

**AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

There will be a pre-meeting of the City Council at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A. No Council actions are taken at pre-meetings. Pre-meetings are open to the public.

PROCLAMATION – Gloria Farrell Day

PRESENTATION – A Watercolor Print from Friends of the Rail Trail

PRESENTATION – John Finnegan Retiring Augusta Parking District Chairman

PRESENTATION – Jim Goulet Retiring Parks, Cemeteries and Trees Director

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under this item will be considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. If a Councilor wishes to discuss one (or more) item(s), Councilor may ask to have the item(s) removed from the Consent Agenda and considered individually.

14-207 Manager (Bureau of City Clerk)

ORDERED, That the minutes of the City Council meetings held December 4, 2014 and December 11, 2014, submitted by the City Clerk be approved.

14-208 City Manager

ORDERED, That Barbara E. Wardwell be reappointed as Registrar of Voters in accordance with Title 21-A, §101(2), to be effective January 1, 2015.

14-209 City Manager

ORDERED, That the City Council accept from The Friends of Lithgow Library a check for \$2 million for the library expansion and renovation project.

14-210 City Manager

BE IT ORDERED, That the City Manager is authorized to accept, as a donation from the Bradstreet estate heirs, a 0.46 acre parcel of land abutting the Bolton Hill Cemetery (Tax Map 7, Lot 82).

OLD BUSINESS AND TABLED MATTERS

SECOND READING

14-192 Councilor Byron

BE IT ORDAINED, By the City Council of the City of Augusta, as follows:

That Chapter 18, Section 34 Schedule of stop signs, flashing red lights, of the Revised Code of Ordinances 1990, as amended, be further amended by adding the following:

Throughway	Entering Street
<u>Water Street</u>	<u>Green Street</u>

BE IT ORDAINED, By the City Council of the City of Augusta, as follows:

That Chapter 18, Section 38 Schedule of one-way streets., of the Revised Code of Ordinances 1990, as amended, be further amended by deleting the following:

~~Green Street, between Grove Street to State Street, west only.~~

This section of Water Street was formerly named Grove Street.

NEW BUSINESS

14-211 Mayor Rollins, Councilors Bilodeau and Byron

ORDERED, That the City Manager is authorized to contract with Keenan Auction Company for the public auction of the tax acquired property at 94 Winthrop Street.

14-212 Council

ORDERED, That the City Manager is authorized to apply for a grant in the amount of \$350,000 from the U.S. Forest Service Community Forestry program to support the acquisition and preservation of the 164-acre Howard Hill property.

14-213 City Manager

ORDERED, That the City Manager is authorized to enter into a lease agreement with Augusta East Redevelopment Company, LLC for temporary rental space for Lithgow Library necessitated by the renovation and expansion of the existing library facilities.

14-214 City Manager

ORDERED, That the General Assistance rates for the calendar years 2014 and 2015 be established according to the attached schedule.

14-215 Council

WHEREAS, The City of Augusta is interested in creating a national historic district in the City's downtown; and,

WHEREAS, The first step in the process of creating said district is to request the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to undertake an assessment survey of Augusta's downtown area, with a subsequent recommendation being forwarded to the National Register of Historic Places for consideration of designation of Augusta's downtown as a National Historical District.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council approves of and requests the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to perform an assessment survey of the area to include both sides of Canal Street and both sides of Water Street including Front and Commercial Streets on both sides southerly to Monument Park. Said assessment will form the basis for the request to designate the area a National Historical District.

14-216 Council

WHEREAS, scheduled passenger rail service is now operating as Amtrak's *Downeaster* to Brunswick, connecting to Boston through Portland; and,

WHEREAS, the line between Brunswick and Augusta, approximately 34 miles, is state-owned but idle; and,

WHEREAS, modern passenger rail is a proven stimulus for mixed use economic development, as well as a convenient mode of travel; and,

WHEREAS, the downtown area of the City of Augusta is challenged for parking space, which is now partially addressed through an agreement with MaineDOT whereby the state-owned track through the downtown is graveled over for approximately 200 temporary parking spaces. The City deems replacement parking space is an essential pre-condition to remove the gravel from the track for trains; and,

WHEREAS, a new passenger terminal with ample parking capacity and convenient access to the regional highway system can be located near the downtown to serve rail passengers arriving and leaving by private vehicles or via connecting public transportation from outlying areas of the City and its surrounding region; and,

WHEREAS, passenger rail, in coordination with economic development opportunities and "last mile" passenger connections, is an environmentally sound and increasingly popular travel mode.

NOW THEREFORE, The City of Augusta hereby expresses the intent to explore the transportation advantages, related economic possibilities and financial implications of restoring scheduled passenger rail service to the City in accordance with the foregoing findings:

Such exploration should proceed with MaineDOT, Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA), Kennebec County Council of Governments (KVCOG), Maine Eastern Railroad (current lessee of the Brunswick–Augusta line to the east end of said river bridge), Pan Am Railways (owner of track in East Augusta northward from said river bridge), private developer(s) and public representatives;

Considering the scope and interconnectedness of railroad infrastructure, downtown parking garage, Kennebec Locke development and regional transportation terminal associated with this vision, a federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant should be considered for 2015 to fund detailed planning. Other planning grant opportunities should also be explored as they arise.

14-217 City Manager

ORDERED, That the City Council schedule of meetings for 2015 as required by Article II, Section 6 of the City Code of Ordinances, be set as follows:

January 8 - Business Meeting to include swearing in of newly elected officials;
Informational Meeting to follow.

January 15 - Business Meeting

January 22 - Informational Meeting

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That for the remaining of the year, the City Council Business Meetings will be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Informational Meetings will be called by the Mayor or City Manager the second and fourth Thursdays of the month on an as-needed basis. Business Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. and Informational Meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That the Mayor, City Council or the City Manager may amend or revise dates and times of meetings as is deemed necessary.

COMMUNICATIONS

Committee Reports
City Manager's Report

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. Wardwell, City Clerk
December 15, 2014