years she served as my assistant city manager in Canandaigua, New York in the mid 1990's. She is the consummate professional, deeply versed in complex human resource management issues (including public sector union environments) as well as the full range of other municipal management duties.

To screen the final applicants for this position, I appointed a panel chaired by Ralph St. Pierre and including Lewiston City Manager Ed Barrett, Bangor City Manager Cathy Conlow and our own Corporation Counsel Kristin Collins. After a full day's worth of interviews two weeks ago, they were unanimously enthusiastic about Susan's candidacy. (I purposely absented myself from the process because of my past association with Susan and advised the review panel that it was my intention to follow their recommendation, however it turned out.)

Between Canandaigua and Sun Valley, Susan spent seventeen years as the village administrator of Fox Point, Wisconsin where she resided with her husband, Steve (who, sadly, passed away two years ago) and son Shane (now a college student in Utah). She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Florida and a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has always been active in state and national municipal management associations. And she's a nice person!

I am certain that you are going to enjoy working with Susan. Her starting salary will be approximately \$108,000.

As you can see from the enclosed agenda, we have a pretty full slate of issues to discuss at Thursday evening's informational meeting. Councilor Conti has placed the first three items on it, all dealing with land use issues. Matt Nazar has provided some staff back-up information for two of them (Councilor Conti has actually provided the proposed ordinance language for the first item related to amending the West Side historic district boundaries). Attorney Collins will be present to assist in these discussions.

Also up for discussion on Thursday, is Councilor Judkins proposal to fund transportation to and from Bicentennial Nature Park this summer. Parks and Recreation has secured a price quote from First Student that would enable trips five days a week for about \$12,000. Leif Dahlin and Bruce Chase will be available to discuss the particulars.

The Augusta Downtown Alliance hosted a very popular outdoor sculpture display last summer. To support it, the Council appropriated \$2,200 in economic development TIF funds to underwrite the cost of moving the sculptures in and out of the downtown. This year, we have a request of \$9,000 from the ADA to allow for the exhibit to return and for the purchase of one of the artist's pieces (the total cost is \$14,000 and ADA will raise the remainder of the cost). A representative of the ADA will be present to speak to the request.

An assessment of the current condition of the City-owned Cony Pride building on Cony Street has been completed and the estimated cost of stabilizing the building is \$132,000. (See Matt Nazar's enclosed memo to me on the matter.) I'm advised that there is at least one party interested in purchasing the building in its current condition (I believe to demolish it and use the land as part of a larger new housing redevelopment project incorporating abutting property). If there is Council support for that, then an appropriate order would be crafted for the next business meeting. The building falls under the demolition delay ordinance so whoever ends up owning it would need to go through that process.

The official reopening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Hartford Fire Station is now scheduled for Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Between now and then final punch-list items will be completed, the last of the furnishing will have been delivered, trucks and other equipment housed and personnel reassigned there. A reminder and program materials will be sent out the week before.

C: Department and Bureau Director  
Legislative Delegation