

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – NOVEMBER 13, 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 November 14, 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, Cooper, Ellis, Ickes, Kelley and Mayor Pacifico

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – Katie Buchanan, no address given, Altoona, PA stated there are many rumors regarding Keith Athletic Field and understands that it is owned by the Altoona Area School District and asked for Council to be transparent and to treat it like they treated Prospect Pool; development would affect safety in the neighborhood and stormwater would affect those downhill; asked Council to leave it as greenspace

Jordan Wild of Ecological Landscapes, no address given, stated he is working with DCNR and asked Council to keep him in mind when considering solutions for replacing stormwater run off and for grass spaces as he can enhance the areas with raingardens and wildflower meadows; stated he assisted with moving a tree recently that was a hazard near St. Therese and planted bushes and trees with Holy Trinity students

Devin Saylor of 424 Crawford Ave, Altoona stated the Altoona Housing Authority needs a bigger meeting space and more transparency with agendas, etc.; Councilman Cooper stated he serves as Chairman of the Altoona Housing Authority and he is happy to discuss suggestions and concerns

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Tuesday, October 10, 2023. (0145-23)
- b) approving an Intergovernmental Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Altoona and the Redevelopment Authority of Altoona for Rehabilitation and Construction Management Services, as outlined in the agreement, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0146-23)

- c) authorizing a Right-of-Way Agreement between the City of Altoona and FirstLight Fiber, Inc. for construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of telecommunications facilities within the City's rights-of-way, as defined in the agreement, for the purpose of providing Telecommunications Services and/or Information Service, as defined in the agreement, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0147-23)
- d) approving the purchase of a Walk-in Cooler/Freezer and Evidence Storage Locker, for the Altoona Police Department Addition/Renovation Project, in the amount of \$282,748.95, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the contract and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0148-23)
- e) authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Financing Authority for a PA- LSA Statewide Grant for Fire and Rescue Equipment and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0149-23)
- f) authorizing the reimbursement by the City of Altoona to the Community Development Block Grant Program in the amount of \$5,000.00 for property located at 1817-1819 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, to be used to further remove conditions of slum and blight under the City of Altoona's CDBG Blighted Property Demolition Program. (TABLED)
- g) awarding a demolition contract to G&R Excavating & Demolition, Inc., 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, for demolition of 709 North 9th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$6892.00, payable from Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG), and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0150-23)
- h) awarding a demolition contract to Earthmovers Unlimited, Inc., of P.O. Box 187, Kylertown, PA 16847, for demolition of 1514 18th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$10,973.00, and the garage only at 609 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, in the amount of \$1,888.00, for a total amount of \$12,861.00, payable from Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG), and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0151-23)
- i) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$200.00, submitted by Kenneth Knisely of 1821 Frankstown Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648, for property located at 3324-26 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0152-23)

- 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 327-29 Wopsononock Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0153-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- k) 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. (0154-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- l) 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. (0155-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)
- m) 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. (0156-23) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; a motion was made by Mayor Pacifico seconded by Councilman Kelley to table item f until the language in the resolution could be changed; the City Clerk called for the vote on item f which passed 7 to 0; a consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on items a through e and g through i and passed 7 to 0 with all present; items j through m were each pulled for separate vote at the request of Councilman Beatty and did not pass 0-7 with all present

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 2024. (2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE)

The proposed 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, COUNTY OF BLAIR, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING CHAPTER 646 ENTITLED "TAXATION" AND IN PARTICULAR §646-96 "MILLAGE ESTABLISHED: ONGOING TAX" ESTABLISHING THE TAX RATE FOR ALL REAL ESTATE SUBJECT TO TAXATION LOCATED IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA, AT A RATE OF 5.629 MILLS FOR THE YEAR

2024 AND CONTINUING THEREAFTER WITHOUT REENACTMENT UNTIL SAID RATE IS CHANGED BY CITY COUNCIL; THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROVIDES FOR A REAFFIRMATION OF THE REMAINDER OF CHAPTER 646; REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF LAWS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (2024 TAX MILLAGE ORDINANCE)

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

CITY MANAGER UPDATES

City Manager Omar Strohm provided the following:

- Platinum Parking is giving a presentation to the Altoona Parking Authority on Tuesday, November 14, 2023
- czb representatives would like to meet with members of Council in small groups in December and Omar will set that up

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Cooper congratulated Mayor Pacifico and Councilman Ickes on their re-election and Councilwoman-Elect Shelley Clinich

MEDIA – Bill Kibler of the *Altoona Mirror* was in attendance and asked questions of City staff and Council

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 7:05 p.m.