

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 24, 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, September 25, 2014.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Girl Scout Troop #46542 of Fairview

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Present: Councilmen Butterbaugh, Cacciotti, Cagle, Haire, Kelley, Neugebauer and Mayor Pacifico

PRESENTATIONS- 2015 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)- Omar Strohm, Finance Director reviewed the MMO numbers line by line with Council which are based on actuarial reports performed on the pension plans; the contributions for police are \$390,342 more than what was contributed in the previous year, the contributions for non-uniformed were \$172,606 more than what was contributed in the previous year and fire was \$237,176 more than what was contributed in the previous year; Mr. Strohm stated presentation of this worksheet required no action by Council but the presentation of the information is a requirement by the end of September

Monthly Financial Review – Omar Strohm, Finance Director reviewed revenues and expenditures for the month of August

Mayor Pacifico deferred to Deputy Fire Chief Mike Tofano who asked to formally thank Muellers Auto Recycling on behalf of the Altoona Fire Department who has been completing the Department of Health's basic vehicle rescue class; each of the segments of the class require vehicles to destroy and Muellers has provided at least 12 vehicles at no charge; Muellers has also provided towing services free of charge; Deputy Chief Tofano thanked Muellers for saving the fire department thousands of training dollars stating all four shifts completed the training

Councilman Kelley asked to add a resolution to the agenda which he read into the record as follows: That Altoona City Council implement a temporary moratorium on the release of documents soliciting the long-term lease of the water and sewer systems, to allow the City of Altoona's legal and financial advisors to engage in negotiations with representatives of the Altoona Water Authority. Such moratorium is subject to revocation at a future meeting of Altoona City Council.

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an Executive Session prior to the meeting for the purpose of personnel

PUBLIC COMMENT – Virginia Marino of 4th Avenue, Altoona stated she had a copy of the Griffin resolution which she believed was too good to be true and that there is someone on the other end pulling for the Water Authority lease; Ms. Marino asked that a public apology be given to former Mayor Martin; Ms. Marino threatened to file an injunction stating there are several businesses who want the petitions in their businesses for the public to sign; Ms. Marino stated the water should not be in the hands of an outside entity who will triple the rates; Ms. Marino stated leasing will also affect the inter-municipal agreements

MANAGER'S REPORT – the report was distributed previously; Peter Marshall asked for City Council's approval of the Capital Improvement Program which was received earlier; it is a five year program identifying the capital needs of the City; normally this would have come at an earlier date but it was initiated in this form for the first time so it is a little late but Council has had an opportunity to review it; Councilman Cagle motioned to accept the Capital Improvement Program and Councilman Butterbaugh seconded the motion and all were in favor and the motion passed

RESOLUTIONS

a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, September 10, 2014. (0134-14)

b) that Altoona City Council implement a temporary moratorium on the release of documents soliciting the long-term lease of the water and sewer systems, to allow the City of Altoona's legal and financial advisors to engage in negotiations with representatives of the Altoona Water Authority. Such moratorium is subject to revocation at a future meeting of Altoona City Council. (0135-14)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Councilman Cagle reported the Juniata Spray Park is completed and they are running tests now and then it will be winterized and opened in May of 2015

Councilman Cagle asked for volunteers to help paint the exterior of the East Juniata Community Center and asked anyone interested to contact Mike Hofer at the CBRC office

Vice-Mayor Neugebauer announced that the Christmas Parade would take place on Thursday, December 4th at 6 pm in downtown Altoona; the route will be extended and there will be a tree lighting ceremony and fireworks following the parade

Councilman Butterbaugh announced that the Government Study has copies of the final report and charters available in the City Clerk's office and that members of the Commission would be available to speak to any groups or organizations

Mayor Pacifico thanked Police, Fire and Public Works for their work on the train derailment in downtown Altoona

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:45 p.m.