

# CITY OF AUGUSTA 2022 GOALS FINAL DRAFT – MAY 16, 2022

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING, CITIZEN HEALTH AND WELFARE**

### A1. Promote Affordable Housing for all income levels

1. Create a housing plan for the unhoused before next winter
2. Create a Task Force to hold a forum to solicit the views of housing partners in Augusta and submit a strategy to the City Council for housing available for all levels of income
3. Consider a short-term rental ordinance to control the conversion of year-round housing into tourist units.
4. Establish and maintain a low-barrier homeless shelter
5. Identify and implement zoning changes to make affordable housing less expensive to develop in Augusta. Examples of zoning changes include allowing manufactured housing, tiny housing, accessory dwellings, and other less expensive options in more areas.
6. Provide financial incentives for housing development such as TIFs, land bank properties (or Hussey School) at low or no cost, and infrastructure extensions

### A2. Make Augusta a Recovery-ready community and use Opioid Settlement funds for the following Substance Use Task Force goals:

1. Encourage the display of treatment information in public spaces for and in the business community for employees and their families.”
2. Celebrate recovery and reduce the stigma of substance use disorder for individuals and families using media (such as CTV-7), social media, and by partnering with the state OPTIONS media campaign.”
3. Public education/PSAs around what to do when coming across a person who may have overdosed.”
4. Partner with the police department to identify locations with a need for the installation of accessible community sharp boxes.”
5. Publicize information on how to find recovery meetings and other resources on CTV-7 and other media outlets.”
6. Clarifying city ordinance around recovery residences.”
7. Work to create stable, safe housing and adequate inventory for all levels of Recovery.
8. Hold a Council informational meeting about the proposed crisis center with 130 beds at the old veteran’s home for mental health and substance abuse care. After the meeting, consider a Council resolution in support of the proposal
9. Continue to support the efforts of the Substance Use Task Force to attract resources and services from outside funding sources

## **REVITALIZATION PROJECTS**

### B1. Support the Revitalization of Sand Hill and Lower Water Street

1. Begin to implement the recommendations of the Sand Hill/Lower Water Street Task Force when they present their report this summer

- a. The Sand Hill/Lower Water Street Task Force was formed in 2021 to study how to revitalize the proud home of Franco-American immigrants to central Maine. The Task Force will report its recommendations to the Council in June. The options under consideration include:
  - Identify buildings that are dangerous and not up to code. Either require the owners to rehabilitate or acquire the buildings for the City's land bank.
  - Level the Apgar building on Water Street.
  - Provide grants and low-cost loans to bring properties back, through grants like the Community Development Block Grant program.
  - Clear out vegetation so residents can see and access the Kennebec River.
  - Hire a project manager and facilitator, as the Downtown Alliance has done.

#### B2. Actively promote economic development

1. Arsenal redevelopment
2. Redevelopment of strip malls and underused spaces
3. River sites
4. Residential projects Reach out to investors to promote:

#### B3. Extend Utilities to the east side

1. Continue to look for opportunities to extend water, sewer, broadband, road improvements to Riggs Brook and other locations on the east side.

#### B4. Improve intra-city public transportation

1. Continue to look for opportunities to connect the hospital, airport, capitol building, downtown, mall, and hotels.

#### B5. Extend broadband services

1. Apply for grants to extend service, particularly to the east side and Riggs Brook (see B3, 1)

## **ROADWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### C1. Improve pedestrian safety

1. Continue to be proactive in implementing existing plan for street crossing, traffic light, and sidewalk improvement.

#### C2. Repair the parking garage

1. Fix the top floor

#### C3. Solve Hatch Hill issues

1. Solve issues both long and short term

## **CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### D1. Improve Citizen Communications

1. Enable hybrid meeting participation in meetings
2. Review the existing committee structure and be sure citizens are engaged

#### D2. Engage with Nonprofit Organizations

1. Partner with nonprofits to achieve City Goals

## **HIRING AND EMPLOYEE SUPPORT PROJECTS**

E1. Conduct a staff audit of three departments/bureaus

1. Include Development services, community services and code enforcement

E2. Help public-facing staff deal with mental health issues.

1. Train staff in suicide prevention
2. Train staff in behavioral health issues

## **COUNCIL POLICY INITIATIVES**

F1. Raise the education level of residents

1. Support School Board efforts to improve education.

F2. Work with School Board on Hussey School replacement

1. Consider consolidating schools as part of process. Look at the reuse of the buildings and land for housing.

## **OTHER ITEMS TO FINISH/CONTINUE**

Adopt Comprehensive Plan

Build New Police Station

Complete Facilities Masterplan