

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY – JUNE 15, 2021 - 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF ALTOONA TRAINING FACILITY & COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:05 PM following a Public Hearing
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 - Angie Gioiosa 4th of July Memorial Race – Phyllis Baker, Business Development Director & Frank Kopriva, Executive Program Director - Blair Regional YMCA thanked the City for the support they receive stating the race is on a Sunday and they have contacted all of the churches who are planning to participate in various ways

Mayor Pacifico announced that City Firefighter and Arson Dog Tyra was recognized for her 7 years of service with the City of Altoona earlier in the day at City Hall as she is now retired.

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. There was no public comment either in-person or via phone.

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, May 10, 2021. (0071-21)
- b) amending the 2021 HUD Annual Plan to include an additional allocation of funding, for Housing & Community Development Administration, for Program Year 2021 in the amount of \$24,141.00 and further authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents and certifications. (0072-21)
- c) approving the issuance of an economic development liquor license to JJ Hadley & Co. Brewers, LLC, which operates as Hadley’s, located at 1400-1402 11th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, subject to compliance with the conditions as stated. (0073-21)
- d) amending the delegate information in Resolution #0037-18 and appointing the following individuals as Tax Collection Committee (TCC) representatives of the City of Altoona:

Elizabeth Mosey – Primary Voting Delegate
Omar Strohm – First Alternate Voting Delegate
A.C. Stickel IV – Second Alternate Voting Delegate
(0074-21)

e) designating the Altoona City Manager as the Chief Administrative Officer of all three of the City's pension plans, and hereby appointing Omar Strohm, as the City Manager, to be the Chief Administrative Officer of all three City Pension Plans. (0075-21)

f) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$250.00, submitted by Tiffany Emigh & Jonas Zimmerman of 325 Beech Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 324 Spruce Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0076-21)

g) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by Scott Minnoia of 2527 Oak Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 2523 ½ - 2525 Oak Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0077-21)

h) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Kerry Collier of 2200 10th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1009 22nd Street, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0078-21)

i) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by Richard Butterbaugh of 1451 Washington Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1443-1445 Washington Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0079-21)

j) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by Richard Butterbaugh of 1451 Washington Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1447 Washington Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0080-21)

k) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$300.00, submitted by Hazel Minnigh of Avalon Road, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1506 13th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0081-21)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on all items and passed 6 to 0; Councilwoman Jordan was absent

ORDINANCES

Introduction

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.

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

Adoption

Mayor Pacifico

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING CHAPTER 700, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC TO CREATE A NEW ARTICLE XI, MOVING VIOLATIONS, AND ADDING 700-57 ENGINE BRAKE RETARDER PROHIBITING THE USE OF ENGINE BRAKE RETARDERS WITHIN THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA, TO PROVIDE FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION; PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO 5779)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Introduction – Mayor Pacifico

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Cacciotti

Second – Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 4 to 2; Councilman Carper voted no; Councilman Ickes voted no; Councilwoman Jordan was absent

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm reported as follows:

The City spent a lot of time in relation to the torrential rain received and the departments are continuing to respond to complaints as this is an ongoing effort; the City also responded and assisted with the Juniata Spray Park

The City is in the early stages to try to bolster the GIS system and the GIS functionality for a more broad based and visually enhanced tracking and mapping of City related land and fixed assets; this will be valuable to all of the City departments and eventually to the public as well

Recruitment for a Human Resources Director has begun and the City is now taking applications

The City is recommending that a few public meetings are held outside of Council Chambers to receive input from residents and stakeholders into the potential uses of the ARP funds; Mayor Pacifico stated that would be a good way to gauge and receive ideas from the public and later have the advisory board review and narrow down identified projects; Mayor Pacifico stated this adds to the transparency of the process; Council stated they were in support of this and it would be a good way to review the established guidelines as well.

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Kelley asked about flooding and 21st Avenue; Nate Kissell stated there were various amounts of rain registered throughout various areas of the City and the 21st Avenue seemed to be very isolated; the east end of town received a lot of rain as well from Brush Run

Councilman Kelley mentioned the shooting over the weekend involving juveniles and the shooting last year involving juveniles and the concern for this and the possibility of a discussion at a future meeting

Councilman Kelley asked if the McCrory's Building received more water in the basement after the torrential rains; Chief Hileman stated they did and they previously had it down to four inches deep but within five to six days it became three feet of water and now it is even more; Councilman Kelley stated he is ready to move forward on the McCrory's Building as waiting is only going to cause a problem that Council and the City isn't going to want to deal with.

Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh stated 39th Street looked good on Friday which was the last stormwater project completed

Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh and the Mayor attended the dedication of the meridian stone that was moved from Chestnut Avenue in 2001 to Baker Mansion and thanks to Baker Mansion for the opportunity

Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh stated he visited several blighted properties over the weekend and thanked codes for their efforts as there are a lot of legalities in getting these properties cleaned up

Vice Mayor Butterbaugh thought there was a good opportunity and the owners were recently offered what he would consider above fair market value considering the condition of the building; Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh toured the building this past Monday and there was 2½ feet of water in the basement before the storm; Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh was hoping the owners accepted that offer and is convinced it is going to be difficult for a private deal to be made and after speaking with several

professionals, if something isn't done before winter the building will most likely be lost; Vice-Mayor Butterbaugh stated he agrees with Councilman Kelley and stated he doesn't like the eminent domain route but believes there may not be any other choice; Councilman Kelley stated the City hasn't exercised the right of eminent domain in a number of years and that he agrees property rights are important but there is an obligation to the other business owners in downtown Altoona as the building can still be saved and something great can be done with it; considerable time has been taken and the time is now and the City Solicitor can provide next steps in this process; City Solicitor Tom Finn explained the process to Council; Councilman Carper asked if it can be done before winter; Solicitor Finn stated it depends on many factors and that the first step is to file a notice of taking and for Council to vote on this; Solicitor Finn stated if Council is voting at the next worksession it will need to be advertised as a voting meeting and Council agreed; Councilman Ickes asked for the back story of the building and how it got where it is today; City Manager Strohm stated he can have a summary and actions compiled; the City Clerk will also advertise the worksession on June 28th as a voting meeting regarding eminent domain and the McCrory's Building

Councilman Ickes thanked Jody Cessna for the Gospel Hill Flag Day Ceremony that was held at Heritage Plaza on Monday, June 14th

Councilman Ickes stated the City needs to get back to the pre 2021 numbers for the police department due to the increase of shootings and homicides and providing that support of our police protection is fundamental to the base of the community

Councilman Ickes asked about City employees and a mask update; City Manager Strohm stated thirteen days from today or sooner the Governor's mask mandate will end and the City will stop requiring employees to wear masks

Councilman Cacciotti thanked staff who were busy dealing with severe flooding in some areas of the City; Councilman Cacciotti thanked City Manager Omar Strohm for coming on board and for hitting the ground running; Councilman Cacciotti stated by not doing anything in relation to the McCrory's Building, is punishing the businesses that are trying to drive the downtown and that are moving into downtown

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:03 p.m.