

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 9, 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, October 10, 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 (via phone), Haire, Kelley (via phone), 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 – none

PRESENTATIONS – Eagle Scout Grant Prosser of Troop 34 described his flag pole and landscaping Eagle Scout Project which he recently completed at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in Altoona

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented by Mayor Schirf to Grant Prosser following his presentation

Altoona Police Annual Report – Chief Janice Freehling provided a power point on 2012 and gave a report on the last six months which showed Part I offenses were up 14%, Part II were down 18% and total was down 11%

MANAGER’S REPORT – distributed previously; Mayor Schirf asked when the downtown study would come before Council; Lee Slusser stated contract language was being finalized at this time

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS – Mayor Schirf thanked the inlet crew for making the area safer to drive and walk with the pipe installation project recently completed for the open ditch at East Penn Avenue and Whenwood Road

Mayor Schirf commented on the newly installed sidewalk along Broadway which looks nice and is being used heavily by Penn State students and is a great effort by PennDOT

Mayor Schirf provided Council with a tourism booklet from explore Altoona who broke away from the convention center and are now housed in downtown Altoona

Mayor Schirf stated that during next year's strategic planning meeting that the City should explore the possibility of right of way fees for utilities

City Solicitor Larry Clapper stated Phase One of a study was completed in 2011 through the IRC and the second phase will be an engineering study which will cost money; Phase One indicated that all of the municipalities are underfunded by what they are collecting

RESOLUTIONS

approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, September 25, 2013. (0116-13)

authorizing an agreement between the City of Altoona and H.A. Berkheimer, Inc. for the collection of delinquent Earned Income Tax and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0117-13)

authorizing the appointment of Finance Director Omar Strohm as the City of Altoona Liaison for the express purpose of sharing confidential tax information with the appointed collector of delinquent earned income taxes for the City, Berkheimer, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0118-13)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS – Mayor Schirf asked for an update on downtown news; Lee Slusser stated Sheetz submitted a development application for 700 Chestnut Avenue and plan to model it after the Blairsville store with an iron gate along a portion of the property

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Schirf at 8:00 p.m.