

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – APRIL 10, 2023 - 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 April 11, 2023.

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

PRESENTATIONS – AFD’s 2022 Annual Report was presented by Chief Adam Free

Mayor Pacifico announced that executive sessions were held City Council on March 10th for real estate, personnel and potential litigation, March 27th for real estate and potential litigation and April 4th for real estate and potential litigation

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT - Guwain Engle of 147 Raible Drive Duncansville, PA addressed the article in the *Altoona Mirror* that referenced the allocation of monies for the American Rescue Plan for roof repairs and violations. Mr. Engle likes the idea but asked Council to take into consideration the following 4 points before giving money away, as this money ultimately came from the taxpayers.

1. The person receiving the money must have insurance on the property before any work is done and must continue to have insurance on the property for five years after the work is complete. If a fire or catastrophe takes place the money spent from the taxpayers will be insured and the repairs will still take place;
2. Since most roofs these days have a minimum life span of 20 years, a lien should be placed on the property for a 20-year depreciation schedule. The lien will depreciate as time moves on but if someone decides to sell their property in a year or two and capitalizes on the profits from that roof, 90% of that money will come back to the City for use on someone else’s place. This will eliminate the property owner from getting a free roof and making a quick flip on the property, now that it is more marketable;
3. Since the thought of making repairs to keep the tax base present is out there, eliminate any free roofs or major renovations that are free with taxpayer dollars, that receive any discounts on property taxes or that are delinquent on the Altoona School District taxes, County taxes, City taxes and if they aren’t paying the current tax rate. An example of this, but not exclusively, is someone paying \$100 per year on the Homestead Act and their house is dilapidated and they don’t carry insurance. There would be no reason to spend \$10,000 on a roof if the City is only getting \$100 tax benefit from real estate tax;
4. Extend this option to rental property owners who are willing and

committed to rent property to lower income tenants and are willing to continue to rent to these tenants who meet the lower income guidelines, including veterans. As a rental property owner, there are no discounts received on property taxes and they have to carry insurance at all times on all properties and the properties must be maintained at a much higher standard than that of a regular homeowner. This would be a great tool to have access to when a commitment is made by a landlord to help lower income occupants with housing needs.

Mike Leonard of 2019 16th Avenue would like to schedule a birthday party for Prospect Pool and asked Council when that would be available to reserve; Councilman Ellis stated it should be available and online in a week; stated there are no traffic signs/devices or stop or traffic control from 12th Street and the underpass at the 7th Street Bridge, which is a problem for Altoona Pipe & Steel who are using cones and 4 ways when they can; there equipment is large and there are motor vehicles in the area and there are safety issues

Jordan Wild of 1530 Lakeside Drive stated he is President for a local non-profit called the Wild Ones, Native Plants and Natural Landscapes and owner of Ecotopian Earth Care which serve Blair County with permaculture design, community food forest gardens, rain gardens, lawn to meadow conversion through DCNR, invasive plant removal, native plant habitat restoration, riparian buffer establishment, and work on the greenway trail system; Mr. Wild provided the definition of greenways per DCNR and sees a vision and potential for bike paths lined with native plants and trees, a perennial community garden space, a bridge for bikers and animals to cross safely; this appears to be somewhat of a priority to make the City more walkable and more traversable by bike; greenway trails can benefit our community with an alternative way of commuting through the City, by electric pedal assist bicycles and getting local artists involved to highlight the greenways with murals, at the area from 10th Avenue Expressway to Union Avenue, promoting a healthy lifestyle both physically and mentally; this could give some a reason to stay or students a reason to join in; Mr. Wild stated he hopes this open dialogue with council members on how the all can work together and utilize the greenway trail system for the betterment of our community

Tanisha Smith of 1712 21st Avenue is opening a convenience store in downtown Altoona for one year; stated shew as approved by the Altoona Fire Department and the PA Department of Agriculture; stated she was told the last step was to get her equipment hooked up; stated she completed that and two hours into that the City shut the plumber down stating there were no permits; stated she has been in City Hall numerous times and that she changed her address and they saw her business plan and the City should have realized that and told her they were needed; stated

she gets something done and then they ask for something else; stated she has been paying rent for one year and paid for a remodel; asked for advice

Devin Saylor of 424 Crawford Avenue stated there will be a May 6th clean up in downtown Altoona and people should meet at Heritage Plaza; they will work along 6th avenue, near UPMC, near the cemetery on Crawford Avenue, Penn State Altoona and Juniata Gap Road; stated he has equipment from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful; stated he will provided drop off points to Nate Kissell

Devin Pierce of 1304 3rd Avenue stated he is the Acting Secretary of the Blair County NAACP and he supports the consciousness of what is going on in our City and he supports Devin Saylor and Jordan Wild and their efforts stating there is a lot of infrastructure money coming to the City and there are a lot of resources involving the natural environment that can be accessed for education and also to build the economy and beautify the City and connect people; Mr. Pierce asked Council to take the time to view the greenway maps and the abutting areas connected through the forest system; the City owns Garfield and the back side and could start out without having to purchase anything; Mr. Pierce stated the park systems are dilapidated, there is trash, vagrant materials, etc; on Gospel Hill the sidewalk is in bad shape and the steps are crumbling and the braces are missing on the lookout; Mr. Mr. Pierce asked Council to re-invest in the parks and asked what the community can do to help; Council recommended that he call and speak to the City departments which are listed on the City's website

RESOLUTIONS

a)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, March 13, 2023. (0044-23)

b)awarding the Comprehensive Plan RFP to czbLLC of 48 Front Street, Suite 201, Bath, ME 04530, in the amount of \$200,000.00, payable from Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG), and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0045-23)

c)authorizing an agreement between the City of Altoona Fire Department and Clinton County Children & Youth Service for Juvenile Firesetter Program Training/Interviewing and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0046-23)

d)approving the City of Altoona's participation in the National Opioid Settlement and further authorizing the City Manager, Omar Strohm, to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same, as needed. (0047-23)

e)awarding the 2023 Roof Projects for Booker T. Washington, 6th Ward & East Juniata Community Centers to J. M. Young & Sons, Inc., of P.O. Box 808, 10 Trella Street, Belleville, PA 17004, in the amount of \$237,570.00, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0048-23)

f)awarding the 2023 Capital Street Reconstruction Project to Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc., of 1952 Waddle Road, Suite 203, State College, PA 16803, in the amount of \$1,484,945.00, payable from ARPA, Capital and Highway Aid Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0049-23)

g)awarding the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Street Reconstruction Project to Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co., Inc., of P.O. Box 488, 157 Grannas Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, in the amount of \$202,620.56, payable from Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG)(\$200,000) and Capital Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0050-23)

h)awarding Street Signs and Materials for 2023-2024 to Garden State Highway Products, Inc. of 301 Riverside Drive, Millville, NJ 08332, for Item No. 1,3,4,5,6, & 8, in the amount of \$54,103.62, payable from the Highway Aid Fund Account, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0051-23)

i)awarding Street Signs and Materials for 2023-2024 to U.S. Municipal of 10583 Raystown Road, Huntingdon, PA 16652, for Item No. 2, & 7, in the amount of \$8588.75, payable from the Highway Aid Fund Account, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0052-23)

j)awarding the Road Materials Bid for 2023-2024 – Package A, & B to Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co., P.O. Box 488, 157 Grannas Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, in the amount of \$168,368.50, payable from the General Fund and Highway Aid, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk to attest to same. (0053-23)

k)awarding the Road Materials Bid for 2023-2024 – Package C & D to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc., P.O. Box 77, New Enterprise, PA 16664, in the amount of \$31,809.00, payable from the General Fund and Highway Aid, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk to attest to same. (0054-23)

l)authorizing a Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement (numbered 097362) with PennDOT for the SR 1009-SR 1021 to PA 36 Project and further authorizing the

City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0055-23)

m)approving Election Polling Place Agreements between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Board of Elections, and the City of Altoona, for polling places located at the City of Altoona Training Facility & Council Chambers and Fire Stations No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, for the 2023 primary and general elections, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0056-23)

n)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by Pink Pony Properties c/o Eric J Hill Jr. of 1506 26th Street, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1506-08 13th Street, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0057-23)

o)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$251.00, submitted by Cheap Lands, Inc. c/o Eric Herm of P.O. Box 1141, Homosassa Springs, Florida 34447, for property located at 1926 12th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0058-23)

p)approving THREE (3) Repository Bids submitted by Jasmine Rolling of Lunar Eclipse, LLC, of P.O. Box 34238 Philadelphia, PA 19101 as follows: in the amount of \$100.00 for property located at 1926 12th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$100.00 for property located at 1900-02 10th Street, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$100.00 for property located at 2409-11 Oak Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Forms. (TABLED) (Motion to table by CM Butterbaugh and Ellis and second by CM Kelley; vote called by the City Clerk and passed 7 to 0 with all present)

q)approving FOUR (4) Repository Bids submitted by Wilson Ribeiro of 409 Portofino Drive Apt. 1, San Carlos, CA 94070 as follows: in the amount of \$255.00, for property located at 1817-19 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, in the amount of \$260.00 for property located at 1124-26 N 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$280.00 for property located at 208-10 E. Cherry Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$300.00 for property located at 2012-15 13th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Forms. (0059-23)

r)approving THREE (3) Repository Bids submitted by Jose Caballero of San Marco #19, Palmas DelMar, Humacao, Puerto Rico, 00791 as follows: in the amount of \$500.00 for property located at 1813-15 Crawford Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, in the amount of \$500.00 for property located at 327-29 Wopsononock Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$500.00 for property located at 331-33 Wopsononock Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Forms. (0060-23)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; at the request of Councilman Butterbaugh, item o was pulled for a separate vote and did not pass 0-7 with all present; at the request of Councilman Butterbaugh and Councilman Ellis there was a motion to table item p; Councilman Kelley seconded the motion and the vote was called by the City Clerk and passed 7 to 0 with all present; at the request of Councilman Butterbaugh, items q and r were pulled for a separate vote which did not pass by a vote of 0 to 7 with all present; the consent vote was taken on all remaining items and passed 7 to 0 with all present

ORDINANCES

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, CHAPTER 800 ENTITLED "ZONING," TO: AMEND SECTION 800-27 ENTITLED "ZONING MAP" TO REZONE, FROM R-SH, SINGLE HOUSEHOLD-RESIDENTIAL TO M-RC MIXED USE RESIDENTIAL- COMMERCIAL, TEN PARCELS OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF SOUTH KETTLE STREET FROM EAST GRANT AVENUE TO EAST BALTZELL AVENUE, ALL AS SHOWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED TO SAID ORDINANCE AS EXHIBIT "A"; PROVIDE ENABLING AND SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS, REPEALER AND ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE ACCEPTANCE OF A CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY FROM THE BLAIR COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY TO THE INTERMUNICIPAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, A COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS OF WHICH THE CITY OF ALTOONA IS A MEMBER AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR, CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH ACCEPTANCE OF THIS CONVEYANCE. (ORD. NO. 5803)

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

Introduction – Councilman Butterbaugh

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Ellis

Second – Councilman Beatty

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

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm provided the following:

- Chief Merrill provided an active shooter update
- City staff is currently reviewing 95 ARPA grant applications

-the City is working on Prospect Pool and the website will roll out soon; the pool will open on Saturday, May 27th with an event

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Carper thanked all for the active shooter update and for the first responders who responded last week and AFD for their presentations in the schools; Councilman Carper stated it is Autism Awareness Month

Councilman Butterbaugh thanked Jordan Wild for his public comment stating Colorado is designed for biking and walking and it would be good for Allegheny, Antis and the City

Vice-Mayor Ickes thanked APD and AFD for their work a few weeks ago; stated Mr. Engle's ideas are good ideas

Councilman Beatty stated the committee has done a lot of work regarding Prospect Pool and they are making progress and looking forward to opening day and a good

Mayor Pacifico stated Saturday, May 6th is a clean-up day at the pool and an opportunity for people to get involved

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror* and Jordan Mansberger of WTAJ TV-10

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:11 p.m.