

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY – MARCH 27, 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 28, 2013.

**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 Butterbaugh, Cagle, Geis, Haire, Kelley, Neugebauer and Mayor Schirf

**PRESENTATIONS – Monthly Financial Review – Omar Strohm, Finance Director;** Omar stated the City looks upside down at this time in the year primarily because any revenue receipts received are applicable to the prior year and that shows greatly in property taxes and income taxes; Omar stated that is one of the main reasons for the TRAN every year and it helps the City until tax revenues start to come in; the major source of the revenue is property tax

**Public Works 2012 Annual Report-Dave Diedrich, Director**

**ALL PUBLIC COMMENT** – none

**MANAGER’S REPORT** – the report was distributed previously; Councilman Butterbaugh asked about Atlantic Broadband and why the City only negotiates with one cable company; Joe Weakland explained that by federal law the City can’t have an exclusionary franchise agreement and that it is open to any cable company that wants to come in either as competition or as replacement of the current provider

Mayor Schirf asked for an update on Mr. Silas Jones and the code issue discussed at the previous council meeting; Joe Weakland stated Mr. Jones was notified on March 12th of 2012 to repair the garage roof which now is over a year ago; Codes did work with him giving him an extension of time to get the job done; Mr. Jones was instructed to pull a permit and sign a contract; Codes told him he could wait to do the work until the weather improved; Mr. Jones agreed but he never did what he was asked to do so he was cited in March of 2013; District Justice Kelly fined him \$300.00 for not pursuing the work; Joe Weakland stated 90 to 100% of the time the codes department works with people to try and get the job done and correct the deficiency; Mr. Jones was given a hearing prior to the hearing in which he was fined and he was given an extension to complete the work

Joe Weakland stated there are as many as 25 hearings on the City’s code court

day; the next court day is Friday April 12<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Schirf asked for an update on the capital improvements program; Joe Weakland stated Marita Kelly of DCED is a certified budget person who reviews budgets for municipalities throughout the country as well as capital improvement programs; Marita gave the City a program that was developed by Naperville, Illinois; the document is at least 200 pages and for each capital improvement they review need, expenses, how it should be funded and location; Act 47 would like Altoona to put the City's capital improvements project together the same way; Joe Weakland stated the City has all of the information however it needs to be put into writing in respect to a documented program; Joe Weakland stated staff will be working on this in the coming months and the City would like to have it together sometime in June as it is anticipated that the City will go to the bond market sometime in September to refinance what bonds the City can and get better interest rates and save money as well as go for new projects

Councilman Kelley asked about ammunition that has been in the news lately and its availability to police departments and whether the City is expecting a problem; Chief Freehling stated the city ordered late last year for this year and that has arrived and they are preparing to put another order in; the City does not anticipate a problem and they are ahead of schedule with ordering

Joe Weakland stated DCED awarded the \$519,000 grant for the IT audit, the downtown study and the tax bureau software update; Joe stated he is unsure of when the funds will be available and he is expecting at least a two month process

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS –**

Mayor Schirf stated CBRC has been involved in six projects and four have been completed to include the East Juniata flooring project, the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward basketball court, the Geesey Park dugouts and the work at Prospect Pool to include the new pavilion, rehab of the bath house and the concession stand; they are currently working on the Juniata Memorial Pool demolition and the design work is being completed for the playground and basketball court and then the spray park; the last project to be completed is the Garden Heights playground project; Mayor Schirf stated he will give a financial update once all of the projects are completed

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, March 13, 2013. (0035-13)**

**b) authorizing the City Manager to execute all Highway Occupancy Permits (HOP) for any development utilizing PennDOT's storm water facilities and for the City Clerk to attest to same. (0036-13)**

**c)awarding the Rebid of Lloyd Street Curb and Sidewalk Project to BCS Construction, Inc. of 1117 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 100 Rear, Altoona, PA in the amount of \$61,186.17 payable from CDBG Funds and the Capital Budget and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0037-13)**

**d)awarding the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (4500 PSIG Air Masks) Bid to Kaza Fire Equipment Co. of 155 Lovell Avenue, Ebensburg, PA in the amount of \$58,000.00, with the option to purchase additional items as the funding permits, payable from the FEMA Homeland Security Grant and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0038-13)**

**e)accepting the proposal submitted by Keller Engineers, Inc. of 420 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA to provide Construction Inspection Services for the Broadway Curb and Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$24,354.30 payable from the Transportation Enhancements Program Grant and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents, as prepared by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation, and for the City Clerk to attest to same. (0039-13)**

the resolutions were read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer; the consent vote was taken on all items and passed 7 to 0 with all present

**DISCUSSION ITEMS** – none

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

**ADJOURNMENT** – by Mayor Schirf at 7:50 p.m.