

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY – NOVEMBER 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 Tuesday, November 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 after the October 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting for real estate and potential litigation

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Bender of 107 E Hudson Avenue stated he has issues with the Codes and Inspections Department and states he contacted various City departments and has not received a response; Mr. Bender stated he also has items to be re-inspected; stated he was upset that a sign was stapled to his building at 1100 13<sup>th</sup> Ave; Mr. Bender stated he owns 1112-18 12<sup>th</sup> Street and he is working on it but it takes time to get the blueprints completed

Attorney Finn stated since Mr. Bender retained an Attorney the City will now have to go through his Attorney as far as a response

Joseph Oricko of 720 S. Logan Boulevard stated he is Mr. Bender's Architect and the plans for his building which will house 24 apartments will be done soon

Ed Kreuz of 464 Quartz Lane and owner of 1830 N 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue suggested Council eliminate the Zoning Hearing Board and handle all zoning matters at their level

Krystal Dyer of Princess Property Management stated she has 50 rentals in the City of Altoona and has issues with Codes and a blighted property on Bell Ave; stated there was hostility by a Code Officer upon her posting on social media about a blighted structure and she does not want this particular Code Officer on her property; stated the inspector was late on two occasions

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Tuesday, October 11, 2022. (0121-22)

- b) appointing Dave Betar to the Altoona Parking Authority to fill the unexpired term of Chris Fusco. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2024. (0122-22)
- c) appointing City Manager Omar Strohm to the Altoona Parking Authority to fill the unexpired term of Collin Reinhart. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2025. (0123-22)
- d) authorizing City Solicitor, Tom Finn to execute the contract in PennDOT's ECMS System for the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge over Mill Run Replacement Project, in the amount of \$57,550.00 (the City's portion), payable from the General Fund and Highway Aid. (0124-22)
- e) authorizing the City Manager to sign all necessary documents associated with PennDOT's Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement which covers all signals within the City of Altoona and for the City Clerk to attest to same. (0125-22)
- f) approving an Agreement of Sale between the City of Altoona and Pennsy Partners, LLC for the purchase of property located at 1500 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA, in the amount of \$68,500.00, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing Mayor Matt Pacifico and City Manager Omar Strohm to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0126-22)
- g) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$200.00, submitted by Randy Fochler of 1918 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, for property located at 1914 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0127-22)
- h) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Andrew Topper of 2009 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 2011 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0128-22)
- i) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$400.00, submitted by Don Coble Sr. of 710 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, for property located at 920 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0129-22)
- j) approving the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which includes a reasonable, prioritized, and practical list of capital projects to be undertaken by the City over the next five-years. These capital projects are designed to preserve the City's infrastructure, ensure the safety and efficiency of City personnel, and maintain the quality of life in the community. (130-22)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; the City Clerk called for the consent vote on all items and the consent vote passed 7 to 0 with all present

## ORDINANCES – Introduction

### Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY IN THE COUNTY OF BLAIR, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 5707 AND AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FOUR MILLION (\$4,000,000) DOLLARS FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS PIECES OF EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE PUMPER AND LADDER FIRE TRUCKS, THROUGH A MASTER EQUIPMENT LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MANHATTAN KANSAS; PROVIDING FOR THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF THE CITY TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS INVOLVED WITH SAID PURCHASES; REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

### Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 570-11 "ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT" OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE WITH RESPECT TO RESIDENTIAL RENTAL INSPECTION TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS REGARDING REVOCATION AND REINSTATEMENT OF CONDITIONAL HOUSING PERMITS AND RESIDENTIAL RENTAL LICENSES.

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Mayor Pacifico

### Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 270 "CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS, ARTICLE II BUILDING CONSTRUCTION" SECTIONS 270-7 THROUGH 270-10 AND ARTICLE III "PLUMBING STANDARDS" SECTION 270-11 OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE, TO PROVIDE PROVISIONS FOR PERMIT RENEWALS, ANNUAL PERMITS, WORK BEFORE PERMITS AND APPEAL FEES, AND TO REAFFIRM THE REMAINDER OF CHAPTER 270.

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

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA WHICH AMENDS AND REPLACES CHAPTER 647 OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CODE, LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX ASSISTANCE AND ENACTS A NEW ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX ASSISTANCE ACT AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF DETERIORATING REAL PROPERTY OR AREAS OF TAX EXEMPTION ACT ESTABLISHING TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN DETERIORATED AREAS OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA DESIGNATED BY LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES; AND PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF, INCLUDING THE CONTINGENCY OF ADOPTION OF CONCURRENT LEGISLATION BY OTHER AFFECTED TAXING BODIES.

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

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS AND REPLACES CHAPTER 470 OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE AS IT PERTAINS TO "NOISE" TO: PROVIDE DEFINITIONS; OUTLINE APPLICABILITY AND EXEMPTIONS, PROVIDE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES, PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS, REPEALER; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 646-25 "DISCOUNT AND PENALTY FOR PAYMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES" OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE WITH RESPECT TO REAL ESTATE TAXES LEVIED AND ASSESSED IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO PROVIDE A POTENTIAL WAIVER OF ADDITIONAL CHARGES BEYOND THE FACE VALUE AMOUNT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS BEGINNING IN THE 2023 TAX YEAR PURSUANT TO PENNSYLVANIA ACT 57 OF 2022.

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

## Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, IN THE COUNTY OF BLAIR, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, HEREINAFTER SET FORTH, DURING THE YEAR 2023. (2023 BUDGET ORDINANCE)

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

### CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm provided the following:

- Council is invited to attend the AWA meeting on Thursday at 9 a.m. for an update on the digester plant
- a Steering Committee meeting for the Comprehensive Plan will be held December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the ABCD Board Room
- the City is in the process of a SWOT analysis and will present it to Council and the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for consideration in the future Comprehensive Plan
- the Christmas Parade is being held on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. in Downtown Altoona

### MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Kelley stated there were a number of public comments made and a letter was referenced by Attorney Finn from Mr. Bender's Attorney and an update and feedback would be helpful from the City Manager on what was raised at tonight's meeting

Councilman Ellis thanked the City Manager and the Department Heads for the great job they did putting the budget together; they were well within the parameters of what the community could afford and the City Manager gave Council a realistic vision of where the City will be in a few years; the budget was constructed with the idea of filling necessary positions for the City's success in the future and utilizing the ARPA monies to keep a lid on a tax increase was commendable; Councilman Ellis commended his fellow Councilmembers as well Councilman Beatty stated if the City gets into a tax situation in the next two to three years for a tax increase, everything has to be done to increase the revenue coming in whether it be developing or homeowners developing and the bar has to be raised so that it is made easier for Landlords to do business in the City of Altoona, for homeowners to improve their property and for developers to come into the City and do what they do best; it needs to be easy for them and there needs to be a systematic plan in place so that when someone calls to make inquiries into doing development that the City is very structured in the way the City presents what needs to be done whether it be zoning, variances, etc; the way everything operates needs to be coordinated; this would fall into implementing case management software that the City currently has; the City needs to use this

software to control the calls that come in and responses to calls; they can open a case on a call and give weekly updates to Council on how each case is being resolved; this will increase the structure as to how the City operates in response to complaints and inquiries; this will be better for the City overall

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*; Jordan Mansberger, WTAJ TV 10; WJAC videographer/reporter

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:41 p.m.