

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY – NOVEMBER 08, 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

Capital Improvement Program – City Manager Omar Strohm provided Council with an Executive Summary and reviewed the Capital Improvement Program as follows:

Structure of the Three-Part Document:

Part I - Manager's Introductory Memo

Two-Page general description

Part II - C-I-P Project Presentation

Five Pages listing costs by project, by project category, and by year (2022 – 2026)

Part III - Detailed Project Requests

Arranged in identical order as the Project Presentation, where each project listed in the presentation is described in detail, and the various projected sources of funding are listed

Overview:

The C-I-P is a plan for the maintenance and improvement of the City's capital assets for the next five years (2022 – 2026)

2022 Projects: Total - \$3,363,845

Capital Reserve - \$2,563,845

Highway Aid - \$400,000

Other - \$400,000

2022 Program becomes the 2022 Capital Budget

2023 – 2026 Projects: Total - \$16,771,160

Capital Borrowing - \$15,573,860

CDBG - \$600,000

Highway Aid - \$340,000

General Revenue - \$257,300

Other Key Items of Note:

The C-I-P is a plan that will be updated annually

The first year of any C-I-P will always be the Capital Budget in the first year of the C-I-P

The City will not issue debt to fund the 2022 Capital Budget

The City historically issues debt to fund the vast majority of its C-I-P, typically biannually

First C-I-P to propose payment of short-term IT hardware strictly with general revenue

C-I-P excludes any ARPA-funded project

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an Executive Session for the purpose of personnel and real estate following the October 25, 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.

Matt Adams of 898 29<sup>th</sup> Street asked about the details of the ARPA money and referred to an *Altoona Mirror* article.

## RESOLUTIONS

a)approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Tuesday, October 12, 2021. (0113-21)

b)accepting the informal quote for the emergency demolition of 1016 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA, received by G&R Excavating and Demolition, Inc., of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, in the amount of \$18,900.00, payable from Housing and Community Development Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0114-21)

c)authorizing the forgiveness of a tax lien in the amount of \$4,293.25, for Donna (Wombacher) Craig, for property at 617 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, identified by the Blair County Control #02051150 and Map No. 01.08-03.-51.00-000. (0115-21)

d)approving the use of City ARPA funds for the year 2021 as indicated on the document attached hereto. (0116-21)

e)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Travis Pfahler of 210 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Altoona, PA 16602, for property located at 917 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0117-21)

f)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$200.00, submitted by Timothy Wills of 1419 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1530 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0118-21)

g)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$250.00, submitted by Michael Friedenberger Sr. of 704 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 720-24 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0119-21)

h)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Matthew & Darcy Seipert of 550 Skyline Drive, Dysart, PA 16636, for property located at 605-607 E. Atlantic Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0120-21)

i)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$250.00, submitted by Samuel Scheinberg of 2826 Broad Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 2812-14 Pine Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0121-21)

j)approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Joshua Tree Associates LLC, of 301 Thelma Drive #153, Casper, WY 82609, for property located at 1824-26 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0122-21)

k)approving the insertion of an Editor's Note at the end of the definition of "Gross Receipts" contained in Section 646-28 of the Altoona Code with respect to the Business Privilege Tax, with said Editor's Note to be as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached to this resolution. (0123-21)

l)approving the insertion of an Editor's Note at the end of the definition of "Gross Volume of Business" contained in Section 646-2 of the Altoona Code with respect to the Mercantile Tax, with said Editor's Note to be as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached to this resolution. (0124-21)

m)approving the 2022-2026 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. (0125-21)

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 j, which was pulled for a separate vote at the request of Councilman Butterbaugh; the consent vote passed 6 to 0; Councilwoman Jordan was absent; a vote was taken on item j and did not pass 0 to 6; Councilwoman Jordan was absent

## ORDINANCES – Introduction

1)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 2022. (2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE)

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

Chris Gibbons of Concord Public Finance stated the interest rates are low and the idea is to refinance higher interest rate debt with lower interest rate debt. Mr. Gibbons stated the City will be refinancing 4 different borrowings which are outstanding. Mr. Gibbons provided Council with a document which summarized the proposals stating they solicited 35 banks and received 7 proposals from 5 banks and it was better to use 2 separate banks' proposals to refinance certain outstanding issues. The combination of bank financing proposals produced more interest rate savings and reduced interest rate exposure than what was available in the bond market. The banks are Webster Bank and 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank. The City will save a net (of all cost and fees) of \$856,000 and the savings will be structured over 4 different fiscal years and in addition, it will eliminate some interest rate risk the City has on the Series of 2015 bank loan, although it is only outstanding at \$740,000. That loan had an interest rate cap on it and they were able to get a fixed rate on it lower than the cap. The ordinance accepts the proposals of both banks and the total amount of the borrowing is \$25,480,000.

At this time, based on the addition of a presentation by Chris Gibbons, the floor was re-opened for public comment. There was no public comment. The floor was closed.

Adoption – Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh

2)AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AUTHORIZING AND SECURING THE ISSUANCE OF TWO GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$25,480,000, PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, TO REFUND 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 TWO PROPOSALS 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. (ORD. NO. 5782)

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 Ickes

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

Adoption – 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 \$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. (ORD. NO 5783)

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

Introduction – Councilman Ickes

Motion for Adoption – Mayor Pacifico

Second – Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh

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

4)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. (ORD. NO. 5784)

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

Introduction – Councilman Cacciotti

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Ickes

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:

Certain staff members will be meeting in the next week to discuss the roll out of the acceptance of certain online payments for certain types of fees and charges

Over the past week it was mentioned by some members of the community, that they would like to see the terms of placement of a board or commission become shorter, as it is a great commitment of time and energy, and that by shortening the terms there may be more younger people in the community more willing to serve. Mayor Pacifico mentioned that the terms are set by statute and this is beyond Council's control

#### MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Kelley encouraged the public to complete talent bank applications online to serve on an authorities/boards/commissions

Mayor Pacifico stated he plans to make appointments at the January 2022 meeting

Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh reminded the public that the Veterans Day Parade will be held Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am stepping out at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Street

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 6:57 p.m.