



THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO
CITY MANAGER

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager Bill Bridgeo
RE: Administrative Report
DATE: August 10, 2015

Meetings:

There will be a City Council Workshop in Council Chambers beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2015.

A Planning Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 11th in Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 p.m. Agendas are included in council packets.

On Thursday, August 13th there will be a City Council Informational Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Agendas are included in council packets.

Other Items:

You will recall that last fall the Maine Department of Labor conducted a three-week, in-depth safety compliance inspection of all departments and bureaus of City government. The initial report issued to us by the DoL cited a number of violations. They ranged from simple, easy to remedy items like a frayed extension cord to complicated items like fall protection enhancements near recycling roll-offs at Hatch Hill (estimated to cost in excess of \$25,000 to remedy). The report indicated that fines totaling \$7,000 were being levied due to some of the violations. The City was given a certain amount of time to appeal the fines and remedy the citations. Since the issuance of the report, Human Resources Director Kristy Gould has worked diligently with department and bureau directors to address the issues. Last Friday morning, Kristy and I spent two hours with the DoL supervisor who oversees this division and who reviews and approves of responses to inspection reports and hears appeals. Based on that meeting, he advised us that he will be recommending to his superior that our fines be waived and only a mandatory \$250 processing fee be assessed to us. The reason for this favorable result is the terrific work that Kristy put into orchestrating our response and the great cooperation and assistance she received from all those City staff members whose operations received one or more citations. It was clear to the DoL officials that the City of Augusta takes workplace safety very seriously and our comprehensive efforts to address their concerns were appreciated.

We have several items slated for discussion this Thursday evening. Continued review of the proposed historic district ordinance is up first. You've already seen e-mail correspondence between Mayor Rollins and Matt Nazar related to prospective review board composition and related issues. Another copy of that correspondence is included for your convenience. Also on

the agenda is discussion of a “downtown expo” requested by Councilor Emery and reauthorization of a law enforcement grant for security coverage at the Augusta State Airport for \$92,245.

By the end of this month it will be time to renew our agreement with Ecomaine to accept our single stream recyclables. The agreement in place is a six month pilot program whereby receptacles are provided to us free of charge and there is no charge from Ecomaine to accept our recyclables, regardless of market conditions. The agreement stipulates that at the end of the six month pilot period, the City will commit to continuing to send our recyclables to Ecomaine for a minimum of three years or discontinue providing single stream service for a year before using any competing single stream disposal service. Given the popularity of the “silver bullets” these past five months, I recommend we extend our contract with Ecomaine for the coming three years (Ecomaine offers another option – a three to five year agreement that involves cost sharing and potential revenue sharing – but we don’t yet have enough data from the pilot program to comfortably recommend that option). The larger questions of future City recycling programs/ options will be addressed by Council later this fall. Extending the contract with Ecomaine does not foreclose our future options.

The final item on the agenda Thursday is an initial review of Council’s vacant property ordinance committee report and recommendations. Their proposed ordinance (requiring registration of all vacant properties) is enclosed. Councilor Grant and I have discussed the agenda and are in agreement that if meeting goes late we will take this matter up later in the month.

Wednesday through Friday I will be attending the annual conference of the state municipal managers’ association at Sunday River. I will be monitoring my e-mails and available by cell phone. Ralph St. Pierre will be present at Thursday’s informational meeting.

C: Department and Bureau Directors
Augusta Legislative Delegation