

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – JULY 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, July 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 (via phone) and Mayor Schirf

City Solicitor Larry Clapper announced that Council went into executive session prior to this Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of personnel matters; Council also held an executive session on July 2, 2013 for the purpose of personnel matters

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – Scott Brown, Race Street, asked Council for their assistance on Race Street; Mr. Brown stated that since the PennDOT detour was put into place as they work on the Mill Run stream wall along 31st street - there has been speeding, increased traffic, tree limbs broken, tractor trailer and truck traffic, traffic running stop signs, wear and tear on their street and vehicles driving on sidewalks and neighbors nearly being struck by passing vehicles; Mr. Brown stated this is the second time traffic has been routed to their neighborhood due to detours and that it is ruining their once quiet and safe neighborhood; stated the pipe is broken on his sidewalk and he has been pushed into the hedges after being struck by the side mirror of a passing car

Paul Myers, 901 Race Street, stated he has young children who can no longer play in the front of their home; also, there are no curbs on this street and the cars are using the sidewalk as a road; the neighbors are also parking their cars on the sidewalk to get them off of the street because of the increased amount of traffic

Eric Beam, 3164 Oak Avenue, stated he has lived in the neighborhood since 1996 and travels Race Street to get out of his neighborhood; stated he has almost been hit by passing cars and he has to use the Race Street yards to walk along for safety reasons; stated he has witnessed the constant speeding and the lawns being torn up from cars driving on them

Rob Donlan, 893 Race Street, stated he has a four year old and a two year old and that he can no longer let them play in the driveway; stated he almost ended up in the ditch while on his bike because of a passing car

some of the possible solutions that were offered include posting a sign on 31st

Street that states local traffic only; possible sign at both ends of Race Street and intersection of West Chestnut and intersection of Pine Avenue that says street closed to local traffic only; also need to contact trucking companies and Logan Township

Members of Council stated they would meet with Scott Brown and walk the neighborhood

Patricia McNally, 1816 20th Avenue; reported code violations to council as follows: trash at 1810 20th Avenue, a car at 2021 19th street with no inspection sticker, tall grass at corner house on 31st street and West Chestnut Avenue

PRESENTATIONS – Monthly Financial Report, Omar Strohm, Finance Director; Omar reviewed report with Council and offered to take questions; Omar stated the Act 511 taxes are behind due to a change in collection; some of this is also a timing issue

MANAGER'S REPORT – none

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS – Mayor Schirf reappointed Ted Newkirk to the Shade Tree Commission

Mayor Schirf congratulated Councilman Butterbaugh and the City Clerk for a good town hall meeting to discuss the UPMC/Altoona Regional merger

Mayor Schirf stated Ruskin Drive from Ward Avenue to Beckman will be paved in mid-August as part of the Transportation Improvement Project

Mayor Schirf asked Planning Director Lee Slusser to give a report on Broad Avenue; Lee stated the project meeting is delayed as they are looking at a more extensive project; an income survey is going out to residents of Broad Avenue to see if they meet income eligibility for CDBG money; Lee stated this funding could help complete a curb and sidewalk project

Lee Slusser also reported there is an ash borer that is killing ash trees in the neighborhoods and the City is working to treat the trees; Lee stated ash trees in the city should be reported to the Planning Department

Mayor Schirf encouraged the public to visit the 6th Ward Community Center; the basketball court was recently refurbished

Councilman Haire stated he read a letter from Mr. Gingrich's attorney that requested the Oneida Avenue vacation be placed on a future Council agenda; Councilman Haire requested the tabled ordinance come before Council again for a vote; City Solicitor Larry Clapper stated it would need to be re-advertised and could be placed on the August 14th agenda; Council asked for a copy of the title

Councilman Butterbaugh stated the recent UPMC Altoona Town Hall meeting was informative and positive and thanked Representative McGinnis, Senator Eichelberger, Jim Frank for Congressman Shuster, Mayor Schirf, Councilmen Cagle and Haire and the City Clerk for attending and participating; Councilman Butterbaugh stated the hospital is now holding a town hall meeting for their employees

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, June 12, 2013. (0079-13)**

- b) authorizing the Revised Price Quote for "Gunitite" and "Cured-in-Place" lining of storm sewer piping at West 15th Avenue and Ivyside Drive Alley and further authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0080-13)**

- c) amending the 2012 CDBG Program and distributing additional program income received in the amount of \$107,573.83 to the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation Community Room and the 7th Street Bridge Passive Park Project. (0081-13)**

- d) adopting the 2013 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program and authorizing City Manager Joseph F. Weakland to execute all documents and the City Clerk to file appropriate statements, certifications and meeting minutes to the Department of Community and Economic Development. (0082-13)**

- e) rescinding and readopting the Recycling Guidelines of the City of Altoona to provide for additional materials to be recycled and to update and consolidate as hereinafter set forth. (0083-13)**

- f) appointing Betsy Kreuz, Acting CFO for UPMC Altoona as the hospital representative to the AMED Authority to fill the unexpired term of hospital representative Charles Zorger. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2016. (0084-13)**

- g) reappointing Architect Dave Albright of 108 W. Holmes Avenue, Altoona, PA to the City of Altoona Code Appeals Board for a term of five years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2018. (0085-13)**

- h) approving a budget of \$2050.00 for the Government Study Commission through the year 2013 and authorizing expenditures to be paid from the City of Altoona General Fund Budget Contingency Line Item 10-53925-4930. (0086-13)**

i)rejecting the Spread Spectrum Radio System Bids as the bids are not in the best interest of the City of Altoona. (0087-13)

the resolutions were read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer; the consent vote was taken on all items and passed 7 to 0; Councilman Neugebauer voted by phone

ORDINANCES

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA BY DELETING AND REPEALING CHAPTER 358 THEREOF, "FIRE PREVENTION", WHICH ADOPTED THE "2009 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE" AND REPLACING THE SAME WITH A NEW CHAPTER 358, TO BE ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION" TO ADOPT THE "2012 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE", REGULATING AND GOVERNING THE SAFEGUARDING OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS ARISING FROM THE STORAGE, HANDLING AND USE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES, MATERIAL AND DEVICES, AND FROM CONDITON HAZARDOUS TO LIFE OR PROPERTY IN THE OCCUPANCY OF BUIDLINGS AND PREMISES IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, LICENSES AND COLLECTION OF FEES THERFOR; REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance was read by the City Clerk and was introduced by Vice-Mayor Cagle

Adoption – Mayor Schirf

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 170, TO BE ENTITLED "FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS" REGULATING AND GOVERNING FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA; PROVIDING FOR: DEFINITIONS, AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE TAPE DIALER; PERMITS AND MEANS FOR REVOCATION OF PERMITS PROCEDURE; PROHIBITION OF INTENTIONAL AND MALICIOUS FALSE ALARMS; A FALSE ALARM FEE; VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES; REPEAL OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
(ORD. NO. 5640)**

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Introduction – Mayor Schirf

Motion for Adoption – Mayor Schirf

Second – Councilman Butterbaugh

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0; Councilman Neugebauer voted by phone

Adoption – Councilman Neugebauer

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 346, TO BE ENTITLED “FIRE COST RECOVERY” AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION OF RECOVERY OF COST INCURRED BY THE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT WHEN RESPONDING TO CERTAIN EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY INCIDENTS; REPEAL OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
(ORD. NO. 5641)**

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Introduction – Councilman Neugebauer

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Neugebauer

Second – Councilman Hiare

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0; Councilman Neugebauer voted by phone

Adoption- Councilman Butterbaugh

**AUTHORIZING AND SECURING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$30,000,000, PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, TO: (1) CURRENTLY REFUND THE CITY’S GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES A AND B OF 2003 AND SERIES OF 2008, (2) ADVANCE REFUND THE CITY’S GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES OF 2009, (3) ACQUIRE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY BUILDINGS, STREETS AND ROADS, FOR BY THE PUBLIC WORKS, POLICE, FIRE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS, AND (4) PAY THE COSTS OF ISSUING THE BONDS; ACCEPTING A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT; SETTING FORTH THE PARAMETERS, TERMS AND SUBSTANTIAL FORM OF THE BONDS; PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT AND TAXING POWER OF THE CITY TO SECURE THE BONDS; APPOINTING A PAYING AGENT AND SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY; AUTHORIZING THE ESCROW AND REDEMPTIONS OF THE REFUNDED BONDS; AND APPROVING RELATED DOCUMENTS AND ACTS.
(ORD. NO. 5642)**

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Introduction – Councilman Butterbaugh

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Kelley

Second – Vice-Mayor Cagle

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0; Councilman Neugebauer voted by phone

DISCUSSION ITEMS – none

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Schirf at 8:20 p.m.