

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF: ACCEPTING THE RETIREMENT OF JOSEPH F.  
WEAKLAND AS CITY MANAGER; CONSIDERING AN INDEPENDENT  
CONTRACTOR/CONSULTANT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE  
CITY OF ALTOONA AND JOSEPH F. WEAKLAND AND CONSIDERING  
THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER**

**MONDAY – JULY 29, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.  
CITY OF ALTOONA TRAINING FACILITY & COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR SCHIRF** – by Mayor Schirf at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK** – all present to include Councilman Butterbaugh, Cagle, Geis, Haire, Kelley (via phone), Neugebauer (via phone) and Mayor Schirf

Mayor Schirf announced that an executive session was held on Thursday, July 25, 2013 for personnel purposes

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - none

**COUNCIL COMMENT UPON RETIREMENT OF MR. WEAKLAND BY MAYOR SCHIRF** – Mayor Schirf commented that on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, the Mayor and Council received official notice by City Manager Joe Weakland of his intention to retire as of July 31, 2013. The Mayor stated that Joe had 42 years of experience with the City serving as City Manager for the last 17 years. The Mayor stated Joe served the City with determination and that he was a part of many of the accomplishments everyone enjoys today. The Mayor stated that because of Joe's many years of service with the City that City Council looks forward to tapping his vast store of knowledge by engaging with him in a consultant agreement. The Mayor stated that Council believed this type of arrangement would be mutually beneficial and that it would help to provide a smooth transition period during this time. On behalf of City Council the Mayor thanked Joe for his many years of service and dedication to the City stating Joe clearly earned his retirement. The Mayor wished Joe and his wife Debbie many happy years of enjoying traveling and time with their family, especially their grandchildren.

**COMMENTS BY MR. WEAKLAND REGARDING HIS RETIREMENT**

Joe read his retirement letter into the record as follows:

*By way of this letter, I am formally notifying you of my intention to retire effective July 31, 2013. As you are aware, we have been developing a*

*consulting contract between me and the City of Altoona for a one-year period. Now that the contract has been negotiated to everyone's satisfaction, I feel comfortable in providing what appears to be a short notice of my retirement. However, the approximate one month contract negotiating period has provided Council with adequate time to prepare for my departure.*

*I feel extremely grateful to have spent the last forty-two years, and as Manager for the last seventeen years, working to improve this great City. My tenure as Manager was made especially gratifying due to the support and great working relationship I have had with all the elected officials over the years. However, the greatest asset has been the staff and employees. Without the support of this group of people the accomplishments achieved over the last seventeen years would not have been possible.*

*I look forward to spending more time with family and especially the grandchildren, but still being able to maintain a relationship with the City of Altoona.*

## **COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CITY MANAGER**

Mayor Schirf stated that Council discussed the appointment of Omar Strohm as Interim City Manager and that Council had previous discussions with Omar and that Omar was willing to accept the position. The Mayor stated Omar has exhibited exemplary service as both Finance Director and Human Resources Director and that he agreed to take on the additional duties of Interim City Manager for an additional \$21,000 per year (plus or minus) for a total salary of \$99,000 with no additional benefits than what he is currently receiving. Council expressed their support for Omar at this time.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**a) accepting the retirement notice of Joseph F. Weakland as City Manager, effective midnight, July 31, 2013. (0088-13)**

**b) approving the Independent Contractor/Consultant Agreement by and between the City of Altoona and Joseph F. Weakland and authorizing the appropriate City of Altoona officials to execute the same. (0089-13)**

**c) approving the appointment of Omar Strohm as Interim City Manager effective at 12:01 A.M. August 1, 2013 and until further action of Council at a salary of \$99,000 per annum with other benefits to remain the same. (0090-13)**

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

**ADJOURNMENT BY MAYOR SCHIRF** at 7:15 p.m.