



CITY OF SACO, MAINE

Administration
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Michaud and Saco City Council
FROM: Kevin L. Sutherland, City Administrator
DATE: April 10, 2017
RE: **Administrative Update**

Two new additions to the Saco Team

Today, two new employees started with the City of Saco. Deputy Police Chief Jack Clements and Andrew Kavanagh, our GIS engineering technician in Public Works. Both of them come to us from away, so please welcome them to Saco and to Maine!

March Financial Update

The March data is available for the [financial updates](#). This can be found on the Finance Department webpage.

Funding Economic Development

I've provided a [memo](#) updating the amounts related to the Economic Development Fund that could be transferred out of the General Fund and the actual amounts that should have been recorded in the Special Revenue Funds. This is also found on the budget website.

Unitarian Universalist Church

Our attorney provided some [additional information](#) as well as some options for Council to consider on the Unitarian Universalist Church. This and additional documents on this topic are located on the [Admin website](#).

Camp Ellis and Ferry Beach

Some calls and emails of concern have come our way regarding the current state of the roads around Camp Ellis and Ferry Beach. Public Works delay in patching things up is only because we've reached out to the regional and State offices of the Department of Environmental Protection. This week, we'll have a site walk to so we can show the permitting officials to determine what we can and can't do legally along the beach. This is done to give them a better perspective as to what we're up against. The walk is intended to paint a dramatic picture for them. Repairs will commence once the site walk occurs in the next week or so.

Update on Jetty Spur? We're still getting the run around from the Army Corp. They still haven't submitted the final document to Headquarters. I reach out to our contact at the regional office several times a month, hoping for better news.

In [February](#) the Council met with members of the Shoreline and Coastal Waters Commissions to discuss the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) (see page 6 through 26). Those questions and suggested changes are now with our attorney for review and edit.

How not to create traffic jams, pollution and urban sprawl

I read an [article](#) in the economist over the weekend that I wanted to share. If you can't make the time for it, I am providing what I think are the most relevant passages below:

“The more spread out and car-oriented a city, as a result of enormous car parks, the less appealing walking and cycling become. Besides, if you know you can park free wherever you go, why not drive? The ever-growing supply of free parking in America is one reason why investments in public transport have coaxed so few people out of cars...”

“...When autonomous cars that are allowed to move with nobody inside them become widespread, demand for private cars could fall sharply. Starting in the morning, one car could take a child to school, a city worker to his office, a student to her lecture, party people to a club, and a security guard to his night shift, all more cheaply than taxis. Cars that now sit idle could become much more active, which would drastically change parking needs.

Parking garages would still be needed in a driverless world... Instead of storing vehicles for hours at a time, though, garages might become service centres where shared battery-powered cars could be cleaned, repaired and recharged before being sent back on the road. “We will need better facilities for a smaller number of vehicles,” he suggests. These garages need not be in city centres. In the slow hours of mid-morning and early afternoon, driverless cars could trundle to industrial estates in suburbia. Much of the area now allocated to cars in city centres could be turned into homes, offices or parks.”

Build Maine – June 8th and 9th

Author of [The High Cost of Free Parking](#) and authoritarian on parking economics Donald Shoup is quoted in the article mentioned above. He will be a guest speaker at the [Build Maine](#) event this year (June 8th and 9th) in which Saco is a sponsor. If you're interested in attending please let me know.