

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY – APRIL 10, 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, April 11, 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

Mayor Schirf stated that Council met in Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of real estate

**ALL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Jan Mills, 3005 Spruce Avenue; the Blair County War Veterans Council now has a reviewing stand for parades and it will be set up for the Memorial Day parade; they are looking for 4 to 8 able bodied volunteers for two parades each year to help with set up and tear down; if interested and available the City Clerk's office can provide the contact information

Gabriel Pellegrini, 3513 Oneida Avenue, provided Council with a petition of 88 signatures and asked Council to vote no on the ordinance vacating a portion of Oneida Avenue; asked Council that it remain a green space

Robert Neidorff, 3402 Ft Roberdeau, stated that the land that was sold to Gingrich was worth much more than the Redevelopment Authority price and he would have offered more and he asked Council not to adopt the ordinance

Michael Hemburger, 1618 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated the intersection of 18<sup>th</sup> street and 20<sup>th</sup> avenue is very dangerous as there are motorists running the red light and there is a site problem on the side that has bushes; asked if the length of time of the light can be lengthened and if there can be more Police enforcement in that area

Robert Burchfield, 3515 Oneida Avenue, stated he no longer lives at this address but still owns it; asked if a traffic survey and impact study were done on Oneida Avenue; asked Council to vote no to vacating Oneida Avenue

Art Wilkin, 3504 Ft. Roberdeau Avenue, asked if thought was given to a plan from Gingerich Agency for the proposed vacated land on Oneida Avenue

Harry Benjamin, 3412 Crescent Road and 22 Indian Place; stated vacating Oneida Avenue needs to be tabled and asked Council to give the matter more thought or vote no

Heather Eckels, 813 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue; asked questions regarding a block grant application submitted to the Planning Department for a men's transitional home on 11<sup>th</sup> street behind Howard Avenue

Carl Bennett, 915 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue; expressed his concern about what may be opening behind his business which is the Building II Gym located at 1000 Howard Avenue; stated the City does not need more halfway houses

**PRESENTATIONS** – Keystone Communities Enterprise Zone – Pat Miller, ABCD Corporation, Executive Vice President; asked for Council's support of a new zone; stated the current zone is expiring and creation of a new zone has many benefits to include priority for loans, tax credits, state contract bid priority and cleaning of contaminated property

**MANAGER'S REPORT** – the report was distributed previously; there were no further questions

#### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS –**

Mayor Schirf congratulated Planning on the Comprehensive Plan stating it is available to review on the City's website and at City Hall

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

**a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, March 27, 2013. (0040-13)**

**b) appointing Councilman Bruce Kelley to serve as the Voting Delegate and Resolutions Committee member representing the City of Altoona at the 2013 Pennsylvania Municipal League's Convention in State College, PA and City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute the Certification. (0041-13)**

**c) awarding the 2013 CDBG Resurfacing Program Bid to Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co., Inc. of 157 Grannas Road, Hollidaysburg, PA in the amount of \$208,423.10 payable from CDBG Project Nos. 11-27 & 12-05 and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland, or Acting City Manager in his absence, to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0042-13)**

**d)authorizing a letter from the City Manager approving the event in Altoona on June 5 and June 6, 2013, allowing the sponsor to conduct the event and indemnifying the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Special Olympics "Be a Fan" Torch Run, as referenced in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland, or Acting City Manager in his absence, to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0043-13)**

**e)supporting the filing of an application by ABCD Corporation to DCED for the designation of a Keystone Communities Enterprise Zone. (0044-13)**

**f)appointing Matt Cacciotti of 222 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA to the Goodman Trust Advisory Committee to serve as an alternate member. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2016. (0045-13)**

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

#### **ORDINANCES – Adoption**

##### **Mayor Schirf**

**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 eighty-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.**

Councilman Geis made a motion to table the Ordinance and Mayor Schirf seconded the motion; a vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 1; Councilman Haire voted no; all were present

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS – none**

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

**ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Schirf at 8:50 p.m.**