

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY – OCTOBER 12, 2021 - 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF ALTOONA TRAINING FACILITY & COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:00 PM

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Present: Council members Butterbaugh, Cacciotti, Carper, Ickes, Kelley and Mayor Pacifico

Absent: Councilwoman Jordan

PRESENTATIONS

The Department of Public Works Annual Report was presented by Director Nate Kissell and was posted on the City's website following this meeting.

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel and real estate following the September 27, 2021 worksession.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – Mayor Pacifico called for public comment. The call-in number is included on the agenda and on the City's website calendar approximately one week prior to the meeting. The number is also displayed on Public Access Channel 14 during the meeting for television viewers.

Dave Woleslagle of 1422 N. 8th Avenue stated the following items need to be addressed: there is a drainage ditch at N 4th Ave and N 15th St intersection and after the paving it left a 12 to 8 inch by 2 feet wide drainage ditch on both sides, which is a snow emergency route and an area where school students are picked up by busses, which needs to be addressed before winter; there are numerous street lights out throughout Juniata; the flagpole at the East Juniata Center needs painted, a flag and a light and the parking lot needs to be resurfaced – this is a polling location and Mr. Woleslagle is also a veteran and would appreciate it if a flag was added; the crosswalks and parking areas in the Juniata business district need to be repainted and appear not to have been touched since the new sidewalks and lighting were installed; Mr. Woleslagle stated downtown Altoona and near City Hall have been done and Juniata is a busy area with pedestrians and it needs to be addressed; Mr. Woleslagle also thanked Public Works for all that they do

Mayor Pacifico stated that item G would be tabled at this time until he can talk to some of the small cell companies; Council agreed

RESOLUTIONS

a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, September 13, 2021. (0104-21)

- b) amending the 2020 Street Reconstruction Project in regards to the proposed locations submitted with the application for Community Development Block Grant funding to the actual locations posted for public review. (0105-21)
- c) amending the 2020 HOME Program to adjust estimated program income to reflect actual program income received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. (0106-21)
- d) amending the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program to adjust estimated program income from the beginning of the program to reflect actual program income received between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. (0107-21)
- e) approving an Easement Agreement between the City of Altoona and Powder Mill Corporation for construction, installation, repair and maintenance of an underground electrical line and above ground meters on a tract of land at 1701 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA and further authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0108-21)
- f) approving the submission of a grant application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant, in the amount of \$1,856,250.00 for repairs and upgrades to the Altoona Transportation Center Improvement Project, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents associated with the grant application and for the City Clerk to attest to same as needed. (0109-21)
- g) amending and restating the Fee Resolution 0111-19 to include updating language and fees to reflect the Small Cell Ordinance No. 5781 as follows: The addition of Small Cell Wireless Facility Fees and the deletion of the current language for Wireless Communications Facility. (TABLED)
- h) approving the sale or trade-in of the attached list of capital assets by internet auction as follows in accordance with Chapter 295 of the City Codified Ordinances – Disposition of Surplus Real and Personal Property (estimated revenue \$24,000.00): (0110-21)

Fall 2021 Auction List

1. 1992 Wood Chipper (HWY) - \$2,000-\$4,000
2. 1992 Miller Pull Behind Welder (HWY)- VIN 178FE2425NA007055- \$2,000
3. 2009 Ford Crown Vic (APD)- VIN 2FAHP71V19X100811- \$500-\$1,000
4. 1987 Sign Shop Trailer (HWY)- VIN SW08982PA- \$250-\$500
5. 2005 Ford Taurus (APD)- VIN 1FAFP53UOSA229576- \$500
6. 2000 GMC Van (APD)- VIN 1GTFG25R2Y1256834- \$4i800
7. 25KW Generator (HWY)-\$2,000

8. 18" Mill Head Attachment for Older Skid Loader (HWY) - \$2,500
9. 16,0001b Truck Jacks (4) (HWY)- \$5,000
10. Brake Lathe and Parts (HWY)- \$200
11. 1,5001b and 8,0001b Engine Hoists (HWY)- \$250 Each
12. Job Site Tool Box (HWY)- \$100
13. Forks for Case 521Style Loader (HWY)- \$500
14. Misc. Plows for Parts Only (HWY)- \$600
15. Mower Parts (APD)- \$25
16. White Ford 5.5' Truck Cap (HWY)- \$100-\$200
17. Black Ford 8' Truck Cap (HWY)- \$50-\$100
18. 4-Drums of 10W30 Gas Engine Oil (>5 years old) (HWY)
19. 1-Drum SAE30 Oil (>5 Years old) (HWY)
20. 50 Ton Porta Power for Removing Walking Beam Bushings (HWY)
21. Misc. Skids of Paver Bricks (HWY)
22. 4- John Deere Push Mowers-Parts Only (HWY)
23. Jenny Gas Powered Air Compressor (HWY)
24. 70-Gallon Single Stage Air Compressor-Parts only (HWY)

i) awarding the City Hall 4th Floor Suite Remodel Project to Clark Contractors, Inc., of 145 Clark Building Road, Bedford, PA 15522, in the amount of \$37,972.84, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0111-21)

j) approving an initial earmark of \$4,000,000 of the City's ARPA funds for the Department of Public Works storm water management projects including those attached hereto. (0112-21)

Stormwater Projects Funding Request #1 10/7/21

1. Slip lining of existing pipes
2. Maintenance of East End Interceptor (shotcrete)
3. Walnut Ave/32nd St Drainage Improvements
4. Intake Improvement Design and Construct
5. Calvert Hills Study and Subsequent Design/Immediate needs construct
6. Broad Ave 31st to 24th St Design for new drainage pipe
7. N Branch Ave Design for drainage pipe 22nd St to 24th St
8. N 7th Ave N 10th to N 12th Drainage design/construct
9. Mansion Blvd Stormwater Improvement (partial)
10. Asset Investigation Services-Citywide
11. Pleasant Valley Modeling/Subsequent Design

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on all items excluding item G, which was tabled, and passed 6 to 0; Councilwoman Jordan was absent

Jens Damgaard, Bond Counsel reviewed the three ordinances for introduction/first reading with City Council as follows:

The first ordinance deals with a refinancing of existing debt of the City. Bond issues typically provide that the bond issue cannot be prepaid for a number of years, which is usually a minimum of five years. The City's 2016 bonds can be prepaid as of March 1, 2022. As long as the new bonds are issued within 90 days of that date then there is compliance with federal tax laws. Concord Public Finance is looking at some of the bank loans that have been used to finance prior capital budgets as an opportunity to save money as well as to avoid a variable rate. The ordinance would permit the issuance of bonds, which could either be a bank loan and the bank would receive a bond or publicly offered bonds. The City has done both, depending on circumstances and size. This information will be completed in the ordinance for the final reading in November. Chris Gibbons of Concord will attend the November meeting to provide a report on their recommendation.

The second ordinance is for the Altoona Water Authority who is seeking funding with the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PennVest). They are getting one percent loans for 20 years at a fixed rate. AWA applied for both at the same time for improvements to the Bellwood Dam and the Water Treatment Facility in that area. The application was successful in both cases. There were two different loans awarded. Bids were opened and they came in higher than the estimates and PennVest is expected to approve them with additional funding for those projects. AWA has firm bids for both projects. The Dam is estimated at \$24,500,000 and the Treatment Facility is \$11,125,000. Tonight the City will approve a guaranty for both of the loans. The reason is that the City owns the system. This is similar to the last three ordinances that the City did.

Councilman Ickes asked about the first ordinance and wanted to confirm that the initial reading is allowing Concord to go to the banks and make that final determination, whether it be bonds or bank loans, prior to adoption of the ordinance in November.

Jens stated Omar had discussion with Concord and that they are ongoing. Omar stated that rather than going the route of just doing bonds or just a bank loan, they typically look at the entire market to see what the best interest rates through whatever source available. They also have to get their proposals and determine if they meet the standards that the City needs for the funding. Jens stated this does not stretch out any loans and they are paid off within the same time frame as they currently exist.

ORDINANCES – Introduction

1)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AUTHORIZING AND SECURING THE ISSUANCE OF ONE OR MORE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$28,000,000, PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL

GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, TO REFUND ALL OR PORTIONS OF THIS CITY'S GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES OF 2016, AND ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTES, SERIES OF 2015, 2019 AND 2020, AND PAY ISSUANCE COSTS; ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE THE BONDS; PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT AND TAXING POWER OF THIS CITY TO SECURE THE BONDS; APPOINTING A PAYING AGENT AND SINKING FUND DEPOSITARY; AND APPROVING RELATED ACTIONS AND DOCUMENTS.

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

2)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA INCURRING "LEASE RENTAL DEBT," AS DEFINED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$24,500,000, EVIDENCED BY ITS GUARANTY OF 100% OF THE PAYMENTS DUE UNDER A "DEBT OBLIGATION" OF THE ALTOONA WATER AUTHORITY ISSUED TO THE PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AUTHORITY (PENNVEST), IN CONNECTION WITH THE WATER SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE AUTHORITY, AND PAY RELATED EXPENSES; AUTHORIZING A GUARANTY AGREEMENT, BY AND AMONG THIS CITY, AS GUARANTOR, THE AUTHORITY, AND PENNVEST, AS LENDER, SECURING THE DEBT OBLIGATION; PLEDGING (1) CERTAIN WATER SYSTEM LEASE REVENUES OF THIS CITY, AND (2) THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT, AND TAXING POWER OF THIS CITY, IN SUPPORT OF ITS GUARANTY; APPOINTING A SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH GUARANTY; AND AUTHORIZING RELATED ACTIONS AND DOCUMENTS.

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

3)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA INCURRING "LEASE RENTAL DEBT," AS DEFINED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$11,125,000, EVIDENCED BY ITS GUARANTY OF 100% OF THE PAYMENTS DUE UNDER A "DEBT OBLIGATION" OF THE ALTOONA WATER AUTHORITY ISSUED TO THE PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AUTHORITY (PENNVEST), IN CONNECTION WITH THE WATER SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE AUTHORITY, AND PAY RELATED EXPENSES; AUTHORIZING A GUARANTY AGREEMENT, BY AND AMONG THIS CITY, AS GUARANTOR, THE AUTHORITY, AND PENNVEST, AS LENDER, SECURING THE DEBT OBLIGATION; PLEDGING (1) CERTAIN WATER SYSTEM LEASE REVENUES OF THIS CITY, AND (2) THE FULL FAITH, CREDIT, AND TAXING POWER OF THIS CITY, IN SUPPORT OF ITS GUARANTY; APPOINTING A SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH GUARANTY; AND AUTHORIZING RELATED ACTIONS AND DOCUMENTS.

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

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm reported as follows:

Omar spoke last week with the Chamber Board, made up of a lot of City business leaders, at the request of Joe Hurd. The discussion included questions and answers related to the City's functions and its approach toward business. Omar stated he felt he presented himself and the City well at the meeting.

The Greyhound Bus Company renewed its lease at the Transportation Center. It is a three-year lease renewal that is automatic.

The preliminary 2022 City budget is finished at the staff level and will be distributed to Council in advance of the budget meeting on October 18th.

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Kelley suggested a worksession topic is the infrastructure bill that will most likely happen in Washington and the Kettle Street Interchange at I-99. It was deferred and never deleted from the plan. The question is does this present the opportunity for the City to look at this again and it's a good thing. It could have a significant impact to the community including all of Blair County and the surrounding area.

Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh thanked the Department of Public Works for the great job that they do stating they had a lot of challenges over the past year. Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh stated Dave Woleslagle brought up excellent points earlier and that he would also like to see the department pay attention to the downtown Juniata section of Altoona in the near future as this area is revitalizing and the businesses and their owners are doing a great job there.

Councilman Ickes stated tonight the Council took action doing a soft earmark of \$4 million for the stormwater program. Councilman Ickes stated he would like to see an allocation for the land bank in the amount of \$5 million, \$2 million into a revolving loan fund, and, capitalize on what the ARPA program allows and reconstitutes the positions that were previously eliminated and claim those dollars, particularly in the police department, and get it back to the 66 full time officers.

Councilman Cacciotti reminded everyone that Trick or Treat night in the City would be held on Thursday, October 28th from 6 to 8 pm.

The City Clerk asked to remind residents that brush and leaf collection will begin next Monday, October 18th and more information is on the City's website or residents can call the City Clerk's office.

Media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror* who asked questions of the Mayor and Council, the City Solicitor and City staff and Courtney Murphy of WTAJ TV-10

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:28 p.m.