

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TO INCLUDE 2016 BUDGET/TAX MILLAGE/EIT INTRODUCTION
TUESDAY – NOVEMBER 10, 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, November 12, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:05 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(via phone), Neugebauer and Mayor Pacifico

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

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – offered and none given

PRESENTATIONS – none

RESOLUTIONS

a)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, October 28, 2015. (0098-15)

b)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Budget Session held Wednesday, November 4, 2015. (0099-15)

c)amending the 2014 Community Development Block Grant Program transferring \$45,000.00 from the 2014 Planning and Community Development Administration project to the 2014 Single Family Rehabilitation program. (0100-15)

d)approving the Centax Settlement Agreements with the seven School Districts named as follows: Altoona Area School District, Hollidaysburg Area School District, Bellwood-Antis School District, Tyrone Area School District, Penn Cambria School District, Claysburg-Kimmel School District and Spring Cove Area School District and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Settlement Agreements. (0101-15)

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

ORDINANCES

Introduction

1) 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 2016. (2016 BUDGET) (FIRST READING)

The ordinance was read by the City Clerk who asked for a motion to introduce the Budget Ordinance; Councilman Butterbaugh motioned for the budget to pass the first reading; there was a second by Vice-Mayor Neugebauer; the City Clerk called the roll for a vote for the budget to pass the first reading and the vote passed 7 to 0 with all present; Councilman Kelley voted via phone

2) 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 BOTH THE HOME RULE CHARTER AND OPTIONAL PLANS LAW AND 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; PROVIDING FOR A TAX COLLECTOR AND DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR NO EXEMPTIONS; AND RELATED PROVISIONS. (EIT ORDINANCE)

The ordinance was read by the City Clerk and motion for introduction was made by Councilman Haire and seconded by Councilman Butterbaugh; a vote was taken by the City Clerk on the introduction of the EIT Ordinance and passed 7 to 0 with all present; Councilman Kelley voted via phone

Introduction

3) An Ordinance of the City of Altoona, in the County of Blair, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fixing the tax rate for the year 2016. (2016 TAX MILLAGE)

The ordinance was read by the City Clerk and motion for introduction was made by Mayor Pacifico and seconded by Councilman Cagle; a vote for the tax

millage ordinance to pass the first reading was taken by the City Clerk and passed 7 to 0 with all present; Councilman Kelley voted via phone Bond Counsel Jens Demgaard stated Council retained a financial advisor, Concord Public Finance, to seek competitive proposals from financial institutions for a loan to finance the City's 2016 and 2017 capital budget; historically this has been done through bond issues and the money is received upfront and invested; this current approach is a draw down and you do not request the money unless you need it and it will save money in that respect; there were proposals received from Mifflinburg Bank and Trust, BB&T and M&T for ten years and the low bid was received by Mifflinburg Bank at a fixed rate of 2.554%; this is locked in for the entire time; the note will close in about thirty days and at that time the draw feature will be created and there will be a requisitioning process to receive that money

Adoption

Councilman Kelley

4) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, IN BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND SECURING THE ISSUANCE OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTES, SERIES A OF 2015, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$4,855,000, PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, TO ACQUIRE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT, AND CONSTRUCT STREET AND OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, AND PAY RELATED EXPENSES; ACCEPTING A BANK LOAN PROPOSAL; SETTING FORTH THE TERMS AND SUBSTANTIAL FORM OF THE NOTES; PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT, AND TAXING POWER OF THE CITY TO SECURE THE NOTES; CREATING A SINKING FUND AND APPOINTING A SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY FOR THE NOTES; AND AUTHORIZING RELATED DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS.

This ordinance was read by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Introduction – Councilman Kelley

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Haire

Second – Councilman Butterbaugh

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present; Councilman Kelley voted by phone

DISCUSSION ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS—requested Rezone of 2200-2210 Pleasant Valley Boulevard – Planning Director Lee Slusser stated the City received a request to rezone from single household residential to highway business commercial; right now the properties are gravel lots and the gas station was demolished that currently sat there; Council is being asked if there is enough support on Council to support the rezoning of the properties; if so staff will prepare an ordinance for introduction, send the ordinance to the Planning Commissions for their recommendations and then there will be an advertised public hearing before City Council; there are homes immediately to the rear of this rezoning and commercial properties on both sides of the rezoning and across the street; there may be some neighborhood opposition; the City's Comprehensive Plan currently shows this area as being residential

Councilman Haire asked if the City could address any neighborhood concerns by buffering; Lee stated to an extent it could be addressed as the land development codes can provide for landscaping to serve as somewhat of a buffer; Councilman Haire asked if the other commercial properties could be included in the rezone; Lee stated they could be included if Council wishes; Councilman Butterbaugh stated the due diligence has been done on this parcel; it used to be a gas station but the tanks are out and the environmental clearances are done; Councilman Butterbaugh stated he does not see a problem with initiating the process; the City holds more control on the commercial properties on each side if they are left out of the rezone and they continue to operate with their variances

Realtor Rick Mascia who represents the client, Vince Adams, stated the owner has two car lots currently and plans to open a third lot on this space

There was a consensus of Council to prepare and introduce an ordinance for a future council meeting

City Solicitor Larry Clapper wanted to make sure it was understood that buffering requirements would come at a later time under land development and you can't condition it if you do the rezoning

City Manager Marla Marcinko stated that she thought it was important with these types of considerations that before Council receives an ordinance for introduction and they have not seen any information on what the proposed project is, Council could at least have a discussion on their agenda and staff could present the preliminary information so that Council is better positioned when it comes time to make decisions regarding introduction and adoption

Councilman Haire stated he would like to see a copy of the highway business area in the future

Public Works Director Nate Kissell gave an update on Kustaborder Field as follows: the sign crew changed the sign wording to allow use of the field during daylight hours and restricted motorized vehicles completely; the bleachers were taken out and the dugouts were boarded up until further discussion is held over the winter

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*, Steve Willet, WRTA and Lauren Handley, WTAJ TV-10

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:35 p.m.