

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – DECEMBER 1, 2025 - 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, December 2, 2025.

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, Clinich, Ellis, Ickes, Kelley (via phone) and Mayor Pacifico

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Fornari of 1015 LaSelle Lane states he owns a hauling business and is being discriminated against by not being allowed to dump at the transfer station; Mr. Fornari was referred to the IRC for assistance and further discussion.

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, November 10, 2025. (0151-25)
- b) approving the 2026-2030 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. (0152-25)
- c) amending and re-stating the Fee Resolution to include: Fire Department Fees as follows: increase fees for Rooming/Boarding House Inspection, Fire Safety Inspection Code Official, Flammable Tanks Permit, Operational Permit, CPR Training Class, and, remove and transfer Rooming and Boarding License to Codes & Inspections; create and increase fees for Codes & Inspections as follows: Create Halfway/Recovery Home, Rooming/Boarding Home, Institutionalized Housing Program License and establish Fees, increase Permit Renewal Fees and increase Sexually Oriented Business Fees; remove Electrical Licenses and Plumber Licenses. (0153-25)
- d) awarding the Request for Proposal for Independent Auditing Services for the City of Altoona for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027, including a financial audit of the Federal Housing and Community Development Funds, the Redevelopment Authority and the Altoona Water Authority, to Young, Oakes, Brown and Company

of Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0154-25)

- e) approving the scheduling of a City Council Meeting (Swearing In, Organizational and Regular Meeting) for Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code of the City of Altoona. (0155-25)
- f) appointing Deputy Police Chief Derek Swope to the position of Police Chief of the Altoona Police Department, effective January 2, 2026. (0156-25)
- g) appointing Lieutenant Nathan Snyder to the position of Deputy Police Chief of the Altoona Police Department, effective January 2, 2026. (0157-25)
- h) approving the donation of a 2014 Ford Explorer (VIN#1FM5K8AR9EGC60189) from the City of Altoona's fleet to the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Act 120 Municipal Police Academy, for law enforcement training, and further authorizing the City Clerk to execute the Title and complete any additional items to remove said vehicle from the City's fleet. (0158-25)
- i) approving a Professional Design Services Contract with Aquatic Facility Design, Inc., of 183 Moore Street, Millersburg, PA 17061, for design services for a new aquatics complex at Prospect Pool in the amount of \$298,165.00 for Swimming Pool Complex Design and \$115,000.00 for Bathhouse & Concessions Design, payable from Central PA Community Foundation Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0159-25)
- j) awarding a Demolition Bid for 219 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, to G&R Excavating & Demolition of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, in the amount of \$20,265.40, payable from the City of Altoona All Together Altoona Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0160-25)
- k) awarding a Demolition Bid for 215 E. 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, to G&R Excavating & Demolition of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, in the amount of \$16,828.50, payable from the City of Altoona All Together Altoona Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0161-25)
- l) awarding a Demolition Bid for 1908 18th Street, Altoona, PA 16601, to G&R Excavating & Demolition of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, in the amount of \$17,240.00, payable from the City of Altoona All Together Altoona Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0162-25)

- m) awarding a Demolition Bid for 607 Bell Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, to G&R Excavating & Demolition of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, in the amount of \$17,644.50, payable from the City of Altoona All Together Altoona Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0163-25)
- n) awarding a Demolition Bid for 2120 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, to Leckey's Demolition of 440 Donruth Lane, Johnstown, PA 15909, in the amount of \$7,400.00, payable from the City of Altoona All Together Altoona Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0164-25)
- o) awarding a Demolition Bid for 1111 N 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, to Leckey's Demolition of 440 Donruth Lane, Johnstown, PA 15909, in the amount of \$11,700.00, payable from the City of Altoona All Together Altoona Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0165-25)
- p) awarding a Demolition Bid for 1710 24th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, to Leckey's Demolition of 440 Donruth Lane, Johnstown, PA 15909, in the amount of \$10,900.00, payable from the City of Altoona All Together Altoona Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0166-25)

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

ORDINANCES – Introduction

1)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 571, TO BE ENTITLED "HALFWAY/RECOVERY, ROOMING AND BOARDING, AND INSTITUTIONALIZED FACILITY LICENSING PROGRAM"; PROVIDING, APPLICATION, INSPECTION, AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND DEFINITIONS FOR HALFWAY/RECOVERY HOUSES, ROOMING AND BOARDING HOUSES, AND INSTITUTIONALIZED HOUSING, HEREINAFTER CALLED "HALFWAY/RECOVERY, ROOMING AND BOARDING, AND INSTITUTIONALIZED FACILITY LICENSING PROGRAM"; REPEALING OF ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Adoption – Vice-Mayor Ellis

2)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO JOIN WITH OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AS A MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE COOPERATIVE (PMHIC), TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF JOINING THE PMHIC, AND TO PARTICIPATE AS A MEMBER OF THE PMHIC.

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

Introduction – Vice-Mayor Ellis

Motion for Adoption – Vice-Mayor Ellis

Second – Mayor Pacifico

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

Adoption – Councilman Ickes

3)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 2026. (2026 BUDGET ORDINANCE)

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

Introduction – Councilman Ickes

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Butterbaugh

Second – Mayor Pacifico

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

CITY MANAGER UPDATES – City Manager Chris McGuire stated he wanted to give an update on issues and projects worked on in 2025 as follows:

Staff held the line on spending with no tax increase

There has been a complete transformation of the computer systems to include Microsoft 365

Public Works completed various paving projects and are out prepping for the expected snowfall

Finance did an amazing job putting the budget together and working through the transition with opengov and paycom for payroll

HR negotiated health insurance saving the City almost \$500,000

Thank you to all of the labor organizations as five labor agreements were settled and meaningful work was produced in all of the budgets to include rank and file, meet and discuss, crossing guards and police and fire unions and safety was emphasized as a top priority; all were willing to come to the table and discuss and the City is on the right trajectory for 2026

Thank you to Council for the support given to staff and to all of the City employees as none of this is possible without all of their hard work to make Altoona the best City that it can possibly be; Mayor Pacifico thanked Chris for his update and stated he echoed Chris' comments stating the City has great staff in all of the departments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Ickes stated the Spirit of Christmas Parade is on Saturday, December 6th at 1:00 p.m. and a Party in the Park after the parade with the tree-lighting, Santa and fireworks; Councilman Ickes stated there were a lot of things accomplished in 2025 and Council is very satisfied with having a manager at the helm helping to navigate some of the large items; Councilman Ickes thanked Chris and the entire City team; Councilman Ickes also stated Police Chief Joe Merrill is at his last meeting and he will be missed and he and his family are wished all of the best on their new endeavors; the final design was approved for Prospect Pool tonight and final design will be with the intent of bidding in early 2026 for what will be a totally brand new Prospect Pool, which will be exciting to see

Councilman Butterbaugh thanked everyone for their great work and wished everyone the best Christmas and New Year

Vice-Mayor Ellis thanked Chief Merrill stating 20 years ago Joe came to Altoona and we were blessed to have him here and all of the work is appreciated

Councilman Beatty thanked Chief Merrill for his service and welcomed the new chief and deputy; Councilman Beatty thanked Rebecca Brown and staff for helping to put the Blighted Property Review Committee together to help with the goal of having livable, sustainable, attractive housing in the City of Altoona and continuing to eliminate blight and Merry Christmas to everyone

Councilwoman Clinich thanked City Manager Chris and all of the City staff for the year and for their hard work and thank you to Chief Merrill for his service to the City and Merry Christmas to everyone

Mayor Pacifico stated due to the impending storm, the Salvation Army is opening up their warming center this evening at 10:00 p.m. until tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA - Bill Kibler of the *Altoona Mirror*; and Jordan Mansberger of WTAJ TV-10

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:37 p.m.