



CITY OF SACO, MAINE

Administration
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Michaud and City Council
FROM: Kevin L. Sutherland, City Administrator
DATE: November 16, 2016
RE: Updates for Council

Maine Referendum Results

Question 1: Legalize Marijuana

Voters approved Question 1 by just over 4,400 votes. One of the groups opposed to this initiative has indicated that it will request a recount. As well, Gov. LePage has said he may challenge the referendum results. Should the recount remain an approval, I've informed staff that if we receive calls requesting a business license or to set up a business, that inquires should be made with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry as they will become the regulatory agency and they should call: (207) 287-3200. I will bring this item to workshop in December for further discussion.

Question 2: New Income Tax For Public Education

Voters approved Question 2 by more than 6,100 votes. The initiative calls for 3% state tax on household earnings above \$200,000, to raise an estimated \$142 million in funding for school teaching activities (not administration or facilities).

Question 3: Expand Gun Background Checks

Question 3 was rejected by more than 30,000 votes. The only question to be voted down this election, this initiative called for background checks for most private sales of guns.

Question 4: Increase Minimum Wage

Question 4 was approved by Maine voters by more than 82,000 votes. This measure calls for increasing the state's minimum hourly wage from \$7.50 to \$12 by 2020, and eliminates the tip credit.

Question 5: Allow Ranked-Choice Voting

Mainers voted in favor of adopting an instant runoff system whenever there are more than two candidates in an election. This will allow voters to rank all the candidates in order of their preference, and the winner must get a majority of votes cast.

Question 6: Issue Transportation Bonds

The Transportation Bond was overwhelmingly approved by voters this year. The \$100 million bond will be split between \$80 million for the construction and maintenance of highways and bridges, and \$20 million for facilities and equipment related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, aviation, freight and passenger railroads, and bicycle and pedestrian trails that preserve public safety or otherwise have demonstrated high transportation economic value.

Transfer Station Relocation

The transfer station relocation is nearing its completion. As you know, funds were allocated this year to relocate the transfer station to improve safety for facility customers as well as Foss Road recreation area visitors, and to comply with DEP regulations on access controls to such facilities. To complete the necessary portions of the project, but stay significantly below the original bond referendum projected costs, Public Works performed much of the design, permitting, and construction with in-house personnel. Work that was outside of Public Works capabilities or time constraints was contracted out through the City's 3-year construction services contracts to Shaw Brothers Construction who performed much of the site grading and stormwater controls. Shaw Brothers worked closely with City staff to perform design/build changes along the way to decrease time and material costs on the project. We are targeting an early December opening of the new facility. Prior to the opening, Public Works team members would welcome the opportunity to show the Mayor, Council and members of the public around the facility and discuss some of our innovative cost saving measures that helped bring this project to fruition. Please consider joining City staff on-site at the new facility on Foss Road on **Tuesday, November 29th between 3:00pm to 4:30pm.**

USGS Tidal Monitoring System

Yesterday was a [King Tide](#) and fortunately the wind speed was near zero - so no major issues here in Saco. We did however celebrate the implementation of the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Monitoring System. Located in the Saco River near Camp Ellis, this system will allow us to better forecast and plan for potential flooding. Before the addition of this device, forecasts were made based on data from a similar system in Portland. The next closest is in Bar Harbor. Collecting data at this location will also provide us with an additional resource when making our case for improvements the jetty.

The USGS also makes the data available to the public, view the [Camp Ellis tide information](#).

Wind Turbine on Saco Island

Questions have been asked about the status of the wind turbine on Saco Island. In July, I informed Council that we had to implement the safety shutoff due to its need for repair. The cost of repair is beyond the City Administrator's spending authority and is not part of the City budget for 2016-2017. Councilors Johnston and Cote have met with the [energy committee](#) and are investigating solutions.

Housing Development in Saco

I heard an interesting article on [Maine Public Radio](#). It was a news piece on the housing in Portland and how surrounding towns are feeling the pressure of the housing shortage. Saco is experiencing this pressure as well and I thought it would be appropriate to share that information with you. This month, we have:

Housing projects approved, both under way and not yet started

Horton Meadows subdivision	31 lots
Juniper Knoll subdivision	1 lot remains
Juniper Knoll II subdivision	16 lots
Copperleaf subdivision	8 lots remain
Park North	117 units, 68 apartments
Settler's Landing subdivision	9 lots
Justine's Way subdivision	3 lots
Nutting/Burnham subdivision	5 lots
Chinburg Bldg. 4	150 apartments, April 2017 occupancy anticipated
Kerry Village	2 duplexes, under construction
Dearborn Construction subdivision	9 lots
Precious Hidden Estates	49 lots
300 Bradley St., subdivision	9 lots
Total	140 lots; 335units (apartment, condo, townhouse)

Housing projects under review, not yet approved

West Side Village subdivision	90 lots
300 Bradley St	16 condo units
Duross Place	8 condo units
Cutts Street LLC	80 apartments, under contract zone review
Total	90 lots; 24 condo units; 80 apartment units

Totals, Approved and Pending

230 lots

439 units (condo, apartment, townhouse)

669 Total

In addition, we've had inquires for an additional 3 larger housing projects totaling nearly 290 units.

Natural Gas Installation

This past construction season saw a lot of utility work in city streets - Maine Water and City Sewer upgrades as well as Unutil target area build out and installation of natural gas. 29,457 feet of gas main were installed included 59 services to homes and businesses totaling 77 service meters. Just this week, City Hall converted from an in ground propane tank to natural gas.

Biddeford Considering Newspaper/Handbill Ordinance

Biddeford's Policy Committee is considering an ordinance to prohibit the distribution of unwanted print or other written materials, whether commercial or non-commercial in nature, including unsolicited newspapers to those citizens who have expressed a desire not to receive the material. Here is a [memo](#) from Biddeford's City Solicitor on the item. The joint committee will discuss this item at their meeting next Monday in Saco city hall at 4:00pm and my office will continue to monitor its progress.

Police Chief Position

Our [process](#) for hiring the next Police Chief continues. This week the Screening Committee has been interviewing candidates and is on schedule to present their top choices to the Interview Team for a second round of interviews.

The interview team, made up of Mayor Ron Michaud, City Administrator Kevin Sutherland, HR Director Cheryl Fournier, Councilor Bill Doyle, York Police Chief Doug Bracy, and Saco resident and Mayor Emeritus Bill Johnson will meet over the next two weeks to make a recommendation for Council consideration.

Special Projects Manager

Meghan McInnis Doyon, a Saco native, will start next week as our Special Projects Manager. She has worked in a variety of roles in the healthcare system for the past 10 years. Her duties have included managing projects, managing client relationships, analyzing data, drafting reports and grants, presenting to clients, and training staff. During her time in Washington, DC, she worked for a Congressman and a non-profit that focused on energy. She also brings survey research experience with her as she worked both for a market research firm and polling institute where she helped draft questions, programmed surveys, and analyzed the results. Her academics took her to Muhlenberg College for a bachelor's in political science and The George Washington University for a master's in public policy. She is looking forward to working with our staff and community.