

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 13, 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

A Proclamation Presented to Dawn Morden of the Brian Morden Foundation for National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and Gold Ribbon Day – Cathy Chirdon accepted the proclamation on Dawn’s behalf and thanked Council for their support; Mrs. Chirdon stated the Brian Morden Foundation will participate in Gold Ribbon Day at the Altoona Mt. Lion football game on Friday, September 17th

The Altoona Fire Department Annual Report was presented by Chief Tim Hileman and was posted on the City’s website following this meeting.

2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Certification was presented to Mayor and Council by City Manager Omar Strohm in the form of a worksheet which certified the amount of the City’s obligation for the upcoming year. The amounts will appear in the City’s 2022 budget; the amounts must be contributed to the appropriate pension plans by December 31, 2022.

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.

Guwain Engle of 147 Raible Drive, Duncansville asked why there is a convicted felon working for the City and why landlords and tenants aren’t being alerted and why is he working for the City

Mike Parisi of 822 S 8<sup>th</sup> Street stated he was also flooded when Brush Run flooded; Mr. Parisi stated he lost his appliances; Mr. Parisi stated he sees the changes in the valley and the creek over the last 50 years that he has lived in this area and the land is washing away and the water is coming toward his home; Mr. Parisi stated he is hoping the City is going to do something about this

## RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, August 9, 2021. (0098-21)
- b) awarding the 2021 Tree Project to Henry Enterprises, Inc. of P.O. Box 156 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, in the amount of \$37,965.00 payable for the General Fund Tree Maintenance Line Item and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0099-21)
- c) awarding the Slip Lining of Pipes on 17<sup>th</sup> Street – Phase II to Guyer Brothers, Inc. of 1481 Salemville Road, New Enterprise, PA 16664, in the amount of \$238,260.00 payable for the General Fund and Highway Aid and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0100-21)
- d) adopting a resolution submitted to City Council proposing to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Parking Authority of the City of Altoona by increasing the term of existence of the Parking Authority of the City of Altoona to September 17, 2070 and further authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents and certifications and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0101-21)
- e) Rescinding the following resolutions for the following properties:

Resolution 0055-21 - 1817-1819 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Resolution 0056-21 - 1108 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Resolution 0057-21 - 1110 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Resolution 0058-21 - 1118 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Resolution 0065-21 - 208-210 East Cherry Avenue

The repository bids were submitted by Dior Lowry. Mr. Lowry has not followed through with finalizing the transactions by paying the required funds per the Tax Claim Bureau of the County of Blair. The sale shall not be completed and the properties shall remain in the Repository. (0102-21)

- f) approving the Conditional Use for property located at 4200 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing City Manager Omar Strohm to execute the decision and for the City Clerk to attest to same. (0103-21)

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 f and passed 6 to 0; Councilwoman Jordan was absent; a vote was taken on item f and

passed 4 to 0; Councilman Cacciotti abstained as he did not attend the public hearing prior to this meeting and could not vote; Councilman Ickes abstained due to a conflict of interest which was provided in writing and attached to the resolution; Councilwoman Jordan was absent

## ORDINANCES – Adoption

### Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 800-42 OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE AS IT PERTAINS TO SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES AND CREATES NEW CHAPTER 595 OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE TITLED “SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES” RELATING TO PERMITTING, PLACEMENT, INSTALLATION AND STANDARDS FOR SMALL CELL WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY. (ORD. NO. 5781)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer  
Introduction – Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh  
Motion for Adoption – Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh  
Second – Councilman Cacciotti  
The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 0; Councilwoman Jordan was absent

## CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm reported as follows:

- there is a potential to refinance eligible debt for 2015, 2017 and 2019 with a 2 ¼% savings; updated numbers will be available at the September 27<sup>th</sup> Worksession and introduction could take place at the October Council Meeting if Council is in agreement
- there will be a discussion at the upcoming Worksession about the ARPA money and ideas of what to do with the ARPA money and look for Council’s direction on the projects and spending

## MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Kelley asked about the McCrory’s Building

City Solicitor Tom Finn stated the Blair County Sherriff completed service of the condemnation proceeding on Mr. Helfrick on July 17, 2021 and the notice of condemnation was filed July 18, 2021; by the end of this week if they have not filed preliminary objections the 30-day period will have expired and the issue will be just compensation; Solicitor Finn stated it is his understanding that Mr. Helfrick has someone do an appraisal of the property and it has apparently been completed although a copy has not been received; Solicitor Finn stated he has taken steps

through the legal to obtain a copy of the appraisal; if no preliminary objections are forthcoming the issue is going to be what the just compensation is; Councilman Kelley asked if they would have come to terms that they could have stopped all proceedings and settled out of the court system; Solicitor Finn stated that was correct

Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh thanked Public Works for the preparation work for Tropical Depression IDA

Councilman Ickes thanked APD and AFD for their work on a daily basis and for participating in the Remember 911 event and for representing the City

Councilman Ickes would like to discuss business privilege tax at the September Worksession and the possibility of ending it; Councilman Ickes stated in a perfect world if possible to try to spur incentive for business and commerce to relocate to Altoona he would like to do away with that tax and would like to see how the numbers work out

Media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror* who asked questions of the Mayor and Council, the City Solicitor and City staff.

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