

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 11, 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, Thursday, August 12, 2010.

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

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL** – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Present: Councilmen Cagle, Geis, Kelley, Mills, Neugebauer and Mayor Schirf

Absent: Councilman Butterbaugh

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Council convened to Executive Session at 7:05 pm. for personnel matters and reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

**ALL PUBLIC COMMENT**-Jackie Bernard, Grappone Law Offices, 411 S. Logan Blvd. stated she was there for the vacation ordinance if Council had any questions and asked for Council's support

Todd Wilkins, Wilkins Contracting, Blair/Bedford Builders stated concerns due to changes taking place in the codes department with the hiring of MDIA and use of their electrical inspector; requesting that staff remain in place and that future work will not go to a third party stating they are less accessible and 3 to 4 times the cost

Joe Hiricko, Architect stated codes has never been as good as they are now; also, the third party isn't familiar with the area or the buildings

Randy Collier, Greenwood Pools and Spas stated it is a pleasure to work with the codes department over the last few years and is hoping an electrical inspector will be hired rather than continued use of a third party

Jim Brown, GR Construction, Blair/Bedford Builders stated he appreciates codes and their hard work and although they aren't always easy to deal with they are fair

**PRESENTATIONS**-Monthly Financial Review, Omar Strohm as of June used 47.76% of budgeted revenues; 47.74% for 2009; expenditures are at 47.62% through June and 47.91% for 2009; June 2010 revenues exceeded expenditures by \$691,817 and year to date by \$34,786; compared to last year expenditures exceeded revenues by \$156,881 and \$38,344 year to date

**MANAGER'S REPORT** – the Manager's Report was distributed previously; no questions

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS - none**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, July 14, 2010. (0114-10)**

**b) rejecting the Repository Bid submitted by John Higgins of 208 Ash Street., Josephine, PA for the property located at 200-202 E. 4th Avenue, Altoona, PA, Control No. 012-58920, in the amount of \$25.00 and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0115-10)**

**c) accepting the Repository Bid submitted by David Bonanno of 206 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA for the property located at 200-202 E. 4th Avenue, Altoona, PA, Control No. 012-58920, in the amount of \$750.00 and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0116-10)**

**d) authorizing a Winter Maintenance Agreement between the City of Altoona and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the period 2010-2011 through winter 2014-2015 with revenues in the amount of \$3,886.12 per year to be deposited in the Highway Aid Fund and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0117-10)**

**e) at the request of the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM), adopting the Statement of Support (SOS) being promoted by the PA Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve Members (ESGR) and further authorizing City Staff to submit the online form for the City of Altoona. (0118-10)**

**f) accepting the proposal of Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt for the Federal Aid Highway Project (MPMS No. 84611 State Project No. 4 09900 T 7 AP2 0920 375) in the amount of \$437,092.17 payable from the Federal Earmark and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland and City Solicitor Larry Clapper to execute all documents, either electronically or manually, and for the City Clerk to attest to same. (0119-10)**

**g) accepting the proposal of Keller Engineers of 420 Allegheny St., Hollidaysburg, PA to provide Construction Inspection Services for the Federal Aid Highway Project in the amount of \$26,012.76 payable from the Federal Earmark and authorizing the Mayor to execute the**

**Engineering Agreement, as prepared by PennDOT, and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0120-10)**

**h)authorizing the proposal of Keller Engineers of 420 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA for technical assistance and surveying services to verify locations for Survey Monuments in the amount of \$41,247.50 payable from the Capital Budget and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0121-10)**

**i)authorizing a Supplemental Engineering Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Keller Engineers and the City of Altoona to add funding to provide additional inspection to complete the scope of work on the Penn and Park Avenue Pedestrian Bridges in the amount of \$17,316.40 payable from a reimbursement from PennDOT and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Supplemental Engineering Agreement, as prepared by PennDOT, and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0122-10)**

**j)amending the 2008 CDBG Program to adjust estimated program income to reflect actual program income received increasing the Economic Development Program by \$35.49. (0123-10)**

**k)amending the 2009 CDBG Program to adjust estimated program income to reflect actual program income received increasing the following Programs: Single Family Homeowner Rehab Program by \$67,289.04, City Hall Accessible Entrance Door Openers Program by \$14,000.00, Street Resurfacing Program by \$5,000.00, 7<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Passive Park by \$80,657.03. (124-10)**

**l)awarding a Demolition Contract for 1907 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Rear, Altoona, PA to Earthmovers Unlimited of P.O. Box 187, Kylertown, PA in the amount of \$3,232.00 payable from the CDBG Blighted Property Program and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0125-10)**

**m)awarding a Demolition Contract for 1913-15 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 216 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 804 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 413 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Altoona, PA to G&R Excavating and Demolition of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA in the amount of \$18,484.00 payable from the CDBG Blighted Property Program and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0126-10)**

**n)awarding a Demolition Contract for 1206 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Altoona, PA to Progressive Landscapes of 324 E. Blair Avenue, Altoona, PA in the amount of \$2,150.00 payable from the CDBG Blighted Property Program**

**and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0127-10)**

**o)WHEREAS, the City of Altoona (City) Plumbing Inspector is temporarily unable to perform inspection duties; and WHEREAS, the City, to ensure the safety and welfare of its residents, needs to obtain temporary inspection services; and WHEREAS, Middle Department Inspection Agency (MDIA) has the ability to perform, on behalf of the City, the inspections required, namely: residential mechanical inspector, plumbing plans examiner, residential plumbing inspector, mechanical plans examiner and energy plans examiner (hereinafter "inspection services"); and**

**WHEREAS, the City desires to contract with MDIA to perform the inspection services on a temporary basis until such time as the current Plumbing Inspector is capable to do so and/or a temporary employee is hired to perform the same.**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, and the same is hereby resolved by the City Council of the City of Altoona, that City Manager and City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an appropriate contract with MDIA, upon approval of the language by the City Solicitor, to enable and appoint MDIA to perform the inspection services on behalf of the City until such time that the Plumbing Inspector is capable to do so and/or a temporary employee is hired to perform the same. (0128-10)**

the resolutions were read by the City Clerk; resolution o was added to the agenda and the floor was opened to the public; there was no public comment on resolution o; the consent vote was taken on all items and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Butterbaugh was absent

## **ORDINANCES**

### **Adoption**

#### **Councilman Geis**

**1)An Ordinance providing for the vacation of a portion of Federal Alley from Lexington Avenue and Chestnut Avenue, North and South, 7<sup>th</sup> street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, East and West, containing 0.076 acres, more or less, in the City of Altoona, Pennsylvania; and directing that the same be stricken from the official City Plan.**

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Introduction – Councilman Geis

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Geis

Second – Councilman Neugebauer

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Butterbaugh was absent

## **Adoption**

### **The Governing Body**

**2)An Ordinance of the City of Altoona providing additional one-way traffic at Mosser Street West from Bryant Avenue to the alley and from Tennyson Avenue North from Emerson Avenue to Bryant Avenue; providing for additional stop intersections at Eveningtide Avenue and Ash Street, Eveningtide Avenue and Lowell Avenue, Eveningtide Avenue and Cedar Street, Eveningtide Avenue and Byron Avenue; Longfellow Avenue and Byron Avenue, Longfellow Avenue and Lowell Avenue; Longfellow Avenue and East Southey; Byron Avenue and Longfellow Avenue; Bryant Avenue and Frost Avenue; Bryant Avenue and Pope Avenue; Bryant Avenue and Scott Avenue; Bryant Avenue and Bellview Street; Emerson Avenue and Tennyson Avenue, Emerson Avenue and Longfellow Avenue, in the Garden Heights area of the City of Altoona and providing an effective date.**

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Introduction – the Governing Body

Motion for Adoption – the Governing Body

Second – Councilman Kelley

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Butterbaugh was absent

**DISCUSSION ITEMS** – Councilman Geis presented a petition on behalf of the neighbors of Race Street and West Chestnut from 31<sup>st</sup> to Race Street regarding the heavy truck traffic currently in their neighborhood due to the bridge project on 31<sup>st</sup> street and Broad Avenue; Joe Weakland stated the Police Department has been in this area; Councilman Geis asked for a No Trucks sign on Pine Avenue

Councilman Geis also asked about Ward Avenue traffic racing between Union and Logan to beat the light and the possibility of stop signs at one of the intersections; Councilman Kelley stated the school district has been involved because it is a school zone; it is also state road and it is in PennDOT's hands and since it is a school zone it will need a study

Councilman Cagle asked about the rules for leisure/recreation fires; Chief Santone stated recreation fires are allowable under state law; also that the wood being used must be dry and untreated and not produce a lot of smoke, there must be a hose and water available, and that the fire should not be left unattended

Councilman Geis stated recycling bins are still available and thanked the Boy Scouts for their help with the recent bin distribution

Councilman Kelley will participate in Core Communities in Crisis in Oakland on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, in State College in September and Reading in October and there is legislation coming in the near future

Councilman Kelley asked Council to adopt a business advocacy committee in order to make the City more business friendly and improve the business climate in the city; Councilman Kelley will distribute more information to Council in the near future

Councilman Neugebauer asked the public to support the Jazz Concert that will be held downtown on Friday, August 13th from 6-10 p.m.

**MEDIA** – Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*, Chris Forshey, WRTA Radio

**ADJOURNMENT** – by Mayor Schirf at 8:45 p.m.