

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY – MARCH 14, 2018 – 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, March 15, 2018.

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, Cagle, Kelley, Neugebauer and Mayor Pacifico  
Absent: Councilwoman Jordan

PRESENTATIONS – Sister Cities Chairperson Debra Flaig stated 27 students and 3 adults will be visiting from St. Polten April 6th through April 14<sup>th</sup> and there are planned activities throughout their visit; there is a need for gifts for the welcome packages; also they always accept donations which should go to the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation, earmarked for Sister Cities; Ms. Flaig stated they have enough host families for the students but they will take a few more to have on standby should there be any last minute changes

Public Works Annual Report for 2017 was presented by Department Director Nate Kissell

Mayor Pacifico stated that under Mayor and Council Discussion Items he is going to recommend the appointment of Cory Gehret to the Altoona Water Authority to fill the unexpired term of Bill Schirf

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – Steve Elfelt of 116 Spruce Avenue, Altoona stated he is with the Blair County Working Group for Fair Districts PA and the system for drawing the maps is broken; Mr. Elfelt stated Council will be asked in the future to pass a resolution of support and he will provide information for Council's review; there will be an informational meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Downtown Altoona; Council and the public may also visit [www.fairdistrictspa.com](http://www.fairdistrictspa.com)

#### RESOLUTIONS

a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, February 14, 2018. (0015-18)

b) approving the request of 1747 Beer & Wine, LLC to transfer Liquor License No.

R-20962 from Logan Township for use within the City of Altoona at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA. (0016-18)

c)authorizing participation in the Federal Special Bridge Funds Inventory and Inspection Program and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0017-18)

d)authorizing the submission of a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Department of Transportation, for the replacement of approximately 3,500 feet of curb and sidewalk, together with handicap ramps, along Beale Avenue (designated at State Route 36 North) from 24<sup>th</sup> Street to Margaret Avenue, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0018-18)

e)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$600.00 submitted by Hillsboro Inlet, LLC, 301 Thelma Drive #505, Casper, WY 82609, for property located at 2409-2411 Walton Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form.  
(TABLED)

f)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$130.00 submitted by Randolph Bryan of 4200 Cortland Avenue, Altoona, PA, 16601, for property located at 1107 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form.  
(0019-18)

g)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$1000.00 submitted by Vincent Good of 328 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, for property located at 321 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, contingent upon the Agreement of Sale being signed by the Blair County Commissioners and Vincent Good, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0020-18)

h)adopting the Comprehensive Blight Strategy Plan as presented by the Blight Task Force of the City of Altoona. (0021-18)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; Council tabled item e; a consent vote was taken on all items with the exception of item e and passed 5 to 0; Councilwoman Jordan was absent; Councilman Kelley was inadvertently disconnected from the conference call while the resolutions were being read into the record; the City Clerk was not aware of this until calling for the vote; reconnection to the meeting was not attempted until after the vote was taken

Councilman Butterbaugh stated when repository properties are sold to local people there is most likely a driver's license and a brief summary of what they intend to do with the property; nothing more is required for those bidding who

are from out of town; there should be somebody that can be contacted if the property becomes a dump or if there is an issue with the trees or if there is a public safety issue; can there be a resolution or ordinance that you have to provide contact information; Mayor Pacifico stated property managers must live within so many miles but that is for rental registration; City Solicitor Larry Clapper stated he understands the frustration with this; the County handles the repositories and it is by State law; in the past the City has requested the County obtain additional information but they have not done so because they want to follow State law and avoiding any lawsuit; the individuals purchasing the properties have to give an address as far as where the taxes should be sent and that is who the City should notify; Councilman Butterbaugh stated there is also a problem with how old the County data is and it is hard to find the property owner at times; City Manager Marla Marcinko stated when researching this LLC, there are five different names organized with the principal address being Casper, Wyoming and they are for whatever reason purchasing properties off of repositories across the Country; Councilman Cagle asked if the Attorney General of Wyoming can be contacted; City Manager Marcinko stated all five of the LLC's were incorporated in June of 2017; Council tabled the resolution until receiving further information; Councilman Butterbaugh stated he knows from working on the blighted property board for several years that you get into trouble with ghost companies and it isn't fair to the neighbors; Vice-Mayor Cacciotti and Councilman Cagle each stated it appears the City has done all that it can regarding this repository sale other than the Wyoming Attorney General findings; Council agreed to table this resolution again until they receive more information regarding the Wyoming Attorney General and this LLC

#### ORDINANCES – Adoption

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 700 ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC," BY AMENDING ARTICLE X THEREOF ENTITLED "TRAFFIC SCHEDULES" TO: PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET BETWEEN 13TH AVENUE AND WASHINGTON AVENUE FROM THE HOURS OF 10:00 P.M. AND 5:30 A.M.; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS, REPEAL OF ALL INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS, REAFFIRMATION OF CHAPTER 700 AS AMENDED AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
(ORD. NO. 5715)

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

Introduction – Mayor Pacifico

Motion for Adoption – Mayor Pacifico

Second – Vice-Mayor Cacciotti

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 0; Councilwoman Jordan was absent

## MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pacifico stated he would recommend the appointment of Cory Gehret to the Altoona Water Authority to fill the unexpired term of former Mayor William Schirf; Councilman Neugebauer motioned support for the Mayor's recommendation and Councilman Butterbaugh seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried; Councilwoman Jordan was absent

Councilman Butterbaugh asked if there were any decisions made regarding the Borough of Tyrone and their IRC participation stating he appreciated the newspaper article regarding Tyrone and the encouragement from the IRC as it is a State mandated program and it is very important that as many municipalities work together as possible; City Manager Marla Marcinko stated the only decision she was aware of was that Tyrone Council did not take action to issue notification to the IRC of their intentions to no longer be a member

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 8:14 p.m.