

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – AUGUST 14, 2023 - 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 August 15, 2023.

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, Ellis, Ickes, Kelley and Mayor Pacifico

Absent: Councilman Carper who resigned as of August 1, 2023 via letter.

Mayor Pacifico announced that Councilman Carper submitted his resignation from Altoona City Council via letter effective August 1, 2023. The Mayor stated applications with the required qualifications would be taken online beginning Tuesday, August 15th through Wednesday, August 23rd. A special meeting to appoint a person to the vacant seat will take place on Wednesday, August 30th at 6pm in the Common Room on the 4th floor of City Hall.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jordan, Ecological Landscaper in Blair County – stated he has a contract with DCNR regarding wildlife crossing pilot program; suggested Council apply as a part of the Greenway Project; 3 acres near Mill Run will start this year; also, Council spoke previously about Garfield Park and grant money could be used to educate and to enhance the park; stated a community garden would be nice at the corner of Washington Avenue and 21st Avenue and he is willing to volunteer his time

Walt McCulloch of 913 25th Avenue stated people are not obeying the parking laws in Altoona; stated he calls the Altoona Police; asked Council to drive the City and check out the parking situations; asked Council to fix parking in the City and to enforce parking in the City

Ed Kreuz of 1830 N 4th Avenue stated the alley washed out again; asked several questions of Council and staff who stated they will answer

Joseph Zolna of 5815 Oak Ave and on behalf of the Central PA Humane Society stated they have a few issues at the shelter regarding the City; APD will follow up

Devin Saylor of 424 Crawford Avenue asked about the proposed Utilities Ordinance and what is changing; City Solicitor Tom Finn stated the changes relate to fiber optics and telecommunications

Autumn Temple of 905 N. 4th Avenue thanked the City for investing in Prospect Pool and encouraged the City to stay focused and continue to promote the pool; stated she is willing to volunteer on a fundraising committee

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, July 10, 2023. (0108-23)
- b) authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funds with Blair County and for the City Clerk to attest to same, and further authorizing the Mayor to execute the necessary certifications required to submit the application. (0109-23)
- c) amending the 2019 Community Development Block Grant Program, transferring \$1,803.05 from the COVID-19 Blair County Community Action Support Program to the Blair County Community Action Rental Assist Program. (0110-23)
- d) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$600.00, submitted by the Redevelopment Authority of Altoona of 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA for property located at 1817-19 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0111-23)
- e) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$600.00, submitted by the Redevelopment Authority of Altoona of 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA for property located at 710 19th Street, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0112-23)
- f) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$250.00, submitted by William Mentch Jr. of 524 Bell Avenue, Altoona, PA, for property located at 522 Bell Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0113-23)
- g) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$25.00, submitted by Randy Fochler of 1918 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA, for property located at 327-29 Wopsononock Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (TABLED)
- h) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$25.00, submitted by Randy Fochler of 1918 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA, for property located at 331-33 Wopsononock Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (TABLED)

- i) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$25.00, submitted by Randy Fochler of 1918 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA, for property located at 208-10 E Cherry Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (TABLED)
- j) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$25.00, submitted by Randy Fochler of 1918 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA, for property located at 417-19 S 8th Street, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (TABLED)
- k) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by Brittany Podelco of 1810 10th Street, Altoona, PA, for property located at 1806 10th Street, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0114-23)
- l) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$300.00, submitted by Merrill Morse of 613 Broadway St., Meyersdale, PA, for property located at 1814 11th Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (TABLED)
- m) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$300.00, submitted by Merrill Morse of 613 Broadway St., Meyersdale, PA, for property located at 2024 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (TABLED)
- n) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Donna A. Ceballos of 1815 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, for property located at 710 19th Street, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0115-23)
- o) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Donna A. Ceballos of 1815 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA, for property located at 1817-19 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0116-23)
- p) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$50.00, submitted by Randy Fochler of 1918 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA, for property located at 522 Bell Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0117-23)
- q) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$700.00, submitted by Deo Ramkissoon, Sameer Enterprise, LLC of 362 Livingston Avenue, Albany, NY, for property located at 1817-19 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0118-23)

- r) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$500.00, submitted by Tyshay Hill of 2138 Almira St, Jacksonville, FL, for property located at 1521-23 20th Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0119-23)
- s) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$100.00, submitted by Stephen Diamantides, LLC, DBA SD Acquisitions of 850 E. Lime St. #263, Tarpon Springs, FL, for property located at 1511 3rd Avenue, in the amount of \$100.00 for property located at 227 E. 5th Avenue, in the amount of \$100.00 for property located at 3318 6th Avenue, in the amount of \$100.00 for property located at 312 Howard Avenue, in the amount of \$100.00 for property located at 1118 17th Avenue, and in the amount of \$100.00 for property located at 1120 17th Avenue, Altoona, PA and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0120-23)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; a consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on items a through f and item k and passed 6 to 0 with all present; a vote was taken on items n through s by the City Clerk, and each did not pass by a vote of 6 to 0; a motion was made by Councilman Kelley to table items g through j, l and m and seconded by Councilman Butterbaugh and the City clerk called for the vote which passed 6 to 0 to table

ORDINANCES

Introduction

- 1) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE VACATION AND ABANDONMENT OF 7.5 FEET OF AN UNNAMED AND UNOPENED ALLEY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF NORTH 20TH STREET BETWEEN NORTH 7TH AVENUE AND NORTH 7 ½ AVENUE AND 25 FEET OF UNOPENED NORTH 7 ½ AVENUE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 295-8 OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A QUIT CLAIM DEED TO WILLIAM C. MALLERY AND KIMBERLY R. MALLERY AND ANY ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION TO RELINQUISH ANY RIGHT, TITLE AND/OR INTEREST THE CITY OF ALTOONA HAS OR MAY HAVE IN SAID UNOPENED ROADWAYS; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS, REPEALER; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Introduction

- 2) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AMENDS CHAPTER 690 "UTILITIES" OF THE ALTOONA CITY CODE, TO PROVIDE UPDATED DEFINITIONS, PROCEDURES, STANDARDS AND FEES WITH RESPECT TO THE PLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION OF ASSETS AND FACILITIES

WITHIN ANY CITY OF ALTOONA RIGHTS-OF-WAY, TO PROVIDE A REPEALER, SAVINGS CLAUSE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (ORD. NO. 5807)

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

Introduction – Mayor Pacifico

Motion for Adoption – Councilman Beatty

Second – Mayor Pacifico

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 0 with all present

RESOLUTION

- t) amending and re-stating the 2023 Fee Resolution 0132-22, adding the UTILITIES section and fees as a result of the adoption of the UTILITIES Ordinance No. 5807, adopted August 14, 2023. (0121-23)

Upon the adoption of Ordinance 5807, item t was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 6 to 0 with all present

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm provided the following:

-the City met with Judy Ward regarding flood mitigation

-an assessment was done on the Altoona Parking Authority lots and some will be placed in the capital program and paved in 2024

-czb will make a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan at the next Council meeting

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council expressed their thanks regarding Prospect Pool

Mayor Pacifico allowed Randy Cornelius to ask questions of staff and Council regarding paving, sump pumps and rental properties at this time as he was late for the meeting and missed public comment

MEDIA – no media in attendance

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:55 p.m.