CITY OF AUGUSTA
AGENDA FOR THE CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020
7:00 P.M.

COUNCILORS ATTENDING VIA CONFERENCE CALL ONLY

THE PUBLIC MAY VIEW THIS MEETING ON OUR WEBSITE AT AUGUSTAMAINE.GOV OR CABLE CHANNEL 1301.

There will be no pre-meeting of the City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

20-049 City Manager (Bureau of City Clerk)
BE IT ORDERED, that the minutes of the City Council Business Meeting held April 2, 2020 submitted by the City Manager’s office be hereby approved.

20-050 City Manager – Bureau of Audit
BE IT ORDERED, that the Roll of Accounts for March 2020 in the amount of $5,284,740.26 be hereby approved.

20-051 City Manager
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council hereby accepts a donation of $2,806.88 from the Gary Sinise Foundation Grant of Woodland Hills, CA, to purchase personal protective equipment.

20-052 City Manager
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council hereby accepts, from the Old Fort Western Fund, Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars ($85,000) during the 2020 Fiscal Year to pay Historic Interpreter staff salaries and fringe benefits and general operating expenses such as phone, postage, copier, gift shop inventory, curatorial supplies and education program supplies.

20-053 City Manager
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council does hereby grant approval pursuant to Title 15 of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, section 5824(3) & 5826(6) to the transfer of $390.26 or any portion thereof to the Augusta Police Department, on the grounds that the City of Augusta Police Department did make a substantial contribution to the investigation of the criminal case, namely, State of Maine vs. Joseph Bing.

20-054 City Manager
BE IT ORDERED, that the City Council does hereby grant approval pursuant to Title 15 of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, section 5824(3) & 5826(6) to the transfer of $548.00 or any portion thereof to the Augusta Police Department, on the grounds that the City of Augusta Police Department did make a substantial contribution to the investigation of the criminal case, namely, State of Maine vs. Troy Hallett.
NEW BUSINESS  PART 1- ORDERS AND RESOLVES

20-055 City Manager
WHEREAS, the State of Maine has postponed the State elections until July 14, 2020 because of the COVID-19 State of Emergency; and,

WHEREAS, it is not in the best interest of the public health to have multiple elections, nor would it be cost effective; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has authority pursuant to Article V of the Charter of the City of Augusta to schedule elections and modify the timeframe for filing nomination petitions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the municipal election scheduled for June 9, 2020 is hereby rescheduled to July 14, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that nomination petitions for the special election for the Ward 3 School Board seat will continue to be available from the City Clerk until May 15, 2020 and may be filed with the City Clerk between April 30, 2020 and May 15, 2020, and all previously filed petitions containing the required number of verified signatures will be accepted as complete for the July 14, 2020 special election.

20-056 Mayor and Council
WHEREAS, the City of Augusta owns and operates the Augusta Civic Center as a municipal enterprise fund; and,

WHEREAS, the annual operations of the Augusta Civic Center account for millions of dollars of economic activity pumped into the central Maine economy; and,

WHEREAS, the Augusta Civic Center is a significant employer in the central Maine region; and,

WHEREAS, the Augusta Civic Center has for decades operated on essentially a break-even basis; and,

WHEREAS, any operating deficits of the Augusta Civic Center ultimately accrue as a liability for the City of Augusta’s General Fund creating a potentially significant burden on the taxpayers of the City of Augusta; and,

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, business activity at the Augusta Civic Center has effectively ceased for the foreseeable future subjecting the City of Augusta to a large and unavoidable financial burden; and,

WHEREAS, the Augusta Civic Center does not currently qualify for federal small business emergency assistance due to its status as a subsidiary operation of municipal government,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Augusta do hereby petition the four members of Maine’s congressional delegation – Senators Collins and King and Representatives Golden and Pingree – to do all in their power to help alleviate this financial emergency through whatever influence their respective positions might provide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council do hereby acknowledge and appreciate all of the ongoing efforts of the members of the Maine congressional delegation, especially during this uniquely challenging time for our state and nation.
COMMUNICATIONS

Committee Reports
City Manager’s Report

Loretta Lathe, Executive Assistant
April 13, 2020