

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION MINUTES
MONDAY – APRIL 27, 2020 - 6:00 P.M.
REMOTELY ON WEBEX - ALTOONA, PA

Call to Order – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:00 p.m.; all members of the Council were present

All Public Comment – offered by Mayor Pacifico and none given

Discussion/Action Items

COVID-19 Discussion

Business Privilege Tax deadline extension – Council introduced the real estate tax extension and the flat rate occupation tax extension at the April 8th council meeting and agreed to introduce the 2020 mercantile license tax extension and the 2020 business privilege tax extension at this meeting. Both ordinances will be on the May 13th agenda for adoption

Byrne Grant (police) notice – APD will receive PPE for the City with this grant

Margaret Avenue building disposition – a discussion of the former recycling building as a hazmat storage, PPE storage and police storage of very old evidence; storage at other city facilities or even private facilities was discussed; Council agreed that that they would possibly be in favor of the use on a temporary basis; there is \$210,000 in the budget set aside for a hazmat building that would be used for this; CDBG money would also be used; repair would help curb appeal and solve a storage problem; staff agreed to provide Mayor and Council with a list of costs and plans in the form of an informational packet with a rough budget

Internal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications – staff identified projects to include the Transportation Center, ADA-compliant auto-door openers, Margaret Avenue HazMat proposal, and traffic control equipment; Community Development Director Lee Slusser stated the program changes for COVID money include spending money on social programs and cutting the number of days for public display; the regulations were to be available 1-2 weeks ago but there is nothing to date; the deadline is Friday, May 1st and then staff will need to review and make recommendations; the transportation center could become a testing facility/education center and possibly house the Emergency Operations Center; the AMTRAK and Greyhound stations could remain and be partitioned off; the doors would provide a no touch system for some city buildings that would become ADA compliant; traffic control equipment could

be used in various locations for announcements; Margaret Ave was discussed earlier; this will most likely be a June or July vote for Council

Farmers Market temporary location – due to the construction that is to take place in Heritage Plaza they would like to move to 14th street between 11th avenue and the alley; there is concern for the businesses in that area; if this happens in the fall it could affect Penn State Altoona students; the City Manager will do outreach and coordinate with council

Other

39th street project discussion

Council added the following ordinance to the agenda for introduction by the Governing Body:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 646 ENTITLED "TAXATION" BY AMENDING ARTICLE I THEREOF ENTITLED "MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX", TO ESTABLISH MAY 15TH AS THE DATE FOR FILING OF THE RETURNS REQUIRED BY SAID ARTICLE AND PERMIT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR FILING SUCH RETURNS REQUIRED THEREIN BY RESOLUTION AND ARTICLE V THEREOF ENTITLED, "BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX", TO PERMIT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR FILING A RETURN BY RESOLUTION; REPEAL OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Public comment was offered and there was none given.

Omar Strohm stated that he would notify the tax collector.

Media Questions – Bill Kibler of the *Altoona Mirror* attended the worksession remotely by phone and asked questions of council.

Adjournment by Mayor Pacifico at 7:06 p.m.