

MINUTES
ALTOONA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, February 2, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Gutshall, Chairperson
James Dixon
Randy Isenberg
Jennifer Mikolajczyk
Barbara Wiens-Tuers

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sam Frye
David Albright

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF PRESENT

Lee Slusser, Director Planning and Community Development
Nick Ardizzone, Property and Program Coordinator
Mary Johnson, CDBG Manager
Bette Fischer, Clerical Associate

GUESTS PRESENT

Bill Kibler – Altoona Mirror

The Altoona City Planning Commission held its monthly meeting on February 2, 2016 at 3:00 P.M. in the Public Meeting Room, City Hall 1301 12th Street, Altoona. Bob Gutshall, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. **Approval of meeting minutes of January 5, 2016.**
The meeting minutes of January 5, 2016 were approved as read by a motion made by Randy Isenberg and seconded by Jennifer Mikolajczyk. The motion carried unanimously.
2. **Public Comment Period**
None at this time

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

3. No Land Development report at this time.
4. **Staff Level Reviews** – Staff has worked on the following staff level subdivision/land development review since the January 5, 2016 regular meeting.
 1. ABCD Corp. – Subdivision – 3900 Industrial Park Drive - Recorded
 2. Blair County Emergency Services – Land Development – 614 4th Street – Under Review

3. Domino's Pizza – Land Development – 607-09 17th Street – Final Approval
4. Popeye's – Land Development 309-319 E. Plank Road –Under Review
5. Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown & St. Therese Parish – Subdivision – 2400 18 5th Street – Denied Waiting Resubmission
6. Union Avenue, LLC – Land Development – 1815 Union Avenue & 1738-42 Margaret Avenue – Non-Compliance Code of Ordinances

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

5. Spot Blight Declaration – The Planning Commission may consider declaring each of the following properties as blighted.

1. **118 E. Walnut Avenue**

Owner: Robert K. Adams
876 N 40th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-1542

Property was submitted to the Blighted Program January 20, 2016 for demolition. Property is vacant and in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. The structures' exterior siding is missing, holes in the roof, windows are broken or missing and the foundation is cracked. House is open to the elements and animals. Neighbors are worried that it will be set on fire. Owner has been non responsive to the demolition order sent by code enforcement. Taxes are owed for 2014, \$299.85. All utilities are off. The City will demolish the structure under the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. A motion was made to determine this property blighted by Barbara Wiens-Tuers and seconded by Jennifer Mikolajczyk. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **1447 Washington Avenue**

Owner: Thomas Lauver
2213 Beale Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601

Property was submitted to the Blighted Program January 20, 2016 for demolition. Property is vacant and in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. Property's exterior is full of rubbish and scrap materials, side of house leaning on neighbor's garage. Roof is full of holes, collapsing and unsafe. All windows and foundation are in poor condition. No delinquent taxes. All utilities are off. Owner is financially unable to demolish structure on his own. House is a hazard to the neighborhood. The City will demolish the structure under the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. A motion was made to determine this property blighted by Barbara Wiens-Tuers and seconded by Randy Isenberg. Motion passed unanimously.

3. 116 E 6th Avenue

Owner: Robin M. King
207 Hinds Street
Tonawonda, NY 14150

Property was submitted to the Blighted Program February 2, 2016 for demolition. Property is vacant and in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. Property has been fire damaged and poses a safety hazard to the neighborhood. Interior was fully engulfed by fire. Owner has been non responsive to the demolition order sent by code enforcement. All utilities are off. The City will demolish the structure under the 2009 International property Maintenance Code and place a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. A motion to determine this property blighted was made by James Dixon and seconded by Randy Isenberg. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

7. Planning Report

- a. Grantmanship activities (CDBG, HOME) - No Report
- b. Shade Tree Commission report – Finalized sprint 2016 project
- c. GAEDC report – Mr. Slusser reported that GAEDC needs a representative from the ACPC to sit on the board. The board meets the last Monday of every month. Barbara Wiens-Tuers volunteered to be the representative.
- d. Blair County Commission Report – No Report
- e. Preparing for the 100th birthday party – March 7, 2016 the Planning Commission will be 100 years old. – Media and Press coverage. Photos of the Planning Commission. Invite City Council to attend. Cupcakes will be provided and Mr. Slusser will present a history for the Altoona City Planning Commission. The business for the March 7, 2016 will include a review of the Comprehensive Plan.

8. Commissioner's Forum

9. Questions from the Media and Public

ADJOURN MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:30 P.M.

Signed: Samuel Frye, Secretary