



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. STOKES, MAYOR

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO, CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL

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DAVID M. ROLLINS

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo  
RE: Administrative Report  
DATE: December 9, 2013

Meetings:

There will be an Informational Meeting of the City Council on Thursday, December 12, 2013 beginning at 6:30pm.

The Planning Board will hold a meeting in Council Chambers on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00pm. The agenda is included in your packets.

Other Items:

You will note that there is an item on Thursday evening's agenda for mid-year budget adjustments. Simply, those are a recommended transfer of \$525,000 from unassigned fund balance to offset the loss of state revenue sharing. This action is consistent with our discussions during the spring budget process. Also, an amount not to exceed \$40,000 is recommended to be appropriated from fund balance to cover the heating costs for the Flatiron building. At the time of budget adoption we hoped that Cyndy Taylor's project would be far enough along so as to allow for us to avoid the cost of heating the building this winter. It took longer for the outside funding sources to make their favorable decisions so we will be responsible for the building until spring.

On a related note, the Legislature's tax expenditure study committee has included a change in funding for historic tax credit projects in Maine that, if implement, could adversely impact this project. We will be following this closely and working with our legislative delegation to ensure that the solution to one problem (elimination of revenue sharing) does not come at the expense of another important priority.

A few of the downtown business people expressed concern about the free WiFi service the City underwrites in the Water Street area. Those concerns appear to center around lapses in phone service and dropped calls. We've explained that these issues are not within the purview of the service provider (and are likely associated with a need for more bandwidth than we provide for free and/or use of VOIP phone service providers vs. landlines).

C: Department and Bureau Directors  
Augusta Legislative Delegation