

MINUTES

ALTOONA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

MONDAY, March 7, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Gutshall, Chairperson
James Dixon
Jennifer Mikolajczyk
Barbara Wiens-Tuers
Dave Albright

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sam Frye
Randy Isenberg

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF PRESENT

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

GUESTS PRESENT

Mayor Matt Pacifico – City of Altoona
Cassandra Schmidt – Logan Township
John McGinnis – State Representative
Bill Kibler – Altoona Mirror
Donna Royer – Guest
Councilwomen Christie Jordan – City of Altoona
David McFarland – Blair County Planning Commission
Lawrence Carter – Guest
Linda Rickens-Schellhammer – City Clerk City of Altoona
Marla Marchinko – City Manager City of Altoona

The Altoona City Planning Commission held its monthly meeting on March 7, 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.

Before the regular meeting began Mayor Pacifico, Representative McGinnis and Dave McFarland each made presentations to the Altoona City Planning Commission (ACPC). Mayor Pacifico acting for Congressman Shuster told the commission that he had entered the ACPC into the Congressional Record. Mayor Pacifico then presented a citation given to the ACPC from Senator Eichelberger and the Senate of Pennsylvania. Representative McGinnis presented a citation that he sponsored from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Representative McGinnis also commended the many volunteers of the Commission for their service over the years. David McFarland of the Blair County Planning Commission presented a plaque from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association, recognizing the ACPC “100 years of planning.”

Happy Birthday to the Altoona City Planning Commission! Lee Slusser reviewed the history of the Altoona City Planning Commission from 1914-1916 as recorded in the Altoona Tribune and the Altoona Mirror. Mr. Slusser cited Michael Farrow of the Blair County Historical Society for his help in gathering these news articles from 100 years ago.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. **Approval of meeting minutes of February 2, 2016.**
The meeting minutes February 2, 2016 were approved as read by a motion made by James Dixon and seconded by Barbara Wiens-Tuers. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Public Comment Period**
None at this time

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

3. **Staff Level Reviews** – Nick Ardizzone reviewed that staff has worked on the following staff level subdivision/land development reviews since the February 2, 2016 regular meeting.
 1. Blair County Emergency Services – Land Development – 614 4th Street – Under Review
 2. Domino’s Pizza – Land Development – 607-09 17th Street – Final Approval
 3. Popeye’s – Lane Development – 309-319 E. Plank Road – Conditional Approval
 4. Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown & St. Therese Parish – Subdivision – 2400 18 5th Street – Denied Waiting Resubmission
 5. Union Avenue, LLC – Land Development – 1815 Union Avenue & 1738-42 Margaret Avenue – Non-Compliance Code of Ordinances
 6. Servello Medical Center – Land Development – 304-16 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd. – Denied Incomplete Submission
 7. Kreuz Storage Building – Land Development – 1812-18 N 4th Avenue – Denied Incomplete Submission
 8. 610 7th Street, LLC – Subdivision – 610 7th Street AKA 621-23 7th Avenue – Under Review

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

4. Spot Blight Declaration – The Planning Commission may consider declaring the following property as blighted.

1. **1811 8th Avenue**

Owner: Terry Clair
8012 Westminster Abbey Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32835
% County Repository
423 Allegheny Street, Suite 143
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Property was submitted to the Blighted Program February 25, 2016 for demolition. Property is vacant and in substandard condition not suitable for rehabilitation. The structures' exterior along with the roof has holes. Windows are broken or missing and the foundation is cracked. Small shed in backyard is collapsing. After an on-site inspection, I was able to look in the windows and the house is cluttered with debris. Outstanding taxes of \$3,795 for 2012-2015. All utilities are off. Contact was made with the County regarding the demolition. The County is in agreement with paying for the hauling and dump fees for this property. 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 Jennifer Mikolajczyk and seconded by James Dixon. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Positively Altoona – Lee Slusser reviewed the implementation items from the comprehensive plan.
6. Planning Report
 - a. Grantmanship activities (CDBG, HOME) – Mary Johnson updated the Commission the 2016 CDBG and HOME applications.
 - b. Shade Tree Commission report - Lee Slusser updated the Planning Commission on the Emerald Ash Borer treatment project.
 - c. GAEDC report – Barbara Wiens-Tuers updated the Commission on GAEDC's last board meeting at the former Penn Furniture building, now Penn State Altoona's Penn Building.
 - d. Blair County Commission Report – No Report
7. Commissioner's Forum – Bob Gutshall updated the Commission on his bring appointed to the IDA Board of Directors.

8. Questions from the Media and Public - None

9. **ADJOURN MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:15 P.M.**

Signed: Robert Gutshall, Chairperson