

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY – MARCH 11, 2020 - 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 12, 2020.

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), Carper, Ickes, Kelley, and Mayor Pacifico

Absent: Councilwoman Jordan

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Kutz, Retired Electrician; suggested the apprentice time for electricians in the proposed ordinance be lengthened or not changed from the current; also believes the test should be part practical and part theory as it was years ago

Andy Mathers, Lakemont, Master Electrician; stated he agrees with the comments made by Bob Kutz and asked Council not to make the test easier or to change the license as it separates the men from the boys; Mr. Mathers also stated he and others are already seeing bad work done by homeowners

Joe Katowski, Master Electrician, 44 years; stated he has seen a lot of problems with homeowners doing work they should not be and there are also a lot of old homes in Altoona with old wiring; stated there should be better observance of the neighborhoods and what is taking place and gave an example of if there is a dumpster outside of a home they are most likely doing demo work on the inside; also would like the test and requirements to remain as is

Stu Sellers, Master Electrician; stated the City needs its own in-house inspector stating he has no problem with MDIA but they are hard to get in touch with and this is a problem when you are trying to get work completed; the electricians need to be able to get in touch with someone in a more timely manner

RESOLUTIONS

a)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Wednesday, February 12, 2020. (0016-20)

b)awarding the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Street Reconstruction Project to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. of P.O. Box 77,

3912 Brumbaugh Road, New Enterprise, PA 16664, in the amount of \$233,391.35, payable from CDBG Funds and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0017-20)

c)adopting and implementing the document developed for Blair County and constituent municipalities entitled Blair Resilience: Addressing Vulnerability and Exposure (BRAVE), as the hazard vulnerability assessment and mitigation plan for the City of Altoona. (0018-20)

d)awarding the West 14th Avenue Bridge over Spring Run Project to Clearwater Construction, Inc., 1040 Perry Highway, Mercer, PA 16137, in the amount of \$112,000.00, payable from Highway Aid Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same.(0019-20)

e)awarding the S. 15th Street Storm Water Improvements Project to McClellan Excavating of 116 Maple Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$87,451.70 payable from Highway Aid Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0020-20)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on all items and passed 6 to 0; Councilwoman Jordan was absent

ORDINANCES

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, CHAPTER 580, ENTITLED "SEWAGE FACILITIES PLANNING", ADDING ARTICLE II "SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS", ESTABLISHING 39TH STREET SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT, RENDERING THE SAME SUBJECT TO ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO SEWER CHARGES AND REGULATIONS DEALING WITH SEWAGE DISPOSAL AS SET FORTH IN THE WATER, SEWER AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL CHAPTER OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, AND CHARGING A PORTION OF CERTAIN COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION OF EXTENSIONS TO SEWER MAINS IN THE 39TH STREET SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT, CONSTITUTING PART OF THE SEWER SYSTEM CONSTRUCTED BY THE CITY AGAINST PROPERTIES BENEFITED AND APPROVED OR ACCOMMODATED THEREBY, BY EQUAL ASSESSMENT PER EQUIVALENT DWELLING UNIT, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING THE MANNER OF COLLECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR GRANTING THE PRIVILEGE TO PROPERTY OWNERS OF PAYING ASSESSMENTS IN INSTALLMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES AND REAFFIRMING CHAPTER 580 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 Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh.

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA INCURRING "LEASE RENTAL DEBT," AS DEFINED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,100,000, EVIDENCED BY ITS GUARANTY OF 100% OF THE PAYMENTS DUE UNDER A "DEBT OBLIGATION" OF THE ALTOONA WATER AUTHORITY ISSUED TO THE PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AUTHORITY (PENNVEST), IN CONNECTION WITH THE WATER SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE AUTHORITY, AND PAY RELATED EXPENSES; AUTHORIZING A GUARANTY AGREEMENT, BY AND AMONG THIS CITY, AS GUARANTOR, THE AUTHORITY, AND PENNVEST, AS LENDER, SECURING THE DEBT OBLIGATION; PLEDGING (1) CERTAIN WATER SYSTEM LEASE REVENUES OF THE CITY, AND (2) THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT, AND TAXING POWER OF THE CITY, IN SUPPORT OF ITS GUARANTY; APPOINTING A SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH GUARANTY; AND AUTHORIZING RELATED ACTIONS AND DOCUMENTS.

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

Adoption - Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR STREET ADDRESSING BY THE COUNTY OF BLAIR; AMENDING CHAPTER 633 OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "STREETS AND SIDEWALKS", ARTICLE VII ENTITLED "STREET NAMES" TO REPLACE SECTION 633-42 WITH AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT PROVIDING A PROCEDURE FOR NAMING OR RENAMING A STREET IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA; REPEAL OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO. 5758)

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

Introduction – Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh

Motion for Adoption – Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh

Second – Councilman Ickes

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

Adoption-Councilman Cacciotti

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AUTHORIZING AND SECURING THE ISSUANCE OF ONE OR MORE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, IN THE MAXIMUM

PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$7,585,000, PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, TO FINANCE VARIOUS CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS AND PURCHASES DURING THE CITY'S 2020 AND 2021 FISCAL YEARS, AND OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS, AND PAY ISSUANCE COSTS; ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF SUCH BONDS; SETTING FORTH TERMS AND SUBSTANTIAL FORM OF THE BONDS; PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT AND TAXING POWER OF THE CITY TO SECURE THE BONDS; APPOINTING A PAYING AGENT AND SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY; AND APPROVING RELATED DOCUMENTS AND ACTS. (ORD. NO. 5759)

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

Introduction – Councilman Cacciotti

Motion for Adoption – Mayor Pacifico

Second – Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh

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

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Ken Decker reported as follows:

Coronavirus – Penn State University will be transitioning to online classes; the City updated the Emergency Operations Plan and has specific protocols especially for the fire department because they handle medical calls; there is also a Continuity of Operations Plan and there was question about a work from home policy; no matter what happens the City will be on the job and will continue to serve the community; there will be a significant damage to the economy although local government tends to be a lagging indicator; the slow down ultimately affects the City because of the dependency on tax revenue; if this hangs on there will be an economic impact on the next few years and the 2021 and possibly 2022 budgets

2nd Lutheran Church on 7th Ave – moving ahead with demolition; also identifying other properties in the City; would like to have discussion at a future worksession on blight and particularly historically significant structures because some are at risk

RFP for pension services – on track to release the RFP for pension services; the news release went digital and there is interest throughout the country; the target release date is March 31 and an award in September

Margaret Ave property – presented an alternative use for the property which would be the hazmat facility which was initially planned to be adjacent to the Juniata fire station; this could work well and is centrally located; there is also more space than there would be at Juniata; this site would also be cleaned up, more appealing and meet the needs of fire service; there will be more information in the future and more formal approval may be needed

Councilman Kelley mentioned that a good starting point would be the red book that Lee Slusser should be able to provide that was published in 1990 and funded by the Dept. of Interior's American Heritage Project; it looked at four historic neighborhoods in Altoona and cataloged and documented the information on the structures; sadly in the last thirty years a lot of those structures are now gone

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Carper stated he wanted to address a few concerns that were raised at this meeting; regarding the exam – there is not a proposed change to the exam to make it easier or to remove the portion of the requirement that would require an examination; Councilman Carper stated he would like to see the City get to the point that if people are working for many years and can pass the test then let them take it; regarding in house inspections – some members of Council agree with moving toward in house inspection again

Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh thanked the electricians for coming out stating he agrees with the testing portion and would not have a problem with going back to having a hands on portion added to the test like it used to be; this will allow someone who has the experience to be able to take the test; Council wants to make it fair for everyone that is qualified

Councilman Ickes stated this is not for just anyone to be able to do work in the City as far as plumbing or wiring

Mayor Pacifico reminded residents that they will begin to receive census letters in the mail beginning Thursday, March 12th

Mayor Pacifico participated in a meeting at the White House while at the National League of Cities; the meeting was with VP Pence; there was an update on the coronavirus, there was a criminal justice reform discussion, the federal opportunity zones and economic development

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:56 p.m.