

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY – MAY 22, 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, May 23, 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

**ALL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Paul Johnson, 1428 Washington Avenue, Altoona, stated that he is not getting answers regarding UPMC or Highmark and that the answers need to be given publicly; Rev. Johnson asked Mayor and Council to be the voice of the people stating that Altoona Regional serves the City and many of the surrounding counties and the people should not be taken advantage of

Paula Stellabotte, 813 Park Boulevard, Altoona, stated the concerns regarding the pending sale of Altoona Regional to UPMC will affect the region and the community as the hospital serves 22 surrounding counties; stated the merger could lead to high health care costs as 75% will be provided by one entity not including Nason; stated there is a lack of community input and transparency and with such a big decision to be made it is with very little input from stakeholders; asked for people in the community to speak up, to call the board members and Jerry Murray; asked Council to consider holding a public hearing; encouraged the public to get involved by going to [altoonacares.org](http://altoonacares.org)

Drew Emswiler, Altoona Police Department, stated he want to know and to be assured that his Highmark insurance is going to be accepted after the sale/merger

Julian Crosser, 3925 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, stated she has a young son and that healthcare costs can stress family finances if there are more out of pocket expenses; asked Council to encourage hospital administrators to give more details about the pending sale of the hospital and to educate the public; stated Pittsburgh is having issues at this time with UPMC paying property taxes or payment in lieu of taxes

Mayor Schirf thanked those in attendance and stated Council will take their comments into consideration and that he will now refer to the City Solicitor

Councilman Butterbaugh stated he has the same questions and that he wants to work with all levels of government and asked Representative McGinnis and

County Commissioner Beam who were in the audience for their assistance Vice-Mayor Cagle asked Joe Weakland if he was contacted by the hospital; Joe stated not to date but he did meet with two administrators at the hospital and he received general information but nothing specific; the hospital said they will go public but didn't say when

Councilman Neugebauer stated there is a concern that when you go out of the area who will cover expenses

**PRESENTATIONS** – Monthly Financial Review – Omar Strohm, Finance Director; Omar reviewed the April financial statement; Omar stated general property taxes are further ahead than last year; income taxes are slightly higher due to the rate; Mayor Schirf asked about Act 511 taxes; Omar stated the new collector held the bills and they went out late therefore business privilege and mercantile are down at this point

**MANAGER'S REPORT** – the report was distributed previously Questions/Comments: Mayor Schirf thanked all for their effort in getting the government study referendum on the ballot; Joe Weakland stated there will be an organizational meeting of the commission and city administration will be available to assist them; Councilman Geis asked if the Act 47 team is coming up with money for the study commission since this was one of their recommendations

Councilman Haire asked about the traffic light at 18<sup>th</sup> street and 20<sup>th</sup> avenue and if the police could observe it between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. rather than just in the evening since this morning timeframe was previously reported by Mr. Hemburg

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS** – none

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, May 8, 2013. (0064-13)**

**b) adopting the document entitled "positively Altoona Comprehensive Plan" as the City of Altoona's Comprehensive Plan and replacing the current plan adopted August 9, 2000. (0065-13)**

**c) authorizing the transfer of \$1,415.00 from the Goodman Trust Fund to the Altoona Area Teener Baseball League for batting cage netting at Seitz Field. (0066-13)**

**d) authorizing the transfer of \$600.00 from the Goodman Trust Fund to the Altoona Boxing Club for boxing equipment. (0067-13)**

**e) authorizing the transfer of \$1,000.00 from the Goodman Trust Fund to the Altoona Housing Authority - Fairview Hills Playground for playground mulch and playground swings and equipment. (0068-13)**

**f) authorizing the transfer of \$1,000.00 from the Goodman Trust Fund to the Altoona Housing Authority - Pleasant Village Playground for playground mulch and playground benches. (0069-13)**

**g) authorizing the transfer of \$1,000.00 from the Goodman Trust Fund to the Altoona Mountain Lion Ice Hockey Association to field two hockey club teams. (tabled)**

**h) authorizing the transfer of \$1,208.50 from the Goodman Trust Fund to Central Blair Recreation Commission for picnic tables for Prospect Pool. (0070-13)**

**i) authorizing the transfer of \$3,810.60 from the Goodman Trust Fund to Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission for program supplies and equipment. (0071-13)**

**j) authorizing the transfer of \$605.90 from the Goodman Trust Fund for equipment (L-screen, polycap) for Geesey Park/George B. Kelley Amateur Baseball Federation, Inc. (0072-13)**

resolution g was tabled at this time

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS - none**

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

**ADJOURNMENT** – by Mayor Schirf at 8:15 p.m.