

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 – 7:00 P.M.
CITY OF ALTOONA TRAINING FACILITY & COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA

The meeting was televised live on cable Public Access Channel 14 and re-broadcast Thursday, September 15, 2016.

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: Council members Butterbaugh, Cacciotti (via phone), Cagle, Haire, Jordan, Neugebauer and Mayor Pacifico

PRESENTATIONS

IRC Workshop– John Frederick, Executive Director invited elected and appointed officials to attend a workshop on October 18th at 5:30 p.m. at the US Hotel on Building More Partnerships for Recycling and Waste Management

2017 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 in 2015; the 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation or amount the City must provide for its 2017 budget is as follows: police-\$2,651,796, non-uniformed-\$582,815 and fire-\$2,568,624; Mr. Strohm stated the 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 2016; the contributions to the appropriate plans have to be made by December 31, 2017

Mayor Pacifico announced that an additional resolution would be added to the agenda; the City Clerk read the resolution into the record as follows: authorizing the submission of an application to the Municipal Assistance Program by the Blair County Conservation District for the purpose of obtaining funds for the shared services MS4 Coordinator, said project and consulting services in the maximum amount of \$26,800.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Diane Beiswinger, 2810 W. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA, discussed the problem of feral cats throughout her neighborhood and the destruction they are causing stating some of them are sick and the only solution is euthanasia

Scott Alter, 3164 Walnut Avenue, Altoona, PA stated he feeds the feral cats and even with a trap and release program they will still continue to multiply and he does not think that euthanasia is the answer as cats move around a lot and

travel far; Mr. Alter stated at times he sees the same cats each day and at times there are new cats that may only stay for a few days and at times there are old cats he hasn't seen for a while and they return

Vice-Mayor Haire believes the problem is finding a vet to do the job as well as determining which are strays and which are pets that belong to the neighbors

Councilman Cagle suggested the City may want to touch base with those pushing for an ordinance in the past; at the time the City did not have the resources to participate

Councilman Butterbaugh stated there is no easy solution to this situation

City Solicitor Larry Clapper stated all that can be done at this point is to explore the options

Michelle Noel, 1709 4th Avenue, Altoona, PA addressed the rat problem in her neighborhood stating she called Codes numerous times and Codes never returned her phone calls; the rats chewed holes in her plastic garbage cans and she had to replace them with new metal cans with lids; Ms. Noel stated she is unsure if her neighbors have a trash hauler for their rental property; Ms. Noel called Codes six months ago due to trash build up and the trash is building again; Ms. Noel stated she also reported an abandoned vehicle, which may be a Police matter, with registration and inspection violations, and it is still on 4th Avenue

Councilman Butterbaugh stated there are ordinances on the books that can help with this situation

Steve Elfelt, 111 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA, stated recycling is now a two year budgetary time bomb; Mr. Elfelt re-emphasized his concern stating if the recycling program is out of business then the City is out of compliance; many cities have the same problem and education has helped; Mr. Elfelt suggested Council begin to fix the problem with an education campaign

Ken Williamson, 2706 Broadway, Altoona, PA, stated he was parked with his tire slightly over the edge of the bike path on September 4th and he was ticketed and told to move or he would be towed; Mr. Williamson stated he has parked in the same position at other times and APD was aware of this and they did not ticket him; Mr. Williamson stated the bike path has been there for 3 years and he wants to know what can be done to have it eliminated

Councilman Cagle stated his recollection of the bike path is that it was a collaboration with the City, PennDOT and Penn State Altoona and it was installed for Penn State and a safe path from the Ivyside campus to the downtown campus; Councilman Cagle stated he lives in the Juniata section of

Altoona and that he would be happy to take a look at it; Councilman Neugebauer agreed to observe as well; Councilman Cagle will report findings to the Mayor and members of Council at a future meeting

ORDINANCES

Introduction

1)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA PROVIDING FOR THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF UNOPENED WATERLOO ROAD SITUATE BETWEEN WEST CHESTNUT AVENUE AND FOREST PARK ROAD AND BROAD AVENUE, ALTOONA, CONTAINING ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND ONE SQUARE FEET IN AREA, IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA; DIRECTING THAT THE SAME BE STRICKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL CITY PLAN AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Councilman Butterbaugh.

Adoption – The Governing Body

2)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA ADOPTING AN AMENDED FINANCIAL RECOVERY ACT RECOVERY PLAN (HEREINAFTER "PLAN") PREPARED BY THE CITY'S ACT 47 COORDINATOR; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDED PLAN AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO. 5680)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer.

Introduction – The Governing Body

Motion for Adoption – Mayor Pacifico

Second – The Governing Body

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0.

Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

3)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AUTHORIZING AND SECURING THE ISSUANCE OF A SERIES OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF TEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$10,000,000), PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, TO CURRENTLY REFUND ALL OF THIS CITY'S OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTES, SERIES A OF 2003, AND A PORTION OF ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES OF 2009, AND PAY ISSUANCE COSTS; ACCEPTING A BID TO PURCHASE THE BONDS; PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT AND TAXING POWER OF THIS CITY TO SECURE THE BONDS;

APPOINTING A PAYING AGENT AND SINKING FUND DEPOSITARY; AND APPROVING RELATED ACTIONS AND DOCUMENTS. (ORD. NO. 5681)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer.

Introduction – Councilman Butterbaugh

Motion for Adoption – Mayor Pacifico

Second – Councilman Neugebauer

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0.

City Manager Marla Marcinko introduced Financial Advisor, Chris Gibbons of Concord Public Finance and Attorney and Bond Counsel Jens Demgaard of Rhoads & Sinon, LLP.

Chris Gibbons stated the competitive sale of the 2003 A Notes and a portion of the 2009 Bonds resulted in nine bids received as of this date between 11:00 and 11:15 a.m. from three underwriters; the best was from Janney Montgomery Scott at a rate of 2.4%; this is a refinance just like a home mortgage where high interest debt is replaced with lower interest debt; the City will realize a net present value of \$1,624,000; this savings will be structured in a way that the first two fiscal years, 2017 and 2018, the City will realize \$300,000 in interest savings; in the next seven years the City will realize \$165,000; Chris commended the City on the upgrade of the bond rating received which was a major step; Standard and Poor's upgraded the City from an A- to A; Standard and Poor's went out of their way during discussions to compliment the City on their follow through on the Act 47 Plan and the City's road to recovery; this was considered to be one of the reasons for the upgrade; Chris congratulated the City

Bond Counsel, Jens Demgaard stated the motion that was cited reflected the preliminary draft of the ordinance that was read at first reading and prior to receipt of the bids this morning; the ordinance in front of Council at this meeting, that was enacted, reflected the final bids and the final principal amount of the bond issue, \$9,955,000, which reflects final interest rates and the final way the bonds were purchased by the bond bidder; those financial interest rates are incorporated in the ordinance and are reflected in the final savings in this bond issue

RESOLUTIONS

a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, August 24, 2016. (0109-16)

b) awarding the Tree Revitalization Project to Henry Enterprises, Inc. of P.O. Box 156, Hollidaysburg, PA in the amount of \$10,058.16 payable from the

Shade Tree Commission line item and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0110-16)

c) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00 submitted by Jessica Reed of 115 E. Walnut Avenue, Altoona, PA for property located at 116 E. Walnut Avenue, Altoona, PA and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0111-16)

d) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$150.00 submitted by Jeffrey White of 215 N. 7th Avenue, Altoona, PA for property located at 217 N. 7th Avenue, Altoona, PA and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0112-16)

e) approving a Consulting Agreement between the City of Altoona and Nathaniel Taylor, an independent contractor, to provide Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access Services and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0113-16)

f) WHEREAS, the City of Altoona, along with other municipalities in Blair County, have cooperated in creating a newly formed Intermunicipal Stormwater Committee (ISC) which will coordinate a Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan (CBPRP) that will enable member municipalities to obtain joint credit for projects created, and to work together to implement public education and public involvement which are mandatory elements of each municipality's MS4 permit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Altoona, as a member of the ISC, will be contracting with the Blair County Conservation District to provide a shared services position as an MS4 Coordinator which will provide coordination of the MS4 Programs for the municipalities on the committee; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities have adopted ordinances approving an agreement which will put the ISC in effect on January 1, 2017. And, whereas it is anticipated that the ISC will sign an agreement with the Blair County Conservation District to provide a shared services MS4 Coordinator to oversee the committee; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development makes available grants-in-aid to projects such as this joint municipal cooperation agreement through the Municipal Assistance Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Altoona hereby authorizes submission of an application to the Municipal Assistance Program by the Blair County Conservation District for the purpose of obtaining funds to help pay for the shared services MS4 Coordinator which will work with the ISC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Altoona hereby commits municipal resources in the amount of \$26,800.00 match (its proportionate share under the agreement forming the ISC) for said project along with consulting services as determined by the ISC. The first priority of municipal match funds will be for the shared services MS4 Coordinator Position. (0114-16)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; a consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on all items and passed 7 to 0

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Councilman Cagle encouraged Council to attend the IRC workshop and for the City of Altoona to be the best represented municipality in the County

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:55 p.m.