

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – JUNE 9, 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, June 10, 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, and Mayor Pacifico

Absent: Council member Kelley

PRESENTATIONS

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

City Ordinance Approving Guaranty for the Altoona Water Authority Pennvest Loan for the Sanitary Sewer System/CSO Screen Replacement Project - Attorney Jens Damgaard, Eckert Seamans and Brad Kelly, AWA Director of Wastewater Operations provided a power point and reviewed the loan information

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Scully of 321 Maple Avenue discussed issues downtown regarding the Homeless and restrooms and what they are doing to the area to include Heritage Plaza and the alleys and parking issues and the removal of designated parking spaces

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, May 12, 2025. (0075-25)
- b) approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Altoona and AFSCME AFL-CIO, District Council #83, Local 2188 Union for the School Crossing Guards, covering the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027 and authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0076-25)
- c) authorizing a Winter Maintenance Agreement between the City of Altoona and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Department of Transportation, for the period of

the Winter of 2025-2026 through the Winter of 2029-2030, with the compensation amount as described in the attached agreement, to be deposited in the Highway Aid Fund, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0077-25)

- d) awarding the 2025 Capital Street Reconstruction Project to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. of P.O. Box 77, New Enterprise, PA 16664, in the amount of \$1,217,006.11, payable from the Capital Budget and Highway Aid, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0078-25)
- e) awarding a Demolition Bid for 127 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, to G&R Excavating & Demolition of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, in the amount of \$13,940.00, 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. (0079-25)
- f) awarding a Demolition Bid for 131 E. 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, to G&R Excavating & Demolition of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, in the amount of \$19,480.00, 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. (0080-25)
- g) awarding a Demolition Bid for 915 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, to G&R Excavating & Demolition of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, in the amount of \$18,940.00, 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. (0081-25)
- h) awarding a Demolition Bid for 1002 3rd Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, to G&R Excavating & Demolition of 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, in the amount of \$16,530.00, 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. (0082-25)
- i) awarding a Demolition Bid for 2105 Washington Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, to Leckey's Demolition Service of 440 Donruth Lane, Johnstown, PA 15909, in the amount of \$11,500.00, 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. (0083-25)
- j) awarding a Demolition Bid for 1006 20th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, to Leckey's Demolition Service of 440 Donruth Lane, Johnstown, PA 15909, in the amount of \$22,900.00, 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. (0084-25)

- k) amending the 2021 HOME-ARP Grant, allocating an additional \$1,344.00 to the HOME ARP Administration Project. (0085-25)
- l) approving a contract for Police Services with the Altoona Housing Authority, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and for the City Clerk to attest to same. (0086-25)
- m) appointing Councilman Butterbaugh to the Blighted Property Review Committee for a term of two years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2027. (0087-25)
- n) appointing Redevelopment Authority of Altoona (RA) Member Allen Thompson to the Blighted Property Review Committee for a term of two years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2027. (0088-25)
- o) appointing Altoona City Planning Commission Member Drew Brennan to the Blighted Property Review Committee for a term of two years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2027. (0089-25)
- p) appointing Matthew Zupon to the Blighted Property Review Committee for a term of one year. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2026. (0090-25)
- q) appointing Devon Henniger to the Blighted Property Review Committee for a term of one year. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2026. (0091-25)
- r) approving a Repository Bid, in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by Ralph M. Smith II of 1829 Walton Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, for property located at 1821-1823 Walton Avenue, Altoona, PA, 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0092-25)
- s) approving a Repository Bid, in the amount of \$900.00, submitted by Ralph M. Smith II of 1829 Walton Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, for property located at 1825-1827 Walton Avenue, Altoona, PA, 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0093-25)
- t) approving a Repository Bid, in the amount of \$200.00, submitted by Chris Weidley of 107 Stirrup Circle, Duncansville, PA 16635, for property located at 1404 18th Street, Altoona, PA, 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0094-25)
- u) approving a Repository Bid, in the amount of \$800.40, submitted by Julian Vaughn of 1010 12th St. Apt. 714, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1811 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA, 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0095-25) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)

- v) approving a Repository Bid, in the amount of \$150.00, submitted by Barry Noll of 128 McCloskey Street, Gallitzin, PA 16641, for property located at 1616 11th Street, Altoona, PA, 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0096-25)
- w) approving a Repository Bid, in the amount of \$150.00, submitted by Barry Noll of 128 McCloskey Street, Gallitzin, PA 16641, for property located at 1618 11th Street, Altoona, PA, 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0097-25)
- x) approving a Repository Bid, in the amount of \$1.00, submitted by Gerald Rahl of 1520 18th Street, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 1514 -16 18th Street and 1518 18th Street, Altoona, PA, 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0098-25) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- y) approving a Repository Bid, in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Compass Geographic, LLC, c/o David Black, 435 Chambers Way, West Grove, PA 19390, for property located at 3127-33 7th Avenue, Altoona, PA, 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0099-25) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- z) approving a Repository Bid, in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Compass Geographic, LLC, c/o David Black, 435 Chambers Way, West Grove, PA 19390, for property located at 417-19 S 8th Street, Altoona, PA, 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0100-25) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- aa) approving a Repository Bid submitted by Moti Tolessa of 9975 Butternut St NW Apt 310, Coon Rapids, MN 55448, each property listed in the amount of \$25.00 and located at 2609 Maple Avenue, 1814 11th Avenue, 1514-16 18th Street, 1509 1st Avenue, 1429 Washington Avenue, 1618 11th Street, 1904 10th Street, 902 10th Street, 1616 11th Street, 1404 18th Street, 1124-26 17th Avenue, 227 E 5th Avenue, 1120 17th Avenue, 209-1/2 10th Street, 810 6th Avenue, 2024 5th Avenue, 2005-07 3rd Avenue, 2015 13th Avenue, 1009 18th Avenue, 607 3rd Avenue, 312 Howard Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0101-25) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- bb) approving a Repository Bid submitted by Moti Tolessa of 9975 Butternut St NW Apt 310, Coon Rapids, MN 55448, each property listed in the amount of \$25.00 and located at 1811 8th Avenue, 1511 3rd Avenue, 819 6th Avenue, 1521 20th Avenue, 1700-02 3rd Avenue, 3127-33 7th Avenue, and 1823 13th Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0102-25) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; Councilman Butterbaugh asked to have items u, x,y,z,aa,bb pulled for separate

votes which did not pass 0-6; Councilman Kelley was absent; Councilman Beatty asked to have item q pulled for separate vote which passed 5 to 1; Councilman Kelley was absent; the consent vote was taken on items a through p, r, t, v,w and passed 6 to 0; Councilman Kelley was absent

ORDINANCES

Introduction

INCURRING "LEASE RENTAL DEBT," AS DEFINED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,750,000, 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 SANITARY SEWER 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 SEWER 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.

This ordinance was read into the record by the City Clerk and introduced by the Governing Body

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA SPECIFICALLY CHAPTER 98 ENTITLED "PERSONNEL POLICIES", ADDING SECTION 11.9 VOLUNTARY LEAVE DONATION PROGRAM; REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 550 ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE", ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE 2021 EDITION, REPEALING OF ALL INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance was read into the record by the City Clerk and introduced by Councilman Beatty

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 711 ENTITLED "VEHICLES, STORAGE OF", CHANGING THE TITLE TO "VEHICLES, STORAGE OF AND PARKING", ADDING RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND VEHICLE PARKING REQUIREMENTS TO THE CODE, REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS, REAFFIRMATION OF CHAPTER 711 AS AMENDED AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance was read into the record by the City Clerk and introduced by Councilman Butterbaugh

CITY MANAGER UPDATES - None currently

MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Mayor Ellis proposed changing the ordinance regarding street cuts so that if there are issues where one or two blocks are where the contractors are working that they are not permitted to move onto the next block until they bring the block they are working on up to an acceptable standard; Councilman Ickes stated he would support this if it is permitted; Councilman Butterbaugh stated it may take a discussion as to what is a reasonable number of blocks and what the contractor should be given and what the capability is; the Altoona Water Authority and Peoples Gas are now mandated to replace and the City of Altoona is one of the toughest areas on the East coast because of the substandard lines; hopefully the City will get up to speed and be able to keep up after this year; Vice-Mayor Ellis stated this is a good thing this is happening because the infrastructure is being updated but it is really creating a problem; Councilman Butterbaugh stated he is supportive of the idea as well

Councilman Beatty addressed the Blighted Property Committee vote stating there should be one person on the committee that does the type of work of the committee and there was one application for an individual and he was not recommended

Councilwoman Clinich thanked the following organizations who helped to beautify Heritage Plaza by donating and planting flowers and for their time and effort to include: Women's Club of Altoona, the Rotary Club of Altoona, the Altoona Sunrise Rotary Club, Blair Regional YMCA, and the Tipsy Tulip Flower Shop

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA - Bill Kibler of the *Altoona Mirror*

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:08 p.m.