



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: March 14, 2016

Meetings:

The Joint Conference Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room A on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

There will be a City Council Business Meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Agendas are enclosed in your Council Packets. A pre-meeting will take place in Conference Room A beginning at 6:30 p.m.

A Senior Staff Meeting will take place at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, March 18th at the Civic Center in the Hancock Room.

Other Items:

In an opinion piece in Saturday's KJ, columnist Don Roberts spoke glowingly (and appropriately I would add) about the positive leadership efforts the Mayor has undertaken since he took office. Unfortunately, in the process of doing so Mr. Roberts conveyed some information that I think is inaccurate and does a disservice to members of the City's professional staff. Primarily his suggestion that Matt Nazar is inappropriately cast in his role as Director of Development Services, is, I think, well off the mark. Matt – unanimously confirmed in his position by Council three years ago – has done a great job running the department. Rather than neglecting development in favor of planning and code enforcement, Matt (and indeed his predecessor Mike Duguay) routinely integrates a balance of those important (and not mutually exclusive) functions and has enjoyed the opportunity to do so since he was promoted. Mr. Roberts also completely ignores the fact that the City funds a \$79,000 a year economic development expert (Assistant Development Director Keith Luke who has twenty years of economic development expertise here in Maine) as well as Development Specialist Dan Nichols (who has over thirty years of banking and business development expertise in Augusta). It's a pleasure to work with a mayor so committed to the growth and well-being of his community. It's too bad that praise for such commitment has to come at the expense of the good work and accomplishments (of which I could cite many) of others.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation