



NEWS RELEASE

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Highlights from the Augusta Commission meeting held April 18, 2023

AUGUSTA, GA (April 19, 2023) – In this week’s Wrap-Up of the Augusta Commission meeting held on April 18, 2023, city officials accepted an array of action items, including the contract with Central EMS for ambulance service. View a list of news briefs below for more details.

Augusta Commission approves Central EMS ambulance service contract

City officials approved a contract with Central EMS for ambulance service. As part of the five-year agreement, the City agrees to pay Central \$2.65 million each year with an annual 3% increase over the length of the contract. Furthermore, the ambulance company has agreed to various stipulations, including meeting specific response times and providing regular operational updates.

Augusta Commission move forward with mutual aid agreement for fire services between Augusta Fire Department and USAG Fort Gordon

The Augusta Commission has approved the mutual aid agreement between Augusta, Georgia, and United States Army Garrison (USAG) Fort Gordon, which allows both entities to assist when disasters occur that necessitate the combined effort of both agencies.

Fighting blight with the construction of new homes on Miller Street

To aid in the fight against blight, the Augusta Commission approved the city’s Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department using HOME Partnership Investment Program Funding to contract with Laney Walker Development Corporation to develop new construction of five (5) single-family units on Miller Street. With this approval, HCD will use HOME funding totaling \$375,000 to cover 50% of the total development cost and a developer’s fee of three units while allowing the Laney Walker Development Corporation to maintain the proceeds to construct the remaining two units.

Augusta, Georgia teams up with local organizations to relaunch community farmers’ markets

Augusta, Georgia’s Housing and Community Development Department is set to relaunch their monthly farmers’ markets in the Augusta area, with the help of several local organizations.

HCD will team up with the American Health Association and Augusta Locally Grown to resume the farmers’ market in the Laney Walker-Bethlehem community. The Department will also



Office of the Administrator

Takiyah A. Douse
Interim Administrator

continue partnering with Growing Augusta: Arts, Agriculture, & Agency to offer a farmers' market in South Augusta. The purpose of the farmers' markets is to provide fresh produce from local farmers and gardeners while creating a vibrant space for community engagement.

Augusta Commission make board appointments

Local real estate agent Porsha Beasley has been appointed to the ARC Transit Citizens Advisory Board, representing District 2. In addition, William Mills has been appointed to represent Super District 9 on the Augusta-Richmond County Board of Tax Assessors, Sandra Kelly has been appointed to the Augusta-Richmond County Library Board of Trustees, and mental health advocate Dr. Onnie Poe has been appointed to serve on the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Council.

Celebrating Employee Years of Service

During the meeting, the Augusta Commission recognized the Augusta, Georgia employees who celebrated 25 to 50 years of service in March 2023. The employees include Guyton Shepherd, who has served 30 years in Engineering and Environmental Services Department, and Paul Johnson, who has served 35 years in the Richmond County Sheriff's Office.

Media interested in covering these topics should contact Public Information Manager Danielle Harris at 706-312-5511.

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Augusta, Georgia is a multicultural community nestled along the banks of the Savannah River, located approximately 150 miles east of Atlanta. The City is the second largest in Georgia and is the home of the globally recognized Masters Tournament and the U.S. Army's Cyber Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon. Augusta's key industries include medical, military, and education. For more information, visit us at augustaga.gov and follow the Augusta, Georgia on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).