

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 23, 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, September 24, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:23 PM in Council Chambers. The late start time was due to a Public Hearing that ran prior to the Council Meeting.

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

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

Absent: Councilman Cagle

PRESENTATIONS – Vice-Mayor and Brian Morden Foundation Board Member Bill Neugebauer presented a proclamation to Dawn Morden of the Brian Morden Foundation for National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and Gold Ribbon Day

An IRC Program Update was presented by John Frederick, Executive Director of the Intermunicipal Relations Committee; John provided Council with a written report which was reviewed at the meeting; the IRC has projected their capital replacement costs and although they have received considerable state funding through grants this has decreased 50% and is now bi-annually rather than annually; this will require the IRC to use their own money for purchases, thus there are long term financial concerns which they have to address by exploring alternative funding options

“Our Town Too” – Penn State Altoona Students Jonathan Willett and Austin Murray discussed their organization and the focus of cleaning up the City and creating a bridge between Penn State Altoona and the community; their organization has 33 members and an advisor and short and long term goals of cleaning up the City and creating community trust; their needs are to receive permission for projects, meet with Council and City Departments, receive project ideas and supplies

2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)- Finance Director Omar Strohm Director reviewed the MMO numbers line by line with Council which are based on actuarial reports performed on the pension plans in 2013; the 2016 Minimum Municipal Obligation or amount the City must provide for its 2016 budget is as follows: police-\$2,175,571 non-uniformed-\$492,824 and fire-\$3,084,533; Mr. Strohm stated presentation of this worksheet required no action by Council and the certification of the information to the Governing Body is a requirement by the end of September 2015; the contributions to the appropriate plans have to be made by December 31, 2016

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

REVENUES:

311-Current collection of Real Estate Tax exceeds last year by more than \$259,000.

315-Overall collections of E-I-T slightly less than 2014 collections. However, E-I-T generated through Local Tax Enabling Act (Act 511) ahead of 2014 by nearly \$13,000, while E-I-T authorized by Act 47 is almost \$49,000 less than last year through August.

318-Primary driver of increased revenue in this category is Per Capita Tax, which was increased this year and exceeds 2014 collections to date by approximately \$93,000.

321-Revenue collected for Business licenses is up more than \$21,000, Building Permit revenue is up more than \$13,000, and revenue receipts for Street Opening Permits is up more than \$17,000 over last year through August.

330-CDBG Reimbursements are ahead of August 2014 by more than 39,000; the City received \$34,000 in revenue to replace trees on Broad Avenue this year; and, reimbursement from the Altoona Area School District for school crossing guard wages exceeds last year's total, to date.

332-Revenue receipt differential in this category almost exclusively due to \$146,000 in revenue received through the AFG Regional Grant in 2014. Revenue was not received under this grant in 2015.

334-Revenue differences between 2015 and 2014 due to additional amount of \$107,000 received through the Act 47 Grant in 2015, and Blair County Task Force Reimbursement receipts ahead of last year by \$31,000.

341-Increased revenue in 2015 due to Street Cut fees ahead of 2014 by \$110,000 and Storm Water Maintenance Fees up by almost \$11,000 through August.

363-Almost all of the difference between 2015 and 2014 revenue collections relate to the new agreement on the ICE Building.

391-Second quarter transfer of funds from the City's Act 205 Fund were not completed until September of this year.

EXPENDITURES:

1510-Pension contribution for City's Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was approximately \$86,000 higher in 2015 than in the prior year. Payments for the City's property, general liability, and other related insurance coverages is almost \$23,000 higher than 2014 through August.

1550-Payment of Workers' Compensation claims trail 2014 by almost \$80,000 through August.

1920-Costs related to implementation of the City's IT Audit, the vast majority of which have been funded through the Act 47 Grant, account for a \$105,000 increase in expenditures within this department through August.

2300-Pension contribution to the City's Police Pension Plan was approximately \$195,000 higher in 2015 than in the prior year, while health insurance payments for active and retired police officers have exceeded 2014 totals by almost \$105,000 through August.

2400-Pension contribution to the City's Firefighter's Pension Plan was approximately \$118,000 higher in 2015 than in 2014.

3210-Year-to-date payment of overtime has exceeded 2014 totals through August by more than \$82,000, which is primarily due to catching up on the backlog of street cuts that had accumulated over the past few years. Material costs related to performing these street cuts were significantly higher than through August of the prior year as well.

4650-Annual payment to AMTRAN has not occurred yet this year, which is the expenditure difference between 2015 and 2014 through August.

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an Executive Session prior to this meeting for the purpose of personnel matters and the Mayor asked City Solicitor Larry Clapper to read the resolution into the record that would be added to this agenda; Larry Clapper read the following which became resolution c: approving the discharge of Daniel A. Noel from employment as a City of Altoona Police Officer, effective immediately, in accordance with the recommendation of the City Manager.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT - offered and none given

MANAGER'S REPORT – the MIM was distributed previously and there were no further questions

RESOLUTIONS

a)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, September 9, 2015. (0092-15)

b)approving a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to fund the planting of trees along Spring Run Creek and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0093-15)

c)approving the discharge of Daniel A. Noel from employment as a City of Altoona Police Officer, effective immediately, in accordance with the recommendation of the City Manager. (0094-15)

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 Cagle was absent

Prior to the reading of the ordinance listed below Councilman Bruce Kelley provided the City Clerk with a signed and dated abstention statement and stated he would not be participating in discussion or voting on the re-zoning ordinance and disclosed that he is employed as a pharmaceutical representative and had in the past and possibly may in the future, interact with Dr. Dowlut on behalf of his employment and, therefore, stated he had an actual or potential conflict of interest.

ORDINANCES – Adoption – Councilman Haire

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, CHAPTER 535 ENTITLED "PLANNING," PART 3 ENTITLED

"ZONING," TO: 1. AMEND SECTION 535-47 ENTITLED "ZONING MAP" TO REZONE, FROM R-SH, SINGLE HOUSEHOLD RESIDENTIAL TO M-RC RESIDENTIAL -COMMERCIAL MIXED USE THE PROPERTY BOUNDED BY LOGAN BOULEVARD ON THE EAST, ARLARYD STREET ON THE NORTH, CIRCLE AVENUE ON THE WEST, AND BOUNDED BY THE PROPERTY OF DOWLUT, CIRCLE ALLEY AND OTHER PROPERTY OF DOWLUT 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 TO SAID ORDINANCE AS EXHIBIT "A"; 2. AMEND SECTION 535-72 ENTITLED "M-RC RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL MIXED USE ZONE", SUBSECTION C ENTITLED "SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS" TO INCLUDE WOODEN CABINETRY MANUFACTURING AND CLEANING OR DETAILING OF PASSENGER VEHICLES AS SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS; (3) PROVIDE AN ENABLING ACT, REPEALER, SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (tabled)

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Introduction – Councilman Haire
Motion for Adoption – Councilman Haire
Second – Mayor Pacifico

Prior to a vote Council (minus Councilman Kelley who abstained and Councilman Cagle who was absent) held a lengthy discussion, and, based on their discussion and the answers to questions by Dr. Dowlut and comments and concerns of the neighbors during the Public Hearing held prior to this Council Meeting, Councilman Butterbaugh motioned to table the proposed ordinance; Council agreed they wanted a smaller area to be considered for the re-zoning and favored the Altoona Planning Commission's recommendation to eliminate cabinet making due to dust, noise, flammable materials and truck traffic; the City Clerk called the roll for a vote and the vote to table passed 5 to 0; Councilman Cagle was absent; Councilman Kelley abstained; Councilman Butterbaugh stated they are trying to satisfy the business but they must also protect the neighborhood

DISCUSSION ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Mayor Neugebauer thanked the Altoona Fire Department for Fire Ops 101 stating it was a great experience

Councilman Haire stated Fire Ops 101 was a great opportunity

Mayor Pacifico stated he lost 10 pounds during Fire Ops 101 and he credited Vice-Mayor Neugebauer for his hard work and ability to hang in there

Councilman Kelley stated Fire Ops 101 was very educational and it was impressive to see what our Firefighters do each day

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror* and Steve Willett, WRTA Radio

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 8:50 pm