

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – JUNE 13, 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, June 14, 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

Angie Gioiosa 4th of July Memorial Race – Phyllis Baker, Community Engagement/Development Director & Frank Kopriva, Executive Program Director - Blair Regional YMCA

Recognition of Retired AFD Arson Dog Tyra and Introduction Ceremony for Lucille, AFD Accelerant Detection K9 – Chief Tim Hileman & Justin Smithmyer, Acting Fire Inspector

Altoona Police Department Annual Report – Chief Joe Merrill

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – David Wholeslagle of 1422 N. 8th Avenue stated the McCrory’s Building appraised for \$112,000 and accepting a bid of \$1500.00 would not be acceptable; Mr. Wholeslagle suggested it be re-bid with a minimum bid with an option of refusal

Nate Andrew of 2803 Broad Avenue asked about Ordinance 1 and the definition of corporate housing; City Solicitor Tom Finn provided the definition

Randy Green of 1701 3rd Avenue stated he is a local business owner and developer who is in favor of an amendment to the ordinance to include corporate housing; Mr. Green stated he is planning corporate housing at 1510-1512 13th Avenue

A discussion took place regarding the definition of corporate housing as well as a review of several of Randy Green’s projects

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, May 9, 2022. (0073-22)

- b) awarding the Highway Yard Facility Concrete Floors Refinish to Clark Contractors, Inc. of 145 Clark Contractors Road, Suite 7, Bedford, PA 15522, in the amount of \$144,021.24 payable from Capital Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0074-22)
- c) awarding the 2022 Traffic Signal and Street Light Materials – Package A - to Mayer Electric of 3101 Beale Avenue, Altoona, PA, in the amount of \$15,721.00, payable from the General Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0075-22)
- d) awarding the 2022 Traffic Signal and Street Light Materials – Package B - to Signal Service, Inc., of 1020 Andrew Drive, West Chester, PA 19380, in the amount of \$10,224.00, payable from the General and Capital Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0076-22)
- e) amending the 2021 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) transferring \$82,099.20 from the 2021 Street Reconstruction Project to the 2021 E. Cherry Avenue Sidewalk Installation Project. (0077-22)
- f) amending the 2019 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) transferring \$21,367.02 from the 2019 CDBG Administration funds and \$17,969.23 from the 2019 UPMC Housing & Rental Assistance Program funds to the 2019 Family Services, Inc., Homeless Shelter for a total of \$39,336.25. (0078-22)
- g) adopting the 2022 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Grant Programs and authorizing Mayor Matthew Pacifico of the City of Altoona, PA to execute all documents and certifications and the City Clerk to file appropriate statements, certifications and meeting minutes with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. (0079-22)
- h) awarding the Downtown Parking Study RFP to Trans Associates Engineering Consultants, Inc. of 4955 Steubenville Pike, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15205, in the amount of \$40,000.00, payable from the Contingency Line Item and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0080-22)
- i) 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. (0081-22)
- j) approving a Proposal, attached hereto, from Cohen Law Group of 413 South Main Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215, to Perform Cable Franchise Negotiations with

COMCAST, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0082-22)

- k) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$1100.00, submitted by David Zucal of 3405 Crescent Road, Altoona, PA 16602, for property located at 2000 10th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0083-22)
- l) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$1400.00, submitted by David Zucal of 3405 Crescent Road, Altoona, PA 16602, for property located at 2004 10th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0084-22)
- m) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$1300.00, submitted by Manuel De Matos Paes Landim for Atlas Property & Transportation Corp., 73 Washington Street #2, Peabody, MA 01960, for property located at 1420 Washington Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0085-22) (pulled for separate vote) (did not pass)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; Councilman Butterbaugh asked to have item m pulled for a separate vote; the City Clerk called for the consent vote on all items excluding item m; the consent vote passed 7 to 0 with all present with the exception of item f which passed 6 to 0 with Vice-Mayor Ickes abstaining due to a conflict of interest; the City Clerk read item m and called for the vote; the vote did not pass 0-7 with all present

ORDINANCES - Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 800-6 "DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO ENTIRE CHAPTER 800" AND CHAPTER 800-55 "CENTRAL BUSINESS COMMERCIAL ZONE" OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION FOR "CORPORATE HOUSING" AND TO ADD CORPORATE HOUSING TO THE LIST OF PERMITTED USES FOR CENTRAL BUSINESS COMMERCIAL ZONES WITHIN THE CITY OF ALTOONA.

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:

- the City is now accepting online payments for certain City payments; there is a tab on the City's website on the homepage that will take you to the payment menu and then to the invoice; this went live one week ago
- a meeting was held including Diana White and Dave McFarland regarding the production and distribution of an RFP for the comprehensive plan; the current

comprehensive plan is from 2013; staff will take action to formulate a plan toward the end of 2022 and early 2023; Dave McFarland has agreed to develop the RFP, solicit a vendor to develop a plan and to participate in any group involved -staff is putting a lot of time and resources into the activities related to the R/A and the land bank; the R/A was dormant for a period of time and the land bank is kicking off; the expectation is to see a reduction in blight in the City and improved redevelopment in the City

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Kelley mentioned the death of Dawn Morden and how she will be missed on this community

Councilman Kelley asked there was any perspective or thought on SB1183 which deals with the confiscation of off road vehicles on public streets; Chief Merrill stated he was not familiar and could not see it as being helpful to the City; Councilman Ellis stated it would not be practical and how would you stop or store the off road vehicles; Councilman Ellis stated the vehicles are used in larger cities for gang operations and they are a major problem in Philadelphia and Pittsburg; Chief Merrill stated the off road vehicles are surrounding police vehicles and harassing them and the environment in larger cities in the Commonwealth is significantly different than Altoona

Councilman Kelley asked about the impact of fuel costs and the City budget; Omar stated there is \$315,000 budgeted and the City is through 1/3 of that and that moving forward there could be a vehicle restriction if needed; Councilman Kelley stated that some police departments are not making non-emergency police calls

Councilman Butterbaugh thanked Chief Merrill for his report and all of APD and other City departments involved in Memorial Day events throughout the City

Councilman Ellis stated that before COVID there were discussions about a group reviewing obstacles of development in the City that are in the City's Planning Code; Councilman Butterbaugh stated it was done in 2012 and about 1/3 of the code was removed; Diana White stated we first need to do the comprehensive plan before we can completely overhaul the Planning Code; the Planning Code can be amended as of right now but a complete overhaul will have to wait; Councilman Ellis would like it to include when you want to develop in the City and not just the Planning Code

Councilman Ellis congratulated and recognized Police Chief Joe Merrill for being recognized in the 15th class of the *Altoona Mirror's* 20 Under 40

Councilman Ellis asked Fire Chief Tim Hileman to extend congratulations to the son of one of the City firefighters who was instrumental in the success of the Altoona High School baseball team

Councilman Ellis thanked the FOP Lodge 8 for volunteering to place flags on the Fairview Cemetery graves of Veterans before the Memorial Day weekend

Councilman Ellis asked Solicitor Tom Finn if witnesses at Zoning Hearing need to be sworn in; Solicitor Finn stated no as it is a matter of public comment and not evidentiary; Councilman Ellis stated there was a petition presented and there is now a question of whether it is valid; Solicitor Finn stated the process is for a public hearing including petitions which are not evidentiary

Councilman Beatty congratulated Councilman Ellis for pulling together the rehab of a home on the 900 block of 6th Avenue along with volunteer groups and those who donated funds for materials; the front of the house was rehabbed; that is the start of what the land bank wants to do in Altoona which is to bring homes that have deficiencies back into compliance and to find a way to make Altoona proud and clean

Councilman Beatty asked for patience as the R/A continues to work; there has been a long hiatus of the Redevelopment Authority and they are doing their best to get things moving

Mayor Pacifico stated he attended the PAHRA (PA Association for Housing & Redevelopment) Conference in Hershey as a speaker for housing and redevelopment; Mayor Pacifico presented with the Clarion Co and Clearfield Co R/A and was also on a downtown revitalization panel with Mayor Mike Lombardo of the City of Pittson

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*; a WTAJ -TV 10 Videographer

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:52 p.m.