

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 14, 2019 – 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, August 15, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Present: Council members Butterbaugh, Cacciotti, Cagle, Jordan, Kelley, Neugebauer and Mayor Pacifico

Mayor Pacifico announced that an Executive Session was held regarding real estate and personnel.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – Derek Hoagland of 327 S. Logan Boulevard stated Altoona is involved in issues regarding immigration because the City has a contract with ICE for the use of the armory building on Chestnut Avenue.

Ken Matthews of 812 S. 8th Street stated that his street light is still not repaired.

Mary Ann Sinisi of 3921 Maple Avenue asked when the issue on 39th street is going to be addressed regarding the water issue in her neighborhood.

James Wutrich of 2924 4th Avenue presented a petition for 4-way stop signs at 30th Street and 4th Avenue and 30th Street and 5th Avenue and also requested Children at Play signs; Mr. Wutrich stated that Joe Landolfi of 2906 5th Avenue had a recent accident in the aforementioned area involving the front of his car

Shawn Kent of 2807 Ivyside Drive asked where the City stands with the loop hole with student housing; Mayor Pacifico stated there is an ordinance on tonight's agenda regarding the matter; City Solicitor Dan Stants stated this would not be retroactive on the house that was purchased by the dentist; that would be a pre-existing, non-conforming use if the use has already been established

Joe Price of 917 22nd Avenue stated that something needs to be done with the property at 919 22nd Avenue which has been vacant for 4-5 years; there is high grass and pigeons and their waste and construction debris; the owner lives out of town

Dan Casey of 417 N 12th Avenue stated he is taken back and confused as we have the best police department, fire department, public works department, council and department heads that an area could want

Carol Reifsteck Parsons of 408 Ruskin Drive thanked the City for the speed boxes and for the help by officers on Ruskin Drive and provided Council with a list of suggestions for stop signs at Ward Ave and 40th Street at Ruskin, Halleck Place and Ruskin, and Elm Spring Drive and Ruskin

Steve Weyandt of 708 Ruskin Drive stated part of his issue is quality of life and he already left one neighborhood after watching the neighborhood deteriorate and he doesn't want to have to do that again; suggestions offered: aggressive enforcement of speed limits, addition of anything to slow people down such as stop signs or speed bumps; there are kids riding bikes and skateboards and the high school track team runs on Ruskin Drive; once people are slowed down the speedway will end and they will get rid of some of the traffic as people realize it is not a speedway

Trevor Rabenstein of 891 Bear Crossing Drive, Williamsburg stated he provided his information to Council and came to the meeting to hear more about the plumbers and rules and regulations and requirements for a plumbing license; Mr. Rabenstein states he is in favor of Council making changes; Mr. Rabenstein is a Master Plumber with 20 years of experience and 15 years in his own business, but was denied a license in the City of Altoona; Mr. Rabenstein thinks the make-up of the board is something Council should consider; there should be some codes and commercial should be more regulated but it would be nice to see the market in Altoona become more competitive

PRESENTATIONS - Quarterly Financial Report – Omar Strohm, Finance Director

RESOLUTIONS

a)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, July 10, 2019. (0077-19)

b)awarding the 2019 CDBG 7th & 8th Street Sidewalk Repairs Project to Antares Site Work, LLC of P.O. Box 356, Alexandria, PA 16611, in the amount of \$15,444.00 payable from CDBG Funds and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0078-19)

c)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$450.00 submitted by Blue Ocean Partners, LLC of 412 N. Main Street Suite 100, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834 for property located at 1108 17th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0079-19)

d)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$450.00 submitted by Blue Ocean Partners, LLC of 412 N. Main Street Suite 100, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834 for property located at 1110 17th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0080-19)

e)authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds with Blair County and for the City Clerk to attest to same and further authorizing the Mayor and City Solicitor to execute the necessary certifications required to submit the application. (0081-19)

f)authorizing the City Manager to direct the DPW Director and City Engineer to prepare final plans, specifications and project estimates for the sanitary sewer extension to serve the 39th Street area and further authorizing the City Manager and City Solicitor to take all steps necessary to provide for a special assessment of project costs to the property owners of the benefited parcels. (0082-19)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; Councilman Butterbaugh asked to have items c and d pulled for separate votes; the consent vote was taken on all items excluding items c and d and passed 7 to 0 with all present; the City Clerk read item c for a separate vote and it did not pass by a vote of 0-7; the City Clerk read item d for a separate vote and it did not pass by a vote of 0-7

ORDINANCES

Introduction

1)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 800 ENTITLED "ZONING" TO: AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "STUDENT HOME" AT 800-6; REMOVE SECTION 800-42 ENTITLED "WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACE IT WITH A NEW SECTION 800-42 ENTITLED "WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES" AS SHOWN BELOW; PROVIDE FOR A PURPOSE, REAFFIRMATION AND RESTATEMENT OF CHAPTER 800 AS AMENDED; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDE A REPEALER OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Mayor Pacifico.

Introduction

2)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO REVISE CHAPTER 633 ENTITLED "STREET VACATION" TO VACATE A PORTION OF 26TH STREET BETWEEN 7TH AVENUE AND UNNAMED ALLEY, ALTOONA, CONTAINING SIX HUNDRED SQUARE FEET, IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA; REAFFIRM CHAPTER 633 AS AMENDED; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY AND REPEAL PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Introduction

3)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND AMONG THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ALTOONA, THE COUNTY OF BLAIR, THE CITY OF ALTOONA AND THE ALTOONA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT; A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; A REPEALER OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Mayor Pacifico.

Adoption - Mayor Pacifico

4)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 800 ENTITLED "ZONING" TO: ADD DEFINITIONS FOR "ROOMING HOUSES;" REMOVE DEFINITIONS FOR "STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS," "FINANCIAL SECURITY," "HOME-BASED BUSINESS," "MODIFICATIONS," "DIMENSIONAL VARIANCE," "HARDSHIP VARIANCE," "PLANNING VARIANCE," "USE VARIANCE," AND "VARIATION;" AMEND THE DEFINITIONS OF "FAMILY" AND "VARIANCE; DELETE SECTION 800-37 ENTITLED "LAND USES NOT CATEGORIZED IN ARTICLE V;" UPDATE SECTION 800-41 ENTITLED "HOME BASED BUSINESSES" TO MATCH THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE; AMEND SECTION 800-44 ENTITLED "FARMING" TO BRING THIS CHAPTER INTO CONFORMANCE WITH THE RIGHT TO FARM LAWS; REMOVE A PROVISION OF SECTION 800-47C THAT ENABLES WORK BETWEEN THE ZONING HEARING BOARD AND PLANNING COMMISSION; REMOVE SPECIAL EXCEPTION PROVISIONS FOR FENCES IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS; PERMIT ROOMING HOUSES OR BOARDING HOUSES AS SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS IN THE R-U URBAN RESIDENTIAL ZONE, M-RC RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL MIXED USE ZONE, AND C-NB NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS COMMERCIAL ZONE; PERMIT DORMITORIES AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION IN THE C-CB CENTRAL BUSINESS COMMERCIAL ZONE; PROVIDE FOR A PURPOSE, REAFFIRMATION AND RESTATEMENT OF CHAPTER 800 AS AMENDED; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDE A REPEALER OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO. 5478)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer.
Introduction – Mayor Pacifico

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

Second – Councilman Neugebauer

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present

Introduction

5)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF LOGAN FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTING A SEWER LINE TO SERVICE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP, CONTENTS OF THE AGREEMENT; A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; A REPEALER OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance was added to the agenda and read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer; the floor was opened for public comment and there was none given; the proposed ordinance was introduced by Mayor Pacifico.

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Cagle stated the Juniata Spray Park was victim of flooding recently and a lot of debris and mud caused issues; thank you to CBRC and AFD for their help flushing the system and testing for bacteria and getting the park re-opened so quickly

Councilman Butterbaugh stated the comments and attendance are great and this is one of the busiest times of the year for the city departments, especially DPW, as they plan for fall and finish summer projects; some of the items brought up at tonight's meeting will be addressed; thank you for your patience

Councilman Kelley asked that we keep the Philadelphia Police Officers, shot and wounded today, in our thoughts and prayers, and keep that in mind and the work that all of our first responders do, as they never know when they roll out what they are walking into

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 8:57 p.m.