



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: January 4, 2016

Meetings:

There will be a City Council Business Meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. An agenda is included in your Council Packets. This meeting will begin with a Swearing-In Ceremony for newly elected Council and School Board members. A welcoming reception will be held beginning at 6:15 p.m.

There will be a Senior Staff Meeting on Friday, January 8th beginning at 9:15 am at the Police Department.

Other Items:

If, due to the light agenda for this Thursday's Council meeting, one is tempted to think that 2016 will be uneventful, I would suggest that impression is probably premature. We have some significant issues and challenges on the horizon that will engage us soon enough, I assure you (much of which we will touch on during our annual goal-setting session scheduled for Saturday, January 23rd), including ordinances dealing with historic preservation and property maintenance, budget challenges, and intergovernmental relations.

Prior to that, at the informational meeting a week from Thursday, there will be a need to revisit the project budget for the planned North Augusta Fire Department substation. In a meeting with our architects last week, we learned that the soil conditions at the Quimby Lot (the chosen location for the building) are problematic. Test borings done as part of the civil engineering reveal the presence of soupy clay about 60 feet deep to bedrock. To stay with this site will require about \$500,000 worth of structural piles so that the concrete floors will properly hold the weight of fire trucks. The project budget (as approved by Council and ratified by the voters) is \$3.6 million. Architect's estimates for the building have come in within budget. The problem is the unanticipated extra cost of the soil mitigation. I have staff examining what the potential cost might be of acquiring an alternate site in North Augusta but I don't hold out a lot of hope that an alternate site (after acquisition and site development) would be less costly. I will have more information – including a recommendation of how Council might use additional TIF proceeds to address this unexpected project cost - for discussion for next week's package and the informational meeting.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation