

# CITY OF AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL 2023 GOALS

<b>AFFORDABLE HOUSING, CITIZEN HEALTH AND WELFARE</b>	
<b>A1. Promote Affordable Housing for all Income Levels</b>	
1. 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.	
2. Explore possibilities for residential projects. Reach out to investors to promote opportunities.	
3. Provide financial incentives for housing development such as TIFs, land bank properties at low or no cost, and infrastructure extensions.	
4. Continue to look for opportunities to extend water, sewer, broadband, road improvements to provide additional housing opportunities.	
<b>A2. Support the Establishment of 24/7 Services for the Unhoused</b>	
1. Facilitate the addition of services for the unhoused during hours and days such services are not currently provided.	
2. Facilitate the continuation of a low-barrier emergency warming center.	
<b>A3. Continue to pursue Augusta becoming a recovery-ready community</b>	
1. Undertake the Project Recovery pilot program.	
2. Review options for how opioid settlement funds may be used to support recovery.	

<b>REVITALIZATION PROJECTS</b>	
<b>B1. Initiate planning for the rehabilitation or replacement of the Augusta Civic Center</b>	
1. Review results of Facilities Plan and determine options based on rehabilitation needs and anticipated costs.	

<b>B2. Establish a rental housing inspection program</b>	
1. Adopt ordinance providing for a rental inspection program.	
<b>B3. Support the revitalization of Sand Hill and Lower Water Street</b>	
<p>1. 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.</p> <p>a. Provide staff assistance to the Task Force and assist in furtherance of their recommendations. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify buildings that are dangerous or not up to code. Either require the owners to rehabilitate or acquire the buildings for the City's land bank.</li> <li>• Level the Apgar building on Water Street.</li> <li>• Provide grants and low-cost loans to bring properties back, through grants like the Community Development Block Grant program.</li> <li>• Clean up vegetation abutting Mill Park to provide better views and access to the Kennebec River.</li> <li>• Hire a project manager and facilitator, as the Downtown Alliance has done.</li> </ul>	
<b>B4. Support the Worromontogus Lake Association in its efforts to improve the Lake's water quality</b>	
1. Provide some level of matching funding for the Association's alum treatment efforts.	
<b>B5. Support intra-city public transportation</b>	
1. Look for opportunities to connect the hospital, airport, Capitol building, downtown, shopping areas, and hotels.	

<b>ROADWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	
<b>C1. Improve pedestrian safety and access</b>	
1. Replace currently closed set of stairs providing access from Commercial Street to Water Street.	
2. Continue to be proactive in implementing sidewalk, street crossing, and traffic light improvements.	

<b>C2. Determine future of the Hatch Hill Solid Waste Disposal Facility</b>	
1. Continue evaluation of the feasibility of a vertical increase and appropriate levels of tonnage for a new facility.	
<b>C3. Improve dock access to the Kennebec River</b>	
1. Issue a RFP for a contractor to undertake repairs to the eastside dock.	

<b>CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	
<b>D1. Initiate the Establishment of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee</b>	
1. Review examples from other communities regarding establishing a DEI committee and recommend a structure for such a committee in Augusta.	
<b>D2. Improve communication with citizens</b>	
1. Undertake another pilot program for hybrid meeting participation in Council meetings.	

<b>HIRING AND EMPLOYEE SUPPORT PROJECTS</b>	
<b>E1. Increase staffing in the Development Services Department to meet the work demands</b>	
<b>E2. Focus on creative methods for recruitment and retention of employees.</b>	

<b>COUNCIL POLICIES</b>	
<b>F1. Complete review and adoption/acceptance of the Comprehensive Plan, Facilities Plan, and Parks and Recreation Plan.</b>	
<b>F2. Maintain stable, moderate adjustments in property taxation.</b>	
<b>F3. Support School Board efforts to improve education.</b>	
<b>F4. Work with School Board on Hussey School replacement</b>	

<b>F5. Investigate options for implementing a body camera program for the Augusta Police Department.</b>	
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