

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – JUNE 12, 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 June 13, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:15 PM in Council Chambers following a public hearing

Mayor Pacifico read a statement regarding rental license revocation and Operation Safe Space as follows:

In January City Council passed legislation giving the Codes Department authorization to issue a five-year rental license revocation for owners of rental property who are grossly negligent and habitually non-compliant with the City's residential rental unit registration program. This decision was the result of extensive research and study conducted by the Codes Department into rental programs in other cities and municipalities throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with many of them having successful rental revocation policies. Based on the findings, it was determined that additional tools were necessary here in Altoona to ensure landlords maintain their rental properties in a decent, safe and sanitary condition – that meet minimum standards of habitability. It is important to note, and I want to emphasize, that the license revocation process that has been put into place is based on very specific criteria, which is outlined in the ordinance, and is reserved only for landlords with repeated and consistent non-compliance of derelict properties. It is not meant for the many responsible landlords who provide safe, clean and quality housing for their tenants, here in the City. Since the adoption of this policy, three landlords operating in the City of Altoona have been issued five-year rental license revocations for all of their rental properties. Operation Safe Space, a program developed to assist tenants with relocation from properties under license revocation, has been used to help the tenants in these three cases with positive results. The City remains committed to prioritizing the utmost safety and well-being of all residents in our community, and preventing rental properties from becoming an influence that fosters blight and deterioration in our City. We encourage and look forward to working with responsible investors and landlords who are interested in providing clean and safe housing for their tenants.

SILENT MEDITATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL – taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer

Present: Council members Beatty, Butterbaugh, Ellis, Ickes, Kelley (via phone) and Mayor Pacifico

Absent: Councilman Carper

PRESENTATIONS – Angie Gioiosa 4th of July Memorial Race – Phyllis Baker, Community Engagement/Development Director & Frank Kopriva, Executive Program Director - Blair Regional YMCA, thanked Council for their support and for the use of City personnel and City property for the 50th anniversary race.

Public Works Department Director Nate Kissell presented the 2022 Annual Report.

Mayor Pacifico announced that an Executive Session was held by City Council on May 22nd for the purpose of real estate, personnel and potential litigation and on June 5th for real estate.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – offered by Mayor Pacifico and none given

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, May 8, 2023. (0076-23)
- b) approving the ARPA Business District Revitalization Grant Program recommendations, attached hereto, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0077-23)
- c) awarding the Garden Heights Park Project to Mid-State Construction of 260 Brush Mountain Road, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$298,488.00 payable from ARPA Funds and the General Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0078-23)
- d) authorizing an Easement Agreement between the City of Altoona and Joseph Crossman, for the purpose of the construction, installation, repair and maintenance of water and sanitary sewer lines within the City's unopened 47th Street off of 6th Avenue, as shown on the Easement Plan attached hereto, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0079-23)
- e) authorizing an Easement Agreement between the City of Altoona and Kirk Stauffer and Swathi Malepati, for the purpose of the construction, installation, repair and maintenance of a storm sewer inlet off of Lowell Avenue, as shown on the Easement Plan attached hereto, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0080-23)
- f) authorizing an Easement Agreement between the City of Altoona and Kenneth Carter, for the purpose of the construction, repair and maintenance of a storm sewer inlet off of Tennyson Avenue, as shown on the Easement Plan attached hereto, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0081-23)

- g) authorizing Mayor Matthew Pacifico of the City of Altoona to execute and the City Clerk to attest to Form E-GP, Consent of Landowner, as Owner of Real Property, identified as the Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility located at 144 Westerly Treatment Plant Road, Duncansville, PA 16635, to enable the Altoona Water Authority to obtain the necessary general permit, authorization and/or approval of the Pennsylvania DEP to operate a Co-Digestion Project on said property. (0082-23)
- h) amending the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) transferring \$23,427.00 from the 2020 Housing and Community Development Program Administration Project to the 2020 Emergency Homeowner Roof Replacement Program. (0083-23)
- i) awarding a demolition contract to G & R Excavating and Demolition, Inc., of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, for the demolition of nine (9) properties as follows:
- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| 2311 3 rd Avenue | \$ 8,150.00 |
| 312 4 th Avenue | \$ 6,890.00 |
| 1806 5 th Avenue | \$12,240.00 |
| 116 6 th Avenue | \$16,619.40 |
| 1329 21 st Avenue | \$ 8,450.00 |
| 2406 11 th Avenue | \$ 8,950.00 |
| 1212 19 th Avenue | \$12,156.00 |
| 125 7 th Avenue | \$ 8,150.00 |
| 109-115 E. Grant Avenue | \$16,600.00 |
- in the total amount of \$98,205.40, payable from the General Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0084-23)
- j) awarding a demolition contract to Earthmovers Unlimited, Inc., of P.O. Box 187, Kylertown, PA 16847, for the demolition of two (2) properties as follows:
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1509 1 st Avenue | \$8,888.00 |
| 1317 17 th Avenue | \$2,247.00 (Garage Only) |
- in the total amount of \$11,135.00, payable from the General Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0085-23)
- k) authorizing a Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Altoona and UPMC Altoona for the use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for an EMPATH Unit, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0086-23)
- l) approving the renaming of the Hamilton Park Baseball Field, located at 301 E. Cherry Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, to Coach Geno Field, in honor and memory of Mr. Eugene (Geno) Himes, who devoted his life to coaching and officiating youth sports, and especially his greatest passion little league baseball, where he

dedicated most of his life to coaching and teaching the game of baseball to the youth of Altoona, including his children and grandchildren, at Hamilton Park. (0087-23)

- m) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by Sherly Pino of 3776 SE 3rd Ct, Homestead, FL 33033, for property located at 1825-27 Walton Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0088-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- n) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$250.00, submitted by Mitchell Merritt of 1202 N. 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1124 N. 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0089-23)
- o) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$150.00, submitted by Mitchell Merritt of 1202 N. 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 409 N. 12th Street, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0090-23)
- p) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$280.00, submitted by Wilson Ribeiro Jr. of 409 Portofino Dr. Apt 1, San Carlos, CA 94070, for property located at 208-210 E. Cherry Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0091-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- q) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$260.00, submitted by Wilson Ribeiro Jr. of 409 Portofino Dr. Apt 1, San Carlos, CA 94070, for property located at 1124-26 N 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0092-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- r) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$255.00, submitted by Wilson Ribeiro Jr. of 409 Portofino Dr. Apt 1, San Carlos, CA 94070, for property located at 1817-19 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0093-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- s) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$300.00, submitted by Wilson Ribeiro Jr. of 409 Portofino Dr. Apt 1, San Carlos, CA 94070, for property located at 2013-15 13th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0094-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- t) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Jose Caballero of San Marco #19, Palmas DelMar, Humacao, Puerto Rico 00791, for property located at 327-29 Wopsononock Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0095-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)

- u) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Jose Caballero of San Marco #19, Palmas DelMar, Humacao, Puerto Rico 00791, for property located at 331-33 Wopsonnock Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0096-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- v) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Jose Caballero of San Marco #19, Palmas DelMar, Humacao, Puerto Rico 00791, for property located at 1813-15 Crawford Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0097-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- w) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by David Anderson of 3907 Almond Court, Spring, TX 77386, for property located at 3127-33 7th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0098-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- x) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$200.00, submitted by Marvin Solis of 330 Hawk Ridge Drive, Richmond, CA 94806, for property located at 1108 17th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0099-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- y) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$200.00, submitted by Marvin Solis of 330 Hawk Ridge Drive, Richmond, CA 94806, for property located at 1110 17th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0100-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- z) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$1200.00, submitted by Christopher Kjorstad of 10009 E. Gamma Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85212, for property located at 3127-33 7th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0101-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; at the request of Councilman Butterbaugh, items m and p-z were pulled for a separate vote; the consent vote was taken on items a-l, n and o and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Carper was absent; separate votes were taken on each of items m and p-z which did not pass 0-6; Councilman Carper was absent

ORDINANCES

Adoption - Councilman Butterbaugh

- 1) 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. (ORD. 5804)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Introduction – Councilman Butterbaugh
Motion for Adoption – Councilman Ellis
Second – Councilman Ickes
The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 5 to 1; Councilman Kelley voted no; Councilman Carper was absent

Adoption - Councilman Beatty

- 2) 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 FIFTEEN (15) FOOT ALLEY LOCATED BETWEEN EAST SOUTHEY AVENUE AND FROST AVENUE, ALTOONA, CONTAINING THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWO 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. (ORD. 5805)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Introduction – Councilman Beatty
Motion for Adoption – Councilman Ellis
Second – Councilman Butterbaugh
The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Carper was absent

Adoption - Councilman Ellis

- 3) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE VACATION AND ABANDONMENT OF A FIFTEEN (15) FOOT UNOPENED ALLEY BETWEEN EAST SOUTHEY AVENUE AND FROST AVENUE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 295-8 OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A QUIT CLAIM DEED TO REBECCA S. BARGER AND ANY ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION TO RELINQUISH ANY RIGHT, TITLE AND/OR INTEREST THE CITY OF ALTOONA HAS OR MAY HAVE IN SAID UNOPENED ALLEY ; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS, REPEALER; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. 5806)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Introduction – Councilman Ellis
Motion for Adoption – Councilman Beatty

Second – Councilman Ellis

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Carper was absent

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm provided the following:

- staff is looking at a new intermunicipal stormwater agreement and the member municipalities are looking at a two-year agreement; the City is the largest participant and the City participates with the largest percentage of the total which is based on 30% population, 20% stream length within the municipality and 50% impervious surfaces; the City's portion amounts to \$283,000 over the next two years; this will be coming before Council in the near future for a vote;
- czb meetings are continuing with staff
- the financial audit is almost complete; it will be distributed to Council and then presented at the August meeting
- City Hall is closed Wednesday, June 14th for Flag Day

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor and Council thanked everyone for their continued help with Prospect Pool and all that played a heavy part in getting the pool opened

Councilman Ellis thanked Omar and Nate for leading Prospect Pool and Councilman Beatty for making it all come together; it's been a great thing for the community and a lot of people reached out with appreciation; thanks to Overflow Church, Pastor Cox and the volunteers for their four clean-ups/fix-ups that they held in May; they filled numerous roll offs provided by Burgmeier's and they also replaced porch railings and replaced a garage roof, shed roof and porch roof that had received code violations

Councilman Beatty thanked the citizens that showed up for the opening day at the pool as there was a record crowd of nearly 700 people in attendance; Councilman Beatty stated the opening went smoothly and thanked the following: employees and the YMCA lifeguards, CBRC for balancing the water, Nate Kissell and DPW for cutting grass and for the railing on the sundeck and for making it safe, and for all of the work that they did and Omar Strohm; the concession stand is stocked with good food and the sundeck is now open to use; Councilman Beatty stated Prospect Pool is safe and clean now and that is how the City intends to keep it

Mayor Pacifico stated the Comprehensive Plan open houses will be held July 10th at 3 pm at Juniata Civics, July 11th at Altoona Area High School at 12 noon and July 11th at the Trolleyworks at 5:30 pm; all are welcome to attend and to participate and the information is on the City's website at www.altoonapa.gov

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:25 p.m.