

**ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING &
2014 BUDGET/TAX MILLAGE INTRODUCTION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – NOVEMBER 13, 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, November 14, 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, Neugebauer and Mayor Schirf

City Solicitor Larry Clapper added a resolution to the agenda and read it into the record as resolution g awarding the IT Audit RFP

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – Rocky Pacifico, Altoona resident, stated the City needs to look at the pensions and make changes stating people can work until the age of 50 and retire and get 55% of their salary; also, questioned why there is so much overtime in the City budget even when the City is in Act 47 stating that he does not want to pay more toward pensions or overtime as a resident and taxpayer and asked that Council put a stop to it

PRESENTATIONS – none

MANAGER'S REPORT – the report was distributed previously

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS – Mayor Schirf reviewed several projects taking place downtown to include the new Sheetz store project, the former Panda Bar project, the former Artificial Limb Company and Faith Vending projects and other progress with meds and eds and Penn State Altoona and the Downtown Study; Mayor Schirf referred to projects recently completed to include 8th Street Bridge, Mill Run Wall, Lloyd Street Curb and Sidewalk and Broadway Curb and Sidewalk, 7/8th Street Bridge Deck; the Mill Run Culvert along Rt 764 project is delayed for one month until December 5th

Mayor Schirf challenged the public to like the Altoona Police Department Facebook page and help them reach 20,000 likes by the middle of December

Mayor Schirf announced the 8th Annual Spirit of Christmas Parade will be Thursday, December 5th at 6pm and a deadline of one more week to enter floats in the parade; there will be a collection of non-perishable food items 10 to 15 minutes before the parade along the route and the U.S. Marine Corps will collect Toys for Tots during the parade

Mayor Schirf asked about a town hall meeting to go over the initiatives and progress made on the Act 47 plan; Interim City Manager Omar Strohm will

Mayor Schirf stated the City needs to change the form of government and the challenge is to move out of Act 47 by the end of 2016 and asked Council to take the initiative; Mayor Schirf stated he has a plan for this action to take place

Vice-Mayor Cagle stated three Information Technology Audit Proposals were reviewed, interviewed and scored by the IT Committee and Elert & Associates was chosen for the IT Study which is a resolution added to this agenda

Councilman Butterbaugh reported from June 2013 until present the Blighted Property Review Committee had twelve properties raised with seven completed in-house and five subcontracted at a cost of \$77,218.57 with the fiscal year ending July 2014

RESOLUTIONS

a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, October 23, 2013. (0128-13)

b) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, Monday, October 28, 2013. (0129-13)

c) disapproving the repository bid submitted by Jason and Regina Trexler of 415 7th Avenue, Altoona, PA for property located at 111-13 9th Street, Altoona, PA as the sale is not in the best interest of the City. (0130-13)

d) awarding the Request for Proposal for Independent Auditing Services for the City of Altoona for the years 2013, 2014, and 2015 including an audit of the Federal Housing and Community Development Funds, to Young, Oakes, Brown and Company of Altoona, PA and authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0131-13)

e) awarding the Housing Strategy & Downtown Investment Plan RFP to Fourth River Development, LLC of 5168 Campbells Run Road, Suite 204, Pittsburgh, PA and authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0132-13)

f) authorizing City Solicitor Larry Clapper to file the 2014 Tax Millage/Earned Income Tax Petition with the Blair County Court of Common Pleas. (0133-13)

g) approving the proposal of Elert & Associates, 140 Third Street South, Stillwater, MN 55082, dated June 10, 2013, for Information

Technology Audit Professional Services subject to the execution of an agreement approved by the Interim City Manager and City Solicitor and authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement and the City Clerk to attest to said agreement. (0134-13)

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

ORDINANCES

Introduction

An Ordinance of the City of Altoona, in the County of Blair, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appropriating specific sums estimated to be required for the specific purposes of the municipal government, hereinafter set forth, during the year 2014. (2014 BUDGET) (FIRST READING)

The ordinance was read by the City Clerk and introduced by the Governing Body; a vote was taken on the first reading and passed 7 to 0; Councilman Geis voted by phone

Introduction

An Ordinance of the City of Altoona amending the Code of the City of Altoona Chapter 646 entitled "Taxation" by deleting and repealing Article VIII thereof entitled , "Earned Income and Net Profits Tax", and replacing the same with a new Article VIII , to levy a tax on earned income and net profits of both residents and certain non-residents of the City of Altoona in excess of the limits established under the local tax enabling law as permitted by the municipalities financial recovery act for general revenue purposes and to levy a tax on earned income and net profits of both residents and certain non-residents for the special purpose of raising revenue to defray costs related to the pension plans of the City of Altoona; requiring tax returns; requiring employers to withhold and remit tax; and related provisions.

The ordinance was read by the City Clerk and introduced by the Governing Body; ; a vote was taken on the introduction and passed 7 to 0; Councilman Geis voted by phone

Introduction

An Ordinance of the City of Altoona, in the County of Blair, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the tax rate for the year 2014. (2014 TAX MILLAGE)

The ordinance was read by the City Clerk and introduced by the Governing Body; a vote was taken on the introduction and passed 7 to 0; Councilman Geis voted by phone

Adoption

Councilman Haire

An Ordinance of the City of Altoona amending Chapter 535 of the Code of the City of Altoona known as " Planning "to: 1. Amend Article XI , known as "Designation of Zones" to rezone property bounded by South 15th Street, Valley View Boulevard, South 14th Street and the Alley running parallel to Valley View Boulevard known as 1400 – 1430 Valley View Boulevard, from Suburban Residential to Highway Business Commercial; and 2. 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 3. Establish an effective date. (ORD. NO. 5645)

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Introduction – Councilman Haire

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Haire

Second – Councilman Butterbaugh

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 1; Councilman Geis voted no; Councilman Geis voted by phone

Adoption

The Governing Body

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. (ORD. NO. 5646)

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Introduction – The Governing Body

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

Second – Vice-Mayor Cagle

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to

0; Councilman Geis voted by phone

DISCUSSION ITEMS – Vice-Mayor Cagle complimented staff and the Governing Body regarding the downtown study, IT audit and a balanced budget stating tough decisions were made and that he is pleased with the progress made

Councilman Haire stated Council should move forward with the City Manager search; Mayor Schirf asked if the search would be done publicly or in executive session; City Solicitor Larry Clapper stated if it is in regards to a specific individual it can be an executive session but the standard information has to be done in a public session; Councilman Kelley asked if Council should wait until the Government Study Commission's recommendation is made in December which could change the form of government and possibly change the City Manager search and thought process

Council asked about adding strategic planning meetings to the 2014 council meeting schedule beginning with one in January; Interim City Manager Omar Strohm stated the schedule will be prepared to include these meetings

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror* and Steve Willet, WRTA , who had several questions of Council and staff

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Schirf at 7:50 p.m.