

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 25, 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, September 26, 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 announced that Council held an Executive Session prior to the Council meeting for the purpose of personnel and potential litigation

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – John Pentland, 1503 20th Avenue; stated that Council may be aware that he is running for Mayor in November; Mr. Pentland stated he recently visited the seniors at the center and they asked for help with motorists speeding on 12th Avenue and 17th Street by placing signs on the bridge; Public Works Director Dave Diedrich stated he would look at 12th Avenue and that 17th Street is under the jurisdiction of PennDOT

Bob Howard, 801 3rd Avenue stated; stated something needs to be done with the trees and sidewalks on 8th Street from 6th Avenue to 1st Avenue as this is a safety issue; Mr. Howard stated the trees were planted by the City and the sidewalks were installed by the City and the residents should not be fined if they have no control

Chick Grant, 802 3rd Avenue; stated he has the same problem as Mr. Howard and that he has 3 trees and has tried to have something done but the Shade Tree Commission told him he was not allowed to trim or cut down the trees; stated he has had 30 years of lousy sidewalk and the City is ignoring it; stated you cannot repair one without the other; stated he has had property damage to his roof, soffit and gutters; Mr. Grant stated the City did trim 2 of 3 trees that hung over his property; stated his main concern is safety; stated he is looking for a mutual resolution

Mayor Schirf asked Omar to have staff look into this

Ron Heath 1417 Monroe Avenue was concerned about the ordinance that is on the agenda

staff explained that the property needs different zoning in order to meet the zoning of the neighborhood and to complete a development project; also that the townhouse rezone information was included in the same ad in order to save

money

PRESENTATIONS - Monthly Financial Review - Omar Strohm, Finance Director reviewed the August financial statement and stated that based on year to date numbers and historical receipts and new revenues received with EIT that he is projecting a slight surplus and that things look better than they should

MANAGER'S REPORT – none distributed; Council asked if the Shade Tree Commission could be invited to the next strategic planning meeting

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS – Mayor Schirf congratulated the Police Department on their recent drug arrests

Mayor Schirf stated Central Blair Recreation Commission turned a profit of up to \$2000 on Prospect Pool and they turned a profit on the concession stand for the 2013 season; Mayor Schirf stated Vice-Mayor Cagle would become the voting member in 2014 for two years and recommended Councilman Neugebauer as his replacement on the board in January

RESOLUTIONS

approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, September 11, 2013. (0110-13)

awarding the Tree Revitalization Project – Phase II Bid to Bennetti Tree Service of 162 Bennetti Drive, Altoona, PA in the amount of \$13,505.00 payable from the General Fund and Capital Contingency and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0111-13)

awarding the Spread Spectrum Radio System Bid to Tel-Power, Inc. of 809 Tel Power Road, Hollidaysburg, PA in the amount of \$88,739.05 payable from the Capital Contingency and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0112-13)

awarding the Fire Recovery RFP to Fire Recovery USA, 2271 Lava Ridge Court, Suite 120, Roseville, CA, to serve as the City of Altoona's Third Party Billing Company for the recovery of Fire Department response expenses and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0113-13)

awarding a demolition bid to Altoona Contracting Excavating Demolition Services of 535 Sandy Run Road, Altoona, PA for properties located at 408-10 Cherry Avenue and 1113 5th Avenue in

the amount of \$16,550.00 payable from CDBG Blighted Property Program Funds and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0114-13)

authorizing exemptions, deductions, abatements and credits for real property, earned income tax, net profits, mercantile and business privilege taxes within a specific geographic area in the City of Altoona designated as a proposed Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone ("KOEZ"), in order to foster economic opportunities, stimulate industrial, commercial, and residential improvements and prevent physical and infrastructure deterioration within areas of the City, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, upon certain terms and conditions. (0115-13)

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

ORDINANCES - Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING CHAPTER 535 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA KNOWN AS " PLANNING "TO: I. AMEND ARTICLE XI, KNOWN AS "DESIGNATION OF ZONES" TO REZONE PROPERTY ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA BOUNDED BY SOUTH 15TH STREET, VALLEY VIEW BOULEVARD, SOUTH 14TH STREET AND THE ALLEY RUNNING PARALEL TO VALLEY VIEW BOULEVARD, FROM RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS COMMERCIAL; AND II. AMEND ARTICLE XII KNOWN AS "DISTRICT PROVISIONS" TO PERMIT TOWNHOUSES IN SINGLE-HOUSEHOLD RESIDENTIAL ZONES AND LIMITED RESIDENTIAL ZONES ON LOTS OF AT LEAST ONE HALF ACRE IN SIZE; AND III. ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance was introduced by Councilman Haire

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA BY ADDING A NEW SUB-CHAPTER 11 TO CHAPTER 550, TO BE ENTITLED "REGISTRATION OF PROPERTIES IN DEFAULT OF MORTGAGE" PROVIDING FOR: A PURPOSE; INTENT AND APPLICABILITY; THE REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY BY MORTGAGEES; PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT; AS WELL AS THE REGULATION, LIMITATION AND REDUCTION OF ABANDONED REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF ALTOONA; ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS; THE REPEAL OF ALL OTHER

**ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH;
SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This ordinance was introduced by Councilman Butterbaugh

DISCUSSION ITEMS – Councilman Haire asked if the money Council personally donated to put toward a program booklet ad for the labor awards dinner that they were told was too late to submit could be used for the additional sign that was requested for John Robertson Park; this would honor Councilman Geis as Council intended to do by purchasing the ad and would also keep the City from taking money for a park sign from the City's budget

Dave Diedrich will get samples and ask for a price quote

Councilman Kelley stated he was in Harrisburg for a news conference regarding Act 111 legislation regarding binding arbitration

MEDIA – those in attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*, Chris Forshey and Steve Willett, WRTA

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