

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – MARCH 26, 2014 - 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, March 27, 2014.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:04 PM in Council Chambers

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Present: Councilmen Butterbaugh, Cacciotti, Cagle, Haire, Kelley, Neugebauer (via phone) and Mayor Pacifico

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an Executive Session prior to the meeting for the purpose of personnel matters; Mayor Pacifico announced that a resolution would be added to the agenda; City Solicitor Larry Clapper read the resolution as follows: recommending the appointment of Thomas Shultz to the Electrical Examiner's Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Denia Carothers of 221 E. Fairview Avenue spoke to Council and recommended changes to zoning regulations and student housing which was in response to a recently approved student house at 204 E. Lincoln Avenue

Mayor Pacifico stated he and Council would like to discuss the matter in more detail at a future strategic planning meeting

PRESENTATIONS - the Altoona Police Annual Report was presented by Chief Janice Freehling; a copy is available on the city website at altoonapa.gov or it can be viewed in the City Clerk's office

Monthly Financial Report – Omar Strohm, Finance Director reviewed the February financial statement of revenues and expenses stating there is little revenue coming in at this time; also, the real estate notices were mailed two weeks earlier than in years past; Mr. Strohm stated that under expenses there are a lot of variances as benefits are now broken out of the budget and they were not in previous years

MANAGER'S REPORT – the report was distributed to Council previously; Councilman Cagle asked about item 7 street sweeping; Public Works Director Dave Diedrich stated the highway crew is working on state and snow emergency routes first and then they will move to other locations and that it would help if residents would take the time to sweep their sidewalks off of the curb onto the street; Mr. Diedrich stated volunteer groups are always welcome along 6th and 7th avenues and they should contact him at the Department of Public Works; orange vests, work gloves and equipment will be provided for interested groups

Councilman Kelley asked about Broad Avenue work; Dave Diedrich stated they are currently working on the ramps; the asphalt plants open in mid-April and they are planning to finish the Broad Avenue road paving by the end of June

Councilman Kelley asked about the bridge project on Union Avenue and Pleasant Valley Boulevard; Dave Diedrich stated there was a meeting in February of 2014 and the project will begin in 2016; it is a complete road closure

RESOLUTIONS

a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, March 12, 2014. (0045-14)

b) awarding the 2014 Capital Resurfacing Program Bid to Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co., Inc. , 157 Grannas Road, Hollidaysburg, PA in the amount of \$506,144.13 payable from the Capital Budget (Account No. 43-13971-3210) and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0046-14)

c) awarding the 2014 CDBG Resurfacing Program Bid to Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co., Inc. , 157 Grannas Road, Hollidaysburg, PA in the amount of \$496,080.40 payable from Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) (Project Nos. 12-05 and 13-05) and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0047-14)

d) appointing Electrical Engineer Karl Kessler to the Electrical Examiner's Board. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2017. (0048-14)

e) appointing Master Electrician Tim Bettwy to the Electrical Examiner's Board. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2016. (0049-14)

f) authorizing the donation of bicycles currently held in storage by the Altoona Police Department to the Andrews Street High School of Munhall, PA and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0050-14)

g) appointing Journeyman Electrician Thomas Schultz to the Electrical Examiner's Board. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2015. (0051-14)

the resolutions were read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer; a consent vote was taken on all items and passed 7 to 0 with all present for the vote; Councilman Neugebauer voted via telephone

ORDINANCES

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 98 ENTITLED "PERSONNEL POLICIES" AND CHAPTER 105 ENTITLED "POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION" TO: REMOVE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CITY OF ALTOONA POLICE AND NON-UNIFORM EMPLOYEES TO NOW REQUIRE THAT POLICE EMPLOYEES SHALL RESIDE WITHIN NOT MORE THAN A FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTE RESPONSE TIME FROM THE CITY AND NON-UNIFORM EMPLOYEES SHALL RESIDE WITHIN NOT MORE THAN A THIRTY (30) MINUTE RESPONSE TIME FROM THE CITY; REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The proposed ordinance was read by the City Clerk and introduced by Councilman Cacciotti

Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 94 ENTITLED "PENSIONS", ARTICLE II ENTITLED "POLICE PENSION FUND" TO: ESTABLISH PENSION PLAN BENEFITS FOR POLICE OFFICERS HIRED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2014; REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD NO. 5650)

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Introduction – Councilman Butterbaugh

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Haire

Second – Councilman Neugebauer

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

Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 94 ENTITLED "PENSIONS", ARTICLE I ENTITLED "PAID FIREMEN'S PENSION FUND" TO: ESTABLISH PENSION PLAN BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS HIRED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2014; REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD NO. 5651)

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Introduction – Councilman Butterbaugh

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Haire

Second – Councilman Cagle

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Councilman Haire attended the Neighborhood Watch Operation Our Town meeting on Tuesday, March 25th and they mentioned the County's Rapid Notify System and Councilman Haire asked if it was similar to what the City has and if you have to register for it; Acting Chief Tofano stated if you have a land line phone then you would be a part of it if a County wide notification was sent and you would not have to register; if you want a notification on your cell phone you have to register for that either on the County site or the City website; Victor Curfman stated the link on the City website is to the County Rapid NotifySystem

Councilman Cagle announced that on Tuesday, April 1st at 3:30 the groundbreaking ceremony would be held for the Juniata Memorial Spray Park and the completion date for that project is mid to late August

Councilman Butterbaugh announced that the collective bargaining agreements will be available on the city's website in the near future

MEDIA in attendance included Bill Kibler for the *Altoona Mirror* and Ben Manning for WTAJ TV 10 and Steve Willet of WRTA

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