

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – MARCH 13, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA**

The meeting was televised live on cable Public Access Channel 14 and re-broadcast Thursday, March 14, 2013.

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

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by the Deputy City Clerk Kim Carrieri

Present: Councilmen Butterbaugh, Cagle, Geis, Haire, Kelley, Neugebauer (via phone) and Mayor Schirf

PRESENTATIONS – none

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – Silas Jones, 1917 13th Avenue; Silas stated he was cited by Codes for his garage and it went before the Magistrate and now there is a \$479.00 fine; Silas stated he is going to fix it but he is on a fixed income and he needs more time; Mayor Schirf asked Joe Weakland to provide a report to Council once he has reviewed the issue

Pat Miller, GAEDC Executive Director; provided Council with the 2013 Summer Concert Schedule for Heritage Plaza; Pat stated they are asking for Council's support on resolution c to have Heritage Plaza smoke free for the following reasons: 1)there is cost of maintaining the plaza and it must come from the Altoona Parking Authority staff at this time; Pat stated his staff has other jobs throughout downtown to do; 2) it would be out of courtesy to the people in attendance who do not smoke as the event is crowded; 3) Council designated the 24 city parks managed by CBRC as smoke free already and Heritage Plaza, designated a center city parklet, should go along with that; Pat stated that possibly the elevated, fenced in platform area in front of the railcar can be the designated as the smoking area; Pat stated enforcement comes from volunteers reminding people and the city police are also in attendance to help enforce the policy; there would be a reminder announced over the sound system and signage; there will also be recycling canisters provided in one specific area which the IRC and John Frederick are working on at this time

MANAGER'S REPORT – Councilman Kelley asked who the proposals for cable renewal were from; Joe Weakland stated Fred Polnar, Adrian Herbst and Cohen Law Group; Joe Weakland stated the contract period is 10 years; Councilman Kelley asked how another vendor would come in; Joe Weakland stated they would most likely approach the City and most likely this would be too expensive for another company although there is not an exclusive with Atlantic Broadband and anyone could come in if they so choose to build a cable system; Larry Clapper stated there are certain rights for the current franchisee with regard to renewal and that the city has to go through certain steps, formal or informal; Larry stated most are done informally as it is very expensive; most likely our

renewal will be done informally; the cable franchise itself is adopted by ordinance and the public has a right to make comment during that time period

Councilman Butterbaugh commented on item number 1 and the IT audit and when the RFP is received that the City make sure they choose someone that will be here in Altoona; Councilman Butterbaugh stated the ACT 47 initial evaluation of departments was done by people in other states such as Indiana and Illinois who were trying to guess at what might work in Altoona, Pennsylvania; Joe Weakland stated the RFP states the city will give preference to a PA firm and/or a firm who has experience with 3rd Class Cities; Joe Weakland stated they also requested the firm submit in the RFP the onsite hours they will devote to the audit

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS – Mayor Schirf congratulated the entire Altoona Fire Department who all met national professional qualification standards and trained for nearly 600 hours per year each; Chief Hileman stated it validates the training currently being done by the department and that it is up to national standards; Chief Hileman stated most importantly it makes the City more competitive for federal grants; Chief Hileman stated the City received two grants over the last two years for over one million dollars; Chief Hileman stated it is positive for the ISO rating and that the water supply also helps the city to move up in the point scale

Mayor Schirf thanked those who came forward willing to serve on the Home Rule Charter Government Study Commission and he thanked the Pennsylvania Municipal League for their presentation on this at the 6:00 o'clock Strategic Planning Meeting

The Planning Commission will hold a meeting on Tuesday, April 2nd at 3:00 p.m. in City hall on the Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Schirf stated CBRC will support AYSO in any way possible and that CBRC and AYSO have been in contact; the soccer fields may not be a part of the agreement and CBRC is now waiting to see how the vote is handled before they take any action

Councilman Haire stated he attended a Sister Cities Committee meeting and two students are coming here in April 2013 for one month; they will begin fundraising for 2014 as 20 students will be coming to Altoona

Councilman Kelley stated that at the first council meeting in February there was concern raised about traffic in Whenwood; Mayor Schirf stated there will be a report from the City Manager in the near future and then it will be forwarded to the individual who raised the concern

RESOLUTIONS

a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, February 27, 2013. (0032-13)

b) awarding the Tree Revitalization Project Bid to Bennetti Tree Service, Inc of 162 Bennetti Drive, Altoona, PA in the amount of \$9,187.00 payable from the Shade Tree Commission Line Item and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0033-13)

c) designating Heritage Plaza as a smoke free facility and authorizing the Greater Altoona Economic Development Corporation (GAEDC) to designate a smoking area. (0034-13)

the resolutions were read by Deputy City Clerk Kim Carrieri; Councilman Haire asked to have item c pulled for a separate vote; the consent vote was taken on item a and b and passed 7 to 0; Councilman Neugebauer voted by phone; the vote was taken on item c and passed 6 to 1; Councilman Haire voted no; Councilman Neugebauer voted by phone

ORDINANCES

Introduction

An Ordinance providing for the vacation of a portion of Oneida Avenue between Logan Boulevard and Kittanning Lane, Altoona, containing four thousand eight hundred nineteen and eight-five one hundredths square feet in area, in the City of Altoona, Pennsylvania; and directing that the same be stricken from the official city plan.

This Ordinance was read by Deputy City Clerk Kim Carrieri and introduced by Mayor Schirf

DISCUSSION ITEMS – Councilman Kelley asked if the City needs to restrict parking on one side of Indian Trail; Mayor Schirf asked for something from Joe Weakland or Public Works; Joe Weakland stated development plans and permits will be forthcoming once the ordinance is adopted

Councilman Haire stated he wanted to discuss the idea of having a progressive tax instead of a business tax which went directly from \$50 to \$100; Joe Weakland contacted John Espenshde who has not gotten back in touch with him on this issue

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

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