

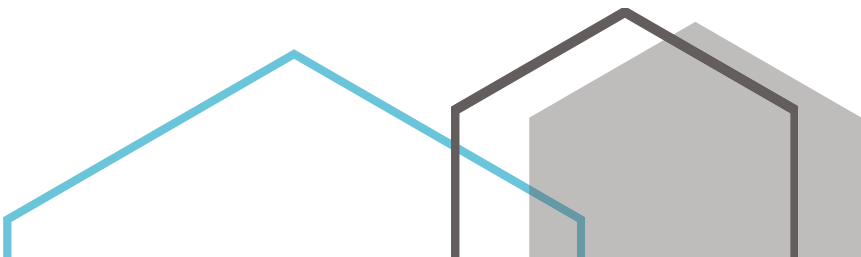
City Council Initiatives Report

November 12, 2019

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Enclosed in this report you'll find the status updates on various initiatives by the City Council, as well as the Planning Board and staff. In this report specifically you will find updates from the Economic & Community Development, Fire, Police, Public Works, and Recreation & Sports Facilities Departments.

~Peter





Economic & Community Development Department

Michael Chammings, Director
Eric Cousens, Deputy Director

WORK CATEGORY	ORDER, ORDINANCE RESOLVE NUMBER	WORK ELEMENT W/ COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE	INITIATED BY	STATUS
Economic Development Projects	ORDER 83-10192015 RESOLVE 1-04062015	Rail Study Funding (10/19/15) Passenger Rail Study (4/6/15)	City Council	Final version of operation study was just released and can be found at: https://www.nnepra.com/projects/lewistonauburn-passenger-rail-service-plan.html
		Tastemaker Program	Staff	City Staff completed a presentation to market Auburn to food and beverage production companies searching for suitable space. An ongoing marketing effort is being supported by CEI. A second presentation will be made in November.
		St. Louis Church Sale	Staff/ Private Investment	Staff has been working with a prospective buyer for the St Louis Church, that was acquired by the City. The prospective owner would like to have an extension into April 1 of next year. This will be contingent on a non-refundable deposit to cover winter expenses.
		Solar Energy Projects	Staff/ Private Investment	The City has been approached by several interested parties in building solar farms on City or Private Property. The City has gone out to RFP/RFQ and is reviewing the proposals. Staff is also reviewing current ordinances and determining what may require amending.
		Community Little Theater (CLT)	Staff	CMP has provided the release of right of reversion and has been submitted to the registry of deeds. The City may explore additional use for this property should the Council so direct it. The City Manager has met recently with the CLT Board.

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WORK CATEGORY	ORDER, ORDINANCE RESOLVE NUMBER	WORK ELEMENT W/ COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE	INITIATED BY	STATUS
Economic Development Projects		South Auburn Foreign Investment Area (Prospect Hill Golf Course, residential and agricultural)	Private Investment	Two new high-end homes are near completion. Expect future expansion plans soon for this investment.
		Intermodal Facility (City owned) freight study leases	Staff	A freight rail study being conducted and should be completed in the coming weeks. The Economic Development division is renegotiating current leases to the city owned property and is also working with a new shipping company on a possible new lease. Local fuel company is also looking to extend their footprint at this facility.
	ORDER 8-02022015 ORDER 42-05182015	Lease with Power and Construction Group (2/9/15) and (5/18/15 amd.)	Staff	Ongoing.
	ORDER 53-06192017	477 Minot Avenue Affordable Housing		(City work Completed other than permit inspections and Certificate of Occupancy) TIF and CDBG support approved. Awarded state tax credits. Permits issued and project is nearing completion.
	ORDER 74- 08312017	Troy Street Affordable Housing		Construction underway. (City work Completed other than permit inspections and Certificate of Occupancy)
	RESOLVE 8-07182016	Auburn Enterprise Center – Lot development and sales.	Staff/ Council	City is assisting with marketing of lots. In contact with several prospective investors. A discussion regarding ownership of this park will be brought to the Council. Ongoing.

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WORK CATEGORY	ORDER, ORDINANCE RESOLVE NUMBER	WORK ELEMENT W/ COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE	INITIATED BY	STATUS
		New Auburn Village Community Plan (NAVCP) Construction Year 2019-2020	Staff	Final Design Phase, Bell tower contract signed, and construction has started. Property swaps to be completed in October.
		Neighborhood Challenge Grant: New Auburn Park benches	Staff	An application was submitted to place park benches in the New Auburn Anniversary Park
	ORDER 80-11072016	Neighborhood Challenge Grant: Staff recruitment of projects.	City Council	New Auburn group applied for neighborhood signs. A contract was entered, and the signs should be completed and installed by the end of October
	RESOLVE 02-06052017	NBRC Grant Management - NAVC Project		Project moving forward first reimbursement received. Resume billing in Fall 2019.

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WORK CATEGORY	ORDER, ORDINANCE RESOLVE NUMBER	WORK ELEMENT W/ COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE	INITIATED BY	STATUS
	Order 94-11052018	TIF 23-Schooner Estates/ Auburn Memory Care	Staff	TIF proposal approved by DECD as of 1/25/19, with a start date of 7/1/19. Project is under construction. CEA signed.
		TIF 24- Gracelawn Apartments	Staff	Application approved by the Maine DECD for final approval. Sidewalk design is nearing completion sidewalks to be built Spring 2020.
		TIF 25- N. River Road & Potential Land Swap- City	Staff	Developer has approached the City with plans to build apartments/mixed use property. TIF Funds would address lack of sewer/water and other infrastructure issues in the area. Land Swap with current City owned Boat ramp (ramp rebuilt by Developer) would help make project viable. Ongoing.
Community Development/ Neighborhood		Outreach to Auburn Neighborhoods. Attending Neighborhood Watch meeting with Police to establish relationships and get local input on issues.	City Council	2018 End of year CAPER is being completed. 5-year consolidated plan is in development. Community Development office is seeking broad input from the community.
Infrastructure		Wayfinding Signage RFP Production and Installation – nearly complete	City Council	Damaged signs in MA for repairs. Reinstall summer 2018 did not happen as promised by the contractor. Sign contractor is not being cooperative in fulfilling contract and we are negotiating a solution. Emailed commitment recently and we are working to reestablish schedule. Will likely need legal assistance to complete as contractor is not responsive.

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WORK CATEGORY	ORDER, ORDINANCE RESOLVE NUMBER	WORK ELEMENT W/ COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE	INITIATED BY	STATUS
	RESOLVE 4-05022016	<p>Dam Relicensing - Barker Mill Dam FERC Relicensing 2014-2019 – DLA rejected by FERC pending further information on upstream and downstream fish passage (1st barrier to Atlantic Salmon between here and Atlantic Ocean), recreational flow study and the economics of the facility that appears to lose money every year under current conditions. FERC letter from Mayor to KEI Barker Mill (5/2/16)</p>	City Council	<p>Barker Mill Dam Workshop & Little Androscoggin Watershed plans held on 11/13/2017. Recreational Flow Study held on 5-21-17. Fish passage prescribed by NOAA was not required by FERC. Formal Consultation process on Endangered Atlantic Salmon started 3/4/19 for up to 90 days. More info at http://www.auburnmaine.gov/pages/government/rivers-hydropower. Upper Barker License Process started August 2018. Proposed study plan comments filed 6/7/19. Barker Mill operations discontinued until penstock is repaired to prevent leaking.</p>
		<p>Lewiston Falls/Monty Hydro FERC license amendment to remove canals – may result in some resources from Brookfield for community development, water access or history trail for ALT.</p>	Staff/Council	<p>Approved by FERC and transfer has taken place. Auburn City Manager and staff to discuss water rights and maintenance agreements with Lewiston. (Closed)</p>
		<p>Intersection and Transportation Projects- High, Minot, Elm, Academy intersections and Main, Broad and Mill Street/pedestrian plan</p>	Staff	<p>Public meeting for High, Minot and Elm St. held on Wed. March 21, 2018. Updated plans expected based on feedback. Engineering Department/MDOT lead on road construction projects.</p>
	RESOLVE 3-05042015	<p>Road Diet on Court St. (5/4/15)</p>	City Council	<p>DOT Bike Ped safety initiative #1 Auburn Priority. Contract awarded to TiLyn, Steering Committee appointments by AVCOG. DOT Report received. Public Meeting in Nov/Dec. Conducting alternatives analysis.</p>

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WORK CATEGORY	ORDER, ORDINANCE RESOLVE NUMBER	WORK ELEMENT W/ COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE	INITIATED BY	STATUS
Infrastructure		Library Street Reconstruction design, including remainders of neighbor streets, Spring, Pleasant & Troy. Construction drawing Funding CBDG	City Council	Survey & initial urban design complete, property owner contacts & options being prepared for community meetings were held July 2019. Design is complete. Reconstruction estimates \$500k for Library Street in 2020.
	Order 24-02252019	Senior Center Expansion	City Council	Construction is complete except for punch list. Grand opening on November 2nd was a great success!
		Neighborhood Parking Meeting- Library Area	Staff/ Council	Parking meeting with stakeholders was conducted August 27 th at the library to brainstorm solutions. Drafting a winter parking plan.
Regulation/Policy		Agricultural and Resource Protection	City Council	The Council and Staff have worked through several workshops in September and October to review the current policy and work toward possible amendment of the ordinance. A review of recent and historic zone studies has been examined. A permanent AG committee is being proposed to support future work. Ongoing.
		Recreational Marijuana Related Ordinances	City Council	Ordinance adopted. Significant multi departmental review and inspection effort underway for license applications. Existing businesses have had their initial inspections. Final approvals for existing businesses should be completed by mid-November. Inspections for new marijuana businesses will begin by November 1st.
Operational		TIF Budgets, amendments and Work plans (including workforce development).	Staff	Ongoing

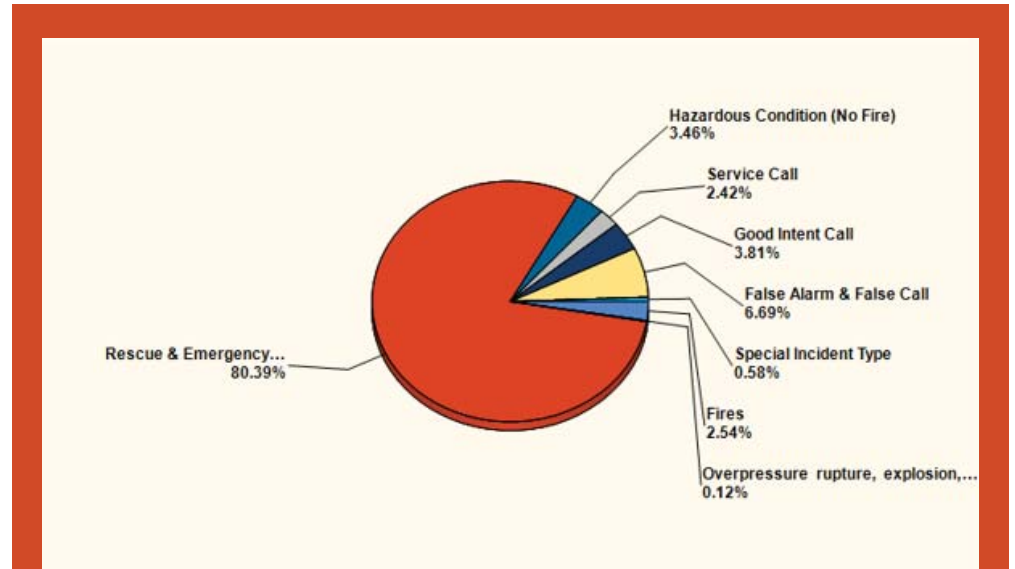
Fire Department

Robert Chase, Fire Chief
Matthew Fifield, Deputy Chief

Service Demand

From June 1st to July 31st, 2019, we responded to 867 total calls. The breakdown is as follows:

Major Incident Type	# Incidents
Fire Calls	22
Overpressure / Rupture	1
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	697
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	30
Service Calls	21
Good Intent Calls	33
False alarms	58
Special Incident Type	5



- We have had three civilian injuries and one civilian casualty from fire during the report period.
- We had no firefighter injuries during responses during the report period
- Eight of our calls had a dollar loss to the residents/owner's property.
- We responded to 4 non-EMS mutual aid calls and received mutual aid 6 times.
- We provided 11 EMS paramedic assistance calls and did 19 mutual aid transports
- We responded to 25 EMS calls to Lewiston with 14 patients transported.



INCREASED CALL VOLUME:

July marked the busiest month on record. It is not uncommon for there to be increased call volume through the summer months as more people are active and out in the community. We average 395 incidents a month. In July the department responded to 467 incidents, which is a 13% increase from last July.

GRANT AWARD:

The department was awarded a \$3500 grant from the Walmart Community Grant Program to support our ongoing fire prevention education program. Walmart has long been a supporter of the program. The funds will be used to purchase educational materials for elementary school children. These items will be distributed during classroom presentations in October.

UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE:

The Annual Fire Department Open House is scheduled for October 19th. The event will include presentations from many of our public safety partners, and fire prevention education displays. New this year will be live fire demonstration of the dangers associated with deep frying turkeys.

RURAL WATER PROJECT:

The department has partnered with Rural Fire Protection of New England to begin an initiative to improve firefighting water supply in areas of the City without municipal fire hydrants. The initial phase of the project started with an assessment of the existing 5 dry hydrants in the City.

A dry hydrant is a standpipe which is permanently installed near a water source (such as a lake or stream) which allows the fire department to quickly draw water from the source to fight a fire.

In the next month the department will be following recommendations from the assessment, to service, test and repair these hydrants.



Auburn Police Department

Jason D. Moen | Chief of Police

Timothy A. Cogle | Deputy Chief of Police


www.AuburnPD.com | 207.333.6650

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 18, 2019

To: Kelsey Earle, City Manager's Office

From: Chief Jason D. Moen 

RE: FY20 FIRST QUARTER REPORT

During the first quarter of FY20, the department has responded to 6,570 calls for service. Staff has conducted 734 offense investigations, of which 106 were felonies. Staff made 111 physical arrests and issued 169 criminal summonses during the first quarter. Staff conducted 1150 traffic stops, issuing 150 citations, 995 warnings and 5 arrests. The average speeding violation was 16mph over the posted limit. Also, during this timeframe, staff investigated 374 traffic crashes of which, 296 required crash reports. The most common type of accident was rear-end/sideswipes caused by operators following too closely or failing to yield the right of way.

Staff, in conjunction with other city departments have conducted approximately 25 inspections of proposed marijuana businesses throughout the city because of the new marijuana ordinance. This additional workload will require further review to ascertain the resources required to complete the inspections adequately.

Our Anti-Shoptlifting Initiative continues to show progress. As of September 30th, shoptlifting incidents are down 47% as compared to the same nine months of 2018. We hope to continue this trend which will have a positive impact on our overall crime rate.

Two of the three Capital Improvement Projects have been completed. New service weapons and a radar/message trailer have been purchased and placed into service. The bid for new vehicles has been awarded and delivery is expected mid-December.



The Auburn PAL Center closed for the summer on June 28th and re-opened on August 26th due to the renovations of the Chestnut Street area. Although the PAL Center was closed, we continued to be a satellite for distributing breakfast and lunch – but serving from the Webster School auditorium. Approximately 20 children participated in this program daily.

With funding from a CDBG grant, Chestnut Street saw improvements of a new sidewalk and the addition of a raised speed table. The paving of the street and PAL parking lot have made for a safer neighborhood. The paving and new fencing to the front area of the PAL Center has been an exciting addition for BBQ's and children playing games like "4 Squares" in a safe area. New city lights were installed as well as security cameras in the area. The installation of these items has made the area more inviting and secure.

Now that school is back in session, we have seen an increase of at least 15 new children. We are servicing approximately 85 to 100 children each day. Children, along with the PAL Coordinator and a Master Gardner/Preservationist, have been hard at work canning and preserving jams, jellies, pickles and baking pies. They have participated in the City of Auburn's "Farmers Market". Students are learning life-long skills of preserving food, baking, budgeting, marketing and social skills.

Preparations are underway for the following events: Halloween Party with Fun House on October 31st, Thanksgiving, and our Holiday Party.

We currently have two sworn vacancies that we are trying to fill. Police recruitment is becoming more and more of a challenge. We typically can hire one applicant for every five applications we receive. In the current hiring process, we had four applicants. We currently have a recruitment team made up of several officers and supervisors that are actively attending job fairs and other recruitment opportunities. Recruiting certified officers is even more of a challenge. State statute requires reimbursement to an agency if an officer is hired away from them during their first five years from academy graduation, to the tune of \$8,000 per year on a sliding scale. We have had several first-year graduates express an interest in working for Auburn, however we haven't been able to afford the \$40,000 reimbursement required. This is a challenge that Council will have to visit in the upcoming budget process.



Public Works Department

Dan Goyette, Director
Scott Holland, Deputy Director

Staffing

We continue to struggle with hiring. Area towns and the Maine DOT have significantly higher starting salaries which continues to draw new employees away. If positions can not be filled by the time snow begins to fall, plow routes will need to be altered increasing the time between plow passes. Classifications of roads may need to be altered to reflect the altered routes.

Reconstruction Projects

These projects are typically performed on urban streets where a closed drainage system (catch basins, underground pipes, etc.) is required. These projects can be very complex since other underground utilities are present and requires a high level of coordination and scheduling. Besides drainage, these projects also include: excavation of old gravels and pavement surfaces, installation of new gravels and pavements, curbing, sidewalks, landscaping, lighting, signage, and striping. Since most general contractors do not perform all aspects of a project, multiple subcontractors are used for specialty work. Scheduling can become a complicated task especially when work is sometimes performed at night. The following is a list of current reconstruction projects within the City:

- **5th Street Reconstruction**-Section from Mary Carroll Street to South Main Street. Project Complete.

Reclamation Projects

These projects are typically performed on rural roadways where an open drainage system (culverts, ditches and inslopes) is more practical. These projects consist of replacement of existing culverts, pulverization of the existing roadway surface, stabilization fabric, additional layer of surface gravel, new pavements, gravel shoulders, ditching and striping. The following is a list of current reclamation projects within the City:

- **North River Road** - Center Street to Bradman Street. Surface pavement complete on roadway. Surface on driveways scheduled for next week.



Projects in Design

The following are projects that are currently in design:

- Academy/High/Elm/Main Streets Intersection Project - This project includes ADA and traffic signal upgrades, new sidewalk on the westerly side of Minot Ave from Elm to High Streets and traffic calming measures at the intersection of High and Elm Street (12 highest crash location in the State of Maine).
- Main/Mill/Broad Streets Intersection Project – This project includes ADA upgrades, geometric re-alignments and pedestrian safety improvements.
- Hotel Road Reconstruction - Lewiston Junction Road to East Hardscrabble Road. Project includes full depth reconstruction of the existing roadway.
- Library Avenue Reconstruction - This CDBG funded project includes the full depth reconstruction designs of Library Avenue from Union Street to Spring Street, Troy Street from Hampshire Street to Turner Street, Spring Street from Hampshire Street to Troy Street and Pleasant Street from Hampshire Street to Turner Street.
- Traffic Signal Upgrades - This project includes upgrades to various traffic signals within the City including connectivity, controllers, detection and ADA ramps.
- Turner Street Sidewalk- This project includes new sidewalk from the Auburn Mall roundabout to Gracelawn Road.

Miscellaneous Projects

The following are other current projects within the City:

- **Landfill Monitoring** – This is an ongoing bi-yearly compliance to monitor the ground water at the Gracelawn and Ash Landfills.
- **MS4 Stormwater Permit** - The City of Auburn is regulated by MDEP to discharge stormwater into waters of the State (Androscoggin River). This is an ongoing yearly permit requirement.
- **2018 Drain Repair and Investigation**- the City continues to investigate the condition of its miles of underground drainage system. Previously video recorded deficiencies are being repaired using technologies which do not require excavation.
- **Warm Storage**- continuing to progress. The roof will be weather tight by weeks end. Floors being poured week of 10/28. Move in is expected before the end of November.



Recreation & Sports Facilities Department

Marc Gosselin, Executive Director of Community Partnerships & Sports Tourism

Sabrina Best, Recreation Director

RECREATION AND SENIORS

1. Fall 2019 Program Brochure has been published
<http://www.auburnmaine.gov/CMSContent/Auburn%20Rec%20Fall%20Brochure%202019%201.6.pdf>
2. **Chestnut Field Renovation** ~ Field work has been completed by sports fields. We will be scheduling fall fertilizer with them for the next two weeks. Fencing by Aroostook Fence will take place in two weeks. Fencing is being extended, height wise, along the perimeter of the playground and being installed at the PAL side of the field with a 10ft gate. Fencing will also be installed along the back left side of the field to help prevent any players from running off of the playing field and down the steep hill. Field will be available in the spring time. Uprights/soccer goal combo will be installed in the spring. Basketball courts are being installed. Resurfacing project will take place in the spring once the weather allows.



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3. **Softball Field update (scoreboard)** ~ Scoreboard is fully operational; project was completed on July 31st. Next item will be to install the batting cages which will be located behind the outfield fence on the left field. Most likely, we will hold off on completing this project Spring of 2020.
4. **Senior Center Project** – Renovation complete except for punch list. The Grand Opening on November 2nd went very well.





- 5. **Senior Bus** - Has been used on a few trips already.



- 6. **Story walk Posts** - Have been installed along the Riverwalk from Festival Plaza to Bonney Park ~ For October the Storyboards along the Riverwalk will include eight spooky selections from classic and children's literature. Each of these eight verses will be showcased, with book title and author, and a photographic representation done by an ELHS student. During the month of November, the Storyboards will showcase works from students at Walton Elementary School. These will include essays and drawings on the importance of giving thanks and what it means to be thankful.
- 7. **USM Occupational Therapy Program** – We are currently working with the USM Occupational Therapy program to connect students with our elder community. Ideas being considered are a “Car Fit” educational program for older adults, visual and technology screenings to ensure seniors have what they need to stay connected, a student walk through of the new Auburn Senior Community Center focusing on accessibility, and help analyzing the results of our recent Age-Friendly Community Needs Assessment. Additionally, students will be at our World Diabetes Day event on November 14th performing vision and neuropathy screenings.

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8. **Healthy Living for ME with SeniorsPlus** ~ We are very excited to welcome the educators from SeniorsPlus to offer programs at the Auburn Senior Community Center! This fall and winter they'll be offering Matter of Balance, Living Well with Diabetes, and Living Well with Chronic Pain workshops. 20 participants have already signed up for and been attending the Matter of Balance class. The upcoming Living Well with Diabetes and Living Well with Chronic Pain workshops are filling up fast with 9 and 12 registrants respectively.
9. **NFL Flag Football League** - We are proud to announce that the Auburn Recreation Department is a part of the NFL Flag Football League for ages 4 to 8.
10. **Staff** –
 - Has begun/continue planning for: Holiday Parade (Dec 6th), New Year's Eve (Dec 31st), Winterfest (Jan 24th-26th) , and Maine's Bicentennial Parade (May 16th, 2020).
 - Staff attended a FEMA Training in Bangor on Sports and Special Events Incident Management.



INGERSOLL TURF FACILITY

1. **Dartmouth University** will be utilizing Ingersoll Turf Facility on Sunday February 16th, from 12pm-8pm for a Men's and Women's soccer recruiting event. Registration is open for the youth indoor softball league. Last year we had over 150 girls enrolled from 12 different communities. League starts on Saturday January 4th.



NORWAY SAVINGS BANK ARENA (NSBA)

1. **Ice Usage** - The Twin City Thunder are up and running with both teams. Also, the Maine Gladiators start full time as of October 16th. All other recreational leagues are starting up which include our Men's Recreational League. High School will start sometime in November.

Central Maine Community College opened their season on October 12th to a packed house at the NSBA.

Androscoggin Fall Angels (Women's Roller Derby) is looking for a new home and the NSBA is in negotiations.

2. **Maintenance** –

- a. **Rink #2 Maintenance** – Rink #2 was taken out for the first time since the building open close to six (6) years ago. Overall the process went smoothly and has been re-installed and ready for the winter season. One major issue was brought to our attention once we got down to the core floor:
 - i. The stone dust installed for the "dirt" floor was not stone dust. The material used was more of a gravel type consistency which will most likely cause problems in the future.
 - ii. The certified ice technician who helped us with the "ice-out" strongly suggested that we don't wait more than three (3) years to "ice-out" for maintenance purposes.
 - iii. The certified ice technician cited it was one of the worst installations that he has seen. His overall suggestion and recommendation is that we lay cement in three (3) years and eliminate an issue with the current material.
- b. **Building** – Rory Mushlin, Derek Boulanger and Marc Gosselin had a meeting with Mechanical Services about preventive maintenance and problems that were being found in the arena. The discussion revolved around three (3) issues that need to be a priority. Mechanical Services is going to provide an initial estimate on fixing these issues. All issues stem from poor execution or design when the building was built.

City Council Initiatives Report



- i. Air conditioning unit second floor
 - 1. Poor design and installation causing the air conditioning to overwork and not work operate correctly.
 - ii. Damaged thermostat system
 - 1. Installed units were units that the arena or Mechanical Services cannot buy/replace because they are obsolete.
 - iii. Air handler on back of the building
 - 1. Never hooked up from the day the arena went operational.
3. **Events** –
- a. Maple Way Candy Buy Back Night – Rink #2 will play host to a free skate to kids who turn in their candy for cash. Happening on November 1st from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. All candy collected will be donated to our troops through Operation Gratitude.
 - b. DJ Skate Night – New this year, every Friday, the NSBA will be hosting an all age DJ Skate night with light show with one of the premier DJ's in the area.



www.NorwaySavingsBankArena.com



www.IngersollTurfFacility.com