

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – FEBRUARY 14, 2022 - 6:00 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, February 15, 2022.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers
SILENT MEDITATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Present: Council members Beatty, Butterbaugh, Carper, Ellis, Ickes, Kelley, and Mayor Pacifico

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an executive session before the meeting for personnel matters and real estate.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – Dan Casey of 417 N 12th Avenue commented on Atlantic Broadband’s terrible customer service and that it took 10 days for a response; also they dropped a channel completely and added an infomercial channel

Gary Dull of Faith Baptist Church requested the baseball field at Columbia Park be named after Dick Lockard due to his previous involvement with CBRC and baseball

Anna Patterson of 823 E. Crawford Avenue discussed the juveniles that are riding dirt bikes on E. Crawford Avenue to get into the woods; also, during the first, heavy, wet snow the snow was plowed mostly on Mrs. Patterson’s side of the street and there was no snow on the other side

David Patterson of 823 E. Crawford Avenue showed Council a cell phone photo of the accumulated snow on the side of the road stating he had to deal with it on his day off; Mr. Patterson also stated he called APD about 40 times regarding the dirt bikes and that there is going to be an accident

RESOLUTIONS

approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, January 10, 2022. (0027-22)

approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Altoona and AFSCME AFL-CIO, District Council #83, Local 2188 Union for the Meet & Discuss group consisting of first-line supervisors, covering the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0028-22)

approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Altoona and AFSCME AFL-CIO, District Council #83, Local 2188 Union for the School Crossing Guards, covering the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0029-22)

approving the ABCD Corporation's proposal for the City of Altoona American Rescue Plan Act Revolving Loan Fund Parameters and authorizing Mayor Matt Pacifico to serve as the City's representative on the Loan Review Committee. (0030-29)

authorizing the City of Altoona enter into the second addendum (final) to the Public/Private Developer's Agreement for The Mill and for the Mayor to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0031-22)

approving an Easement Agreement, attached hereto, between the City of Altoona and Penelec, on a tract of land in Antis Township for the Bellwood Dam, and further authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0032-22)

approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$350.00, submitted by William Straesser of 2814 Broad Avenue, Apt. 2, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 100-02 Caroline Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0033-22)

approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by William Straesser of 2814 Broad Avenue, Apt. 2, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 531 50th Street, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0034-22)

approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by William Straesser of 2814 Broad Avenue, Apt. 2, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 533 50th Street, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0035-22)

approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by William Straesser of 2814 Broad Avenue, Apt. 2, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 535-41 50th Street, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0036-22)

approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by Donald Focht of 510 N. 20th Street, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1318 N. 4th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0037-22)

approving a Leasehold Mortgage in the amount of \$100,000.00 with Altoona Area Baseball Association Inc. as Mortgagor, ARC Federal Credit Union as Lender and the City of Altoona as Landlord for financing of improvements, including turf fields at the Pleasant Valley Location, and further authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0038-22)

approving the Release and Settlement Agreement between the City of Altoona and McCrory's LLC for payment of \$112,000.00 as full and final settlement of all claims of any kind arising out of the Declaration of Taking filed by the City of Altoona in the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County, Pennsylvania at Docket No. 2021 GN 2132 with respect to lands located at 1306-10 Eleventh Avenue in the City of Altoona, PA. (0039-22)

appointing Mariska Eash of 2812 W. Albert Drive, Altoona, PA 16602, to the Zoning Hearing Board to fill the unexpired term of Richard Andrews. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2023. (0040-22)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record and a consent vote was taken and passed 7 to 0

Introduction

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 AN UNNAMED ALLEY LOCATED BETWEEN 27TH STREET AND 26TH STREET, ALTOONA, CONTAINING FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT 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 the Governing Body

Adoption - Councilman Butterbaugh

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO AMEND CHAPTER 405 ENTITLED "LEASE AND/OR CONVEYANCE OF CITY OWNED LANDS", TO: AUTHORIZE CONVEYANCE OF CITY OWNED LAND LOCATED AT 1306-10 11th AVENUE, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA, BLAIR COUNTY TAX MAP NO. 01.03-10..-058.00-000. TO THE ALTOONA REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR \$1.00; REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO. 5786)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Introduction – Councilman Butterbaugh

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

Second – Vice-Mayor Ickes

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

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm provided the following:

- Omar introduced the City's new HR Director, Liz Reindl
- The Redevelopment Authority is finalizing an RFP for the McCrory's Building
- The ARPA final rule was issued by the U.S. Treasury and there was a webinar that Omar participated in to review the specifics
- At the next worksession ARPA projects will be a discussion item as well as the business revitalization grant program
- Omar stated he is working toward a final personnel policy manual and he thanked the new HR Director for some of the content

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Kelley stated the idea of recognizing Dick Lockard is noble and suggested the school district and the City work together since they are both on the rec commission; Councilman Kelley stated there is an issue in the area Mrs. Patterson spoke of regarding dirt bikes as he has been there during cross country meets with his kids and dirt bikes do fly through the area and he has witnessed this on more than one occasion; Councilman Kelley suggested the rec commission discuss this issue with the school district

Councilman Butterbaugh stated he agrees the City and the AASD should collaborate via CBRC to honor Mr. Lockard

Vice-Mayor Ickes referred to a local newspaper article in the *Altoona Mirror* giving the go ahead for the expansion of the Grand Palazzo and recognized Jeff Long, who was in the audience at this meeting, for his commitment to the City of Altoona; regarding the article, Vice-Mayor Ickes asked about the recommendations and requirements in the code and if the Governing Body has the ability to review the requirements and make changes stating they appear to be some of the things that people say make it difficult to do business in the City; City Solicitor Tom Finn stated the items pertaining to the code are delegated to the Altoona City Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board; Councilman Butterbaugh stated the planning section in the code can be amended and re-written; Councilman Ickes asked to have this as a discussion item on a worksession agenda; Council decided to wait until a department director has been placed in Community Development

Councilman Ellis thanked staff and Omar for setting up orientations and thanked Pastor Dull for recognizing Dick Lockard

Councilman Beatty stated orientation was very thorough and thanked staff; also Altoona needs to improve on making the business climate easier for planning for developments in order to give Altoona a positive spin when it comes to people re-doing their homes and businesses and investing money; Councilman Beatty thinks it would be wise for Council to pursue this approach

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:52 p.m.