

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – MARCH 10, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA**

The meeting was televised live on cable Public Access Channel 14 and rebroadcast Thursday, March 11, 2010.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Schirf at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers.

SILENT MEDITATION – for Councilman Jason Ibrahim and Family;
Councilman Ibrahim died on February 26, 2010

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Present: Councilmen Butterbaugh, Cagle, Geis, Kelley and Mayor Schirf
Absent: Councilman Neugebauer

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT- Tracy Barr, 1419 Pleasant Valley Boulevard, Altoona-asked Council to resolve the towing issues regarding dealerships, AAA Motor Club and the towing list; Mayor Schirf stated the City will stay with the current towing ordinance based on the recommendation of Chief Freehling stating the process has worked thus far including working with the 911 center who isn't obligated to do what they do for us; Mayor Schirf also stated the entire matter is a safety issue which is the most important thing; after a long discussion between Tracy Barr, Mayor Schirf and Council Mayor Schirf stated staff was planning to meet with the towing companies again and asked that staff report back to Council following the meeting

Ron Perretta, 419 E. Pleasant Valley Boulevard, Altoona-stated there have always been towing issues since former Mayor Milliron but there are less since Chief Freehling; Ron stated the Police are doing a good job; Ron stated that the only list should be a rotation list and the only way it should be deviated from is if the customer asks; Ron stated 911 can't manage any more than they are doing now; Ron stated he was asked to prepare a document that all of the towers could use stating he has prepared it and it is now in the hands of Sgt. Shields; Ron stated the towing companies that are on the list do hold meetings with the Police department

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Resolution honoring Councilman Jason Ibrahim

a)Whereas, the City of Altoona was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden and untimely death of Councilman Jason Ibrahim; and

Whereas, Councilman Ibrahim took office on January 4, 2010 and although his time in office was short, he proved to be capable, honest, kind and courteous and an energetic official who was devoted unselfishly to the duties of his office and the people of the City of Altoona; and

Whereas, the Governing Body of the City of Altoona does hereby acknowledge the passing of Councilman Ibrahim with sorrow and a great sense of loss and does extend to his wife Elizabeth and children Elise, Noah and Zoe our sincere and heartfelt sympathy and support.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that this memorial be entered into the records of the City of Altoona and that a copy be presented to Elizabeth Ibrahim and family. (0040-10)

The resolution was read by Mayor Schirf and the vote was taken by the City Clerk and passed 5 to 0; Councilman Neugebauer was absent

Other reports:

- Grand opening of the new Martin's was held
- meeting for Garden Heights neighborhood on Monday at 7pm
- MPO stimulus package of 9.5 million \$ for I-99, Rt. 22 and 764 Interchange
- information was provided to Council and staff relative to the PLCM meeting with the Governor's staff
- at the recent monthly BPRC meeting 10 properties were certified as blighted – 8 structures and 2 vacant lots
- potholes@altonapa.gov has been set up for residents to report
- Goodman Trust recreation grant applications are available

RESOLUTIONS

b) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, February 24, 2010. (0041-10)

c) amending the 2007 HOME Investment Partnership Program canceling the 2007 Homeownership Initiative Program and transferring the budget of \$12,000 to the IDA-CDC Acquisition and Rehabilitation for Resale Project due to contract expiration. (0042-10)

d) authorizing an Engineering Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Keller Engineers and the City of Altoona for construction consultation services, construction inspection and bridge inspection for the 8th Street Bridge Project in the amount of \$75,262.68 to be reimbursed by PennDOT and further authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0043-10)

the resolutions were read by the City Clerk; the consent vote was taken and passed 5 to 0; Councilman Neugebauer was absent

DISCUSSION ITEMS - none

MEDIA – Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*, Chris Forshey, WRTA Radio; Ben Manning, WTAJ TV 10

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Schirf at 7:55 p.m.