



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: March 28, 2016

Meetings:

On Tuesday, March 29, 2016 there will be a TIF Committee Meeting at 4:30 p.m. in Conference Room A.

The Alumni Field Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30th in Conference Room A.

On Thursday, March 31st there will be an Informational Meeting of Council beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Other Items:

The City Council Informational Meeting this week consists of a one item agenda, namely consideration of the proposed Historic District Ordinance. For this item, you will find in your packets a color copy of the most recent edition of the Proposed Historic District Ordinance, a copy of the current Historic Preservation Ordinance and a color copy of an amended Historic Preservation Ordinance as recommended by City Staff.

Recently, upon receipt of some new consulting engineering information, we were cautioned about the effect of ongoing deterioration of the truck bays floor at the Hartford Street fire station. We have known for some time that there is a potential issue here (it is one of the reasons we've been discussing a capital project to upgrade the facility). This latest information conveys more of a sense of immediacy. It means that the current advisable load-bearing weight of the floor is insufficient for the heavy vehicles that have traditionally been housed there. That determination then led to a series of meetings last week with the consulting engineer we use and with appropriate City staff (including the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Facilities Manager, Development Services Director, City Engineer, Assistant City Manager and me). To ensure the safety of our personnel and maintain continued operational efficiency as much as possible, several steps have been taken to address the situation. First of all, the basement of the building has been closed unless all vehicles are moved outside. Second, the fire engine (and its assigned personnel) usually stationed there has been temporarily reassigned to the Western Avenue station. Third, a plan to use cribbing in the basement to add sufficient structural support to the floor has been developed by the engineer and requests for proposals are being distributed to local contractors (as well as advertised in the KJ) with a quick turn-around required. Once we receive submissions and select a contractor (in a modified design-build process), I will present a recommendation to Council for appropriate funding to get the work done as soon as possible. This is designed to be a temporary solution until we are prepared to proceed with restoration and expansion of the

building two or three years out. (We briefly discussed temporarily closing the building completely, but the public safety and operation issues associated with that made it ill-advised in the opinion of the Fire Chief and others.) The operational changes described here should have no meaningful impact on the quality of our fire/ems response capability.

Speaking of the Fire Department, Chief Audette advises me that Firefighter/Paramedics Adelbert Hume, Jason Decker, Dustin Freeman and Mic Poirier recently attended and graduated from this year's Fire Officer 1 and 2 Academy held in Brunswick. This ten-day program is designed to teach individuals how to administratively manage a fire department and be a safe and effective fire officer at emergency scenes. As turn-over in any organization is inevitable, this is valuable training for our staff.

You will recall that last Friday Mother Nature presented us with a nasty ice event that closed schools and generally made life more difficult for folks. Below is a comment that was posted on our website for a grateful resident who was the beneficiary of a response to her 911 call.

I would like to thank a police office and the public works workers for helping me this morning (3/25/16). I had slid down the hill on Eastern Avenue and ended up sideways in the street on the ice. I was afraid to move, so I called 911 and a policeman was dispatched and public works came with sand. The public works folks struggled to get up the hill themselves, and finally backed up. They spread sand above and below my car. The police officer threw some sand under my tires and talked me into backing up and following the sand down, which I did successfully. I went on my way to work, but I didn't want the officer's and the public works' efforts to go unnoticed. I'm very grateful to them and their help. I just wanted to pass this on! I don't know the officer's name, but he was definitely my angel this morning, along with the public works person! Thank you so much!! Please pass this on to the appropriate folks!

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation