



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: August 1, 2016

Meetings:

There will be a meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals on Wednesday, August 3rd beginning at 6:45 in the Lecture Hall. Notices regarding this meeting were sent to you electronically last week and are also included in your council packets.

On Thursday, August 4th there will be a City Council Informational Meeting beginning at 6:00 pm for the purpose of reviewing the proposed five-year capital improvement program. As time permits, a pre-meeting of the Business Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers will follow. Agendas are in your council packets.

There will be a Senior Staff Meeting in Conference Room A beginning at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, August 5th.

Please mark your calendars for the grand opening of the new Lithgow Library facility scheduled for a week from Saturday (August 13th) at 10:00 am.

Other Items:

A late addition to the Council business agenda for this week is authorization for me to apply on the City's behalf for a recently announced grant program addressing substance abuse treatment needs identified by our Police Department. The pilot program was funded by the Legislature earlier this year to the tune of \$1.1 million statewide and can fund as many as eight programs. After consultation with Mayor Rollins (who has championed the creation of this program as part of his work with the Maine Mayors' Coalition) and Chief Gregoire and Deputy Chief Mills, I believe that the good work our PD is currently engaged in along these lines puts us in an advantageous position to successfully compete for some of this grant funding. Per the RFP, no local matching City funds are required (but resources currently being accessed by the PD by local not-for-profit groups to enable what we currently do can and will count to our credit). The central idea of this program is to provide support to substance abusers who voluntarily seek help from us. The ultimate goal is to assist these people as they try to break the cycle of drug abuse and, hopefully, reconstruct their lives and become contributing members of society. The deadline for applications is this Friday and I have suggested we apply for \$250,000. Given that the PD already has established the interagency relationship critical to making a program like this succeed (and all we've really lacked to date was a source of funds to augment our work), I think we have an excellent chance of being successful.

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There is good news related to two nagging code enforcement issues. The first is the clean-up of the vacant single-family property at 4 Hutchinson Drive in Mayfair. This nagging nuisance has frustrated the neighborhood for a long time but with the implementation of the new minimum property maintenance ordinance we were finally able to intervene and get it cleaned up. I believe Councilor Grant will have more to say about this (particularly given the many hours he has devoted in seeking help for the neighbors involved). The second ray of sunshine came last Friday when the City Attorney secured a District Court contempt order against the Elwells who own the problem property at 116 Cony Street. The broad scope of the Court's order gives the City the ability to immediately enter upon the property, clean it up and assess all costs to the property owner. A copy of the order is enclosed. Kudos go to our Code Enforcement staff and to Steve Langsdorf for staying with this one to a successful conclusion.

We are making good progress with the construction of the new North Augusta Fire Station. Chief Audette is there on a daily basis monitoring the work. The stabilization piles have all been driven and hit bedrock at a shallower depth than originally projected so we will see some savings there. The concrete contractor is on the job at this time and utility installation work continues.

The summer program of street paving and reconstruction continues at a good pace as well. No doubt you have seen many of these improvements as you get around the City. The following is an update from DPW Director, Lesley Jones:

This week we will be reclaiming a section of Bond Brook Road which will then be paved with base pavement; this week weather permitting. The same will be done on Cony Street Extension but it will not be paved until next week. Additionally, we will be chip sealing both Middle Road and Pearl St. this week. Both the reclamation and the chip seal programs are examples of alternative pavement preservation methods.

What I have heard many favorable comments about (including in my own neighborhood) has been the every week collection of rubbish during the heat of summer. What a treat to not have to deal with the adverse mixture of ninety degree weather and two week-old refuse!

Copy: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation