

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – JULY 8, 2015 - 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, July 9, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico 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, Haire, Kelley, Neugebauer and Mayor Pacifico

Absent: Councilmen Cacciotti

PRESENTATIONS

2014 Audit Review – Dan Bradley of Young, Oakes, Brown & Co reviewed the 2014 audit with council

Monthly Financial Review - Omar Strohm, Finance Director stated the City's numbers were behind in previous months on general property taxes but the trend changed in May and the City is now ahead in comparison to this time last year

Councilman Haire stated he met with Dr.Dowlut and Planning Director Lee Slusser to find a way to develop his property to residential commercial mixed use which has limits but still allows him to develop

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney Jackie Bernard of Grappone Law Office referred to the proposed Lawruk vacation of 50 feet of alley that is perpendicular stating it would not prohibit property owners from getting to their properties; Attorney Bernard stated they are willing to do a private easement agreement

Karen Pfeffer, the owner of 112-116 Byron Avenue, stated the vacation will limit access to her property and makes the alley a dead end; Ms. Pfeffer also stated the alley will be tight and may create a safety issue; Ms. Pfeffer stated she has not seen a private easement offer as of yet by Lawruk or their attorneys

Virginia Marino of Altoona stated there is a need to bring back the Deputy Chief position in the Altoona Police Department that is referred to in the Act 47 Plan

Frank Clark of 303 Campbell Avenue stated he lived at his current location for 28 years and that the street is in poor condition due to flooding in the area and he can't believe the City wants to allow development there by Dr. Dowlut; Mr. Clark stated that in 1989 the City tried to change the zoning and the Judge ruled in favor of the neighbors that this area should remain residential

Eugene Walker of 1414 Aberdeen Street stated there is poor public service to the area, poor drainage, a ditch that needs repaired and a parking problem; Mr. Walker stated the strip of businesses currently there have no front access and they need to access through Circle or Orchard; Mr. Walker stated the snow is pushed into this area as well and causes a lot of problems; Mr. Walker stated the area does not need more commercial development and asked the City not to re-zone and not to ruin the neighborhood

Fred McLaughlin of 1418 Logan Boulevard stated the only entrance is the Alley which divides the property to be re-zoned; Mr. McLaughlin stated the plowing is poor in that area already and trucks cannot enter the alley

Tom Shunk of 2905 Whenwood Road stated he is having a flooding problem that is coming from ½ mile away in Logan Township; the only thing to collect the water is a 3 foot by 3 foot by 26 inch deep hole with four 16" pipes in it; this area flooded twice the day the Mayor visited and it appears to need a larger storm pipe; Mr. Shunk recommended that one be installed; Mr. Shunk also stated the road is falling apart because of the flooding and because of the tractor trailers using this to make deliveries to Penn State Altoona; Mr. Shunk stated truck drivers should be made to use Juniata Gap Road; Mr. Shunk asked for someone to take a look at this problem

Annette Houck of 927 23rd Avenue stated the home at 920 23rd Avenue wants to become student housing and the owner wants to move in with her child and rent to three college students; Mrs. Houck states that she has lived next to a student home before and it did not work out and there are a lot of retired people in the neighborhood that do not need the aggravation; Ms. Houck stated there is a master suite on the 3rd floor of this proposed student home with no exit

Planning Director Lee Slusser stated this is a student home by special exception and this home meets the requirements

MANAGER'S REPORT – the MIM was distributed previously and there were no further questions; City Manager Marla Marcinko stated there will be a six

month financial presentation at the next meeting and the Act 47 Coordinators will do a presentation on August 12th to provide review of the recovery plan; Marla stated she is currently reviewing the Act 47 initiatives and she will provide Council with a copy of the progress

RESOLUTIONS

a)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, June 10, 2015. (0065-15)

b)accepting the Second Extension for Supplemental Automated Red Light Enforcement Program Project Agreement (No. 098702) (MPMS No. 93535) with an extension date of June 30, 2016 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0066-15)

c)authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents associated with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Multimodal Transportation Grant for the 12th Street Pedestrian Bridge and for the City Clerk to attest to same. (0067-15)

d)appointing Jeffrey Frank of 2407 14th Avenue, Altoona, PA to the AMED Authority to fill the unexpired term of Patrick Condryn. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2017. (0068-15)

e)approving a Letter of Intent submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) – Governor's Center for Local Government Services to request technical assistance for Information Technology and further authorizing the City Clerk to certify the letter. (0069-15)

f)approving the Repository Bid submitted by John Tate of 284 Brushmeade Road, Hollidaysburg, PA, for property located at 1714-16 21st Avenue, Altoona, PA, (map no. 01.05-04.-014.00-000) (control no. 12-221640) in the amount of \$175.00 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0070-15)

g)approving the Repository Bid submitted by Christopher R. Jahnke of 1415 18th Avenue, Altoona, PA, for property located at 1411 18th Avenue, Altoona, PA, (map no. 01.03-05.-131.00-000) (control no. 012-208320) in the amount of \$500.00 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0071-15)

h)approving the Repository Bid submitted by Michael J. Colombo of 400 Pemberley Drive, Hollidaysburg PA, for property located at 2307 5th Avenue,

Altoona, PA, (map no. 01.06-14..-012.00-000) (control no. 11-101160) in the amount of \$200.00 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0072-15)

The resolutions were read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and the consent vote was taken on all items and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Cacciotti was absent

ORDINANCES - Introduction

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF AN ALLEY PARALLEL TO EMERSON AVENUE AND BYRON AVENUE, OFF OF AN ALLEY BETWEEN TENNYSON AVENUE AND PLANK ROAD, ALTOONA, CONTAINING SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY SQUARE FEET IN AREA, IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA; AND DIRECTING THAT THE SAME BE STRICKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL CITY PLAN.

The ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Councilman Cagle

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, CHAPTER 535 ENTITLED "PLANNING," PART 3 ENTITLED "ZONING," ARTICLE XI THEREOF ENTITLED "DESIGNATION OF ZONES" TO AMEND SECTION 535-47 ENTITLED "ZONING MAP" TO REZONE, FROM R-SH, SINGLE HOUSEHOLD RESIDENTIAL TO L-I, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL THE PROPERTY BOUNDED BY LOGAN BOULEVARD ON THE EAST, ARLAYRD STREET ON THE NORTH, CIRCLE AVENUE ON THE WEST, AND BOUNDED BY THE PROPERTIES OF EGER AND DOWLUT AND CIRCLE ALLEY ON THE SOUTH, THE SAME BEING LOCATED IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA, UPON REQUEST OF MOHAMMED AND FATHEMA DOWLUT AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A"; AND THE ORDINANCE WILL ALSO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This proposed ordinance was removed from the agenda

DISCUSSION ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Cagle invited the public to the Pittsburgh Passion football game to be held July 11th at 7pm at Mansion Park and sponsored by Central Blair Recreation Commission.

Mayor Pacifico announced that there was a vacancy on the Redevelopment Authority and the Mayor appointed Richard Fiore Jr. to fill the unexpired term of John Forney who moved out of the City

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 8:05 pm