

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY – FEBRUARY 12, 2024 - 6:00 P.M.  
CITY OF ALTOONA TRAINING FACILITY & COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA

The Meeting was televised live on cable Public Access Channel 14 and re-broadcast Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers  
SILENT MEDITATION  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer  
Present: Council members Beatty, Butterbaugh, Clinich, Ellis, Kelley, and Mayor Pacifico  
Absent: Councilman Ickes

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an executive session for personnel matters after the January meeting and after the January work session

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Pam Mitchell of 307 Cherry Avenue spoke about the Gable’s Building and her dissatisfaction with her interaction with the City

Amy Koegler of 417 Grant Avenue stated she received a tour of a home by Councilman Beatty that was her home growing up and was able to see what he is trying to do to get homes rehabbed in the City rather than tearing them down. Ms. Koegler states she thinks it is a great idea and the homes should be rehabbed rather than demolished and lose taxes on them.

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Tuesday, January 2, 2024. (0026-24)
- b) appointing Drew Brennan to the Altoona City Planning Commission for a term of five years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2029. (0027-24)
- c) authorizing the appointment of Finance Director, Jim Gehret, and Deputy Finance Director, Wendy Boyles, to serve as the City of Altoona Liaisons and authorized representatives, for the express purpose of requesting and receiving any and all confidential tax information from Berkheimer, the appointed collector of local tax for the City. (0028-24)
- d) approving Election Polling Place Agreements between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Board of Elections, and the City of Altoona, for polling places

located at the City of Altoona Training Facility & Council Chambers and Fire Stations No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, for the 2024 Primary and General Elections, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0029-24)

e) approving the purchase of an Emergency Generator from Schaedler Yesco Distribution, Inc., of 3982 Paxton Street, PO Box 4990, Harrisburg, PA 17111, through the COSTARS Program, for the Police Department Addition & Renovation Project, in the amount of \$65,600.00, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all contract documents. (0030-24)

f) authorizing an Easement Agreement between the City of Altoona and 2521 Industrial Avenue, LLC., for the purpose of construction, installation, repair and maintenance of storm sewer lines, as shown on the Easement Plan attached hereto (prepared by The EADS Group, dated September 20, 2023, Project No. 0161-23-441), and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0031-24)

g) authorizing an Easement Agreement between the City of Altoona and Mountain Research, LLC., for the purpose of construction, installation, repair and maintenance of storm sewer lines, as shown on the Easement Plan attached hereto (prepared by The EADS Group, dated September 20, 2023, Project No. 0161-23-441), and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0032-24)

h) authorizing an Easement Agreement between the City of Altoona and Christy L. Snyder, for the purpose of construction, installation, repair and maintenance of storm sewer lines, as shown on the Easement Plan attached hereto (prepared by The EADS Group, dated September 20, 2023, Project No. 0161-23-441), and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0033-24)

i) authorizing the filing of a Declaration of Taking for the purpose of obtaining an Easement for property owned by Tammy G. Munn, identified as Blair County Tax Map Number 1.13-09-016.000, with respect to the Spring Run Stream Remediation Project, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0034-24)

j) authorizing the filing of a Declaration of Taking for the purpose of obtaining an Easement for property owned by Keith A. Walters and Karen T. Walters identified as Blair County Tax Map Number 1.13-15-014.000, with respect to the Spring Run Stream Remediation Project, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0035-24)

- k) awarding the Margaret Avenue Training Facility Roof Coating Project to Clark Contractors, Inc., of 145 Clark Building Road, Bedford, PA 15522, in the amount of \$113,076.83, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0036-24)
  
- l) awarding the Downtown Safety Improvements Project to C. H. & D. Enterprises, Inc., of 100 Brady Place, New Stanton, PA 15672, in the amount of \$453,331.80, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0037-24)
  
- m) accepting the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Policies and Procedures for Consultant Municipal Engineer Selection Process, for professional engineering services, for transportation and other projects not completed by the City of Altoona Engineering Department, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute "Appendix 7A Policy & Procedures for Consultant Selection", for submission to PennDOT. (0038-24)
  
- n) awarding Supplemental Stormwater Maintenance Services to Guyer Brothers, Inc., of 1481 Salemville Road, New Enterprise, PA 16664, in the amount of \$21,248.00, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0039-24)
  
- o) authorizing a Communications Right-of-Way License Agreement between the City of Altoona and Zito Media Communications, LLC., for construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications facilities within the City's Rights-of-Way, for the purpose of providing Telecommunications Services and/or Information Services, as defined in the agreement, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0040-24)
  
- p) authorizing a Communications Right-of-Way License Agreement between the City of Altoona and Lumos Networks of West Virginia Inc., d/b/a Segra, for construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications facilities within the City's Rights-of-Way, for the purpose of providing Telecommunications Services and/or Information Services, as defined in the agreement, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0041-24)
  
- q) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by the Redevelopment Authority of Altoona of 1301 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 327-29 Wopsononock Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0042-24)

- r) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$60.00, submitted by Eileen Porta of 2332 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 331-33 Wopsononock Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0043-24)
- s) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$60.00, submitted by Eileen Porta of 2332 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 327-29 Wopsononock Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0044-24)(VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- t) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$25.00, submitted by Michael Balmer of 3890 Old Joseph Rd, York, PA for property located at 2400 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0045-24) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- u) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$25.00, submitted by Michael Balmer of 3890 Old Joseph Rd, York, PA for property located at 3127-33 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0046-24) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- v) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$25.00, submitted by Michael Balmer of 3890 Old Joseph Rd, York, PA for property located at 1900-02 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0047-24) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- w) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$25.00, submitted by Michael Balmer of 3890 Old Joseph Rd, York, PA for property located at 2005-07 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0048-24) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; Mayor Pacifico requested that items s-w be pulled for a separate vote; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on items a - r and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Ickes was absent; a vote was taken on items each of items s-w and did not pass by a vote of 0 to 6; Councilman Ickes was absent

#### ORDINANCES - Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 700 "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE, PARTICULARLY ARTICLE VII "HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES", SECTION 700-26 "GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS" TO CLARIFY THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES, TO PROVIDE A REAFFIRMATION OF THE

REMAINDER OF CHAPTER 700, TO PROVIDE A REPEALER, SAVINGS CLAUSE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Councilman Beatty.

Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 690 "UTILITIES" OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE, PARTICULARY SECTION 690-2 "STATEMENT OF FACILITITES OWNED AND/OR MAINTAINED", SECTION 690-5 "APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO ERECT POLES", SECTION 690-9 "LICENSE FEE", SECTION 690-11 "RIGHT OF CERTAIN UTILITY COMPANIES TO CONSTRUCT UNDERGROUND SYSTEMS IN STREETS AND SIDEWALKS", SECTION 690-12 "APPROVAL OF PLANS OF PROPOSED SYSTEM; GRANTING OF PERMISSION TO CONSTRUCT SYSTEM", 690-17 "RIGHT OF CITY TO INSPECT AND SUPERVISE SYSTEMS; FURNISHING DESIRED INFORMATION", AND SECTION 690-22 "VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES" TO CLARIFY THE APPLICABLITY OF CHAPTER 690 AND THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 690, TO PROVIDE A REAFFIRMATION OF THE REMAINDER OF CHAPTER 690, TO PROVIDE A REPEALER, SAVINGS CLAUSE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO. 5812)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer  
Introduction – Councilman Butterbaugh  
Motion for Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh  
Second – Vice-Mayor Ellis  
The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Ickes was absent

CITY MANAGER UPDATES – no updates given

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Ellis read the following statement into the record:

*"I thank the responsible property owners and landlords who have invested in the City for the right reasons and for following the rules. We encourage responsible investors to make Altoona part of their plans. Over the past year our community has made significant progress impacting and protecting our citizens from unscrupulous landlords and delinquent property owners. The success of the past year is a tribute to the work of our staff and their partnership with the great work of several social service agencies. Moving into 2024, we as a Council need to insure our employees have the necessary tools and support to continue with rental inspections license suspensions of delinquent, non-compliant landlords. Alsowe need to continue to put in place clearer requirements, if*

*necessary, to require property owners to be more accountable. To many, property owners in our City insulate themselves by using surrogates, managers, agents and others, resulting in City staff spending unnecessary time attempting to resolve issues. I do not work at City Hall every day, all day, but I am sick and tired of the absent, money hungry, property owners doing business here with no exposure to, or accepting responsibility for the conditions of their properties or the behavior of their surrogates, managers, and agents. I thank the responsible property owners and landlords who have invested in our City for the right reasons and who follow the rules. We encourage responsible investors to make Altoona part of their plans.”*

Councilman Beatty thanked the City for their response to the Gable’s Building and for doing their job and commended staff for all that they did

Councilwoman Clinich thanked City staff for her orientation to the City and for the different departments who took the time to show her around and to make her feel very welcome. In doing the orientation, it was clear in each department, how much they care for the City. Councilwoman Clinich stated she appreciates everyone involved and wanted to say thank you.

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:40 p.m.