

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – DECEMBER 2, 2024 - 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, December 3, 2024.

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, Kelley and Mayor Pacifico

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held Executive Sessions on November 12th for personnel matters and potential litigation and on November 26th for personnel matters

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles LeMarc of 310 Lexington Avenue asked Council not to take Orchard Park stating it is used by the neighborhood kids as it has a field for ball and play equipment and Council can find other vacant lots for homes along 6th and 7th Avenues

Melissa Wertz of 229 Beech Avenue asked Council to keep the park stating she lives beside it and it is used year-round for recreation and taking the park will decrease property values

Damian Spallone of 210 Beech Avenue stated he moved there because of the green space and asked Council to look at other options as the park is not abandoned or blighted and has been a park for many years

Timothy Smith of 524 Rosehill Drive stated he applauded the effort as there is a need and taking the park is a conflict of the City Code and Comp Plan

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Tuesday, November 12, 2024. (0201-24)
- b) approving the 10th Avenue Retaining Wall Demo and Guide Rail Installation (19th Street to 22nd Street), in the amount of \$198,253.13, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0202-24)

- c) approving the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which includes a reasonable, prioritized, and practical list of capital projects to be undertaken by the City over the next five-years. These capital projects are designed to preserve the City's infrastructure, ensure the safety and efficiency of City personnel, and maintain the quality of life in the community. (0203-24)
- d) approving the City Council Meeting Schedule attached hereto, for the year 2025, in accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code of the City of Altoona. (0204-24)
- e) authorizing a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the City of Altoona and the Altoona Parking Authority for the use of ARPA Funds, in the amount of \$165,000.00, for Parking System Upgrades, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0205-24)
- f) approving an Agreement of Sale between the City of Altoona and Curry Realty, LLC for the purchase of property located at 1501-1507 12th Avenue, (01.03-09..-045.00-000 and 01.03-09..-106.000-000) Altoona, PA, in the amount detailed in the documents attached hereto, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing Mayor Matt Pacifico and Interim City Manager Nate Kissell to execute all documents related to the sale, and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0206-24)
- g) amending and re-stating the Fee Resolution attached hereto, to include an increase in parking rates by the Altoona Parking Authority, adding an AFD Fireworks Display Permit Fee and increasing CPR Training Fees, restructuring the Permits section and increasing Permit Fees, increasing Home Based Business Zoning Fees and Containerized Storage Fees, increasing Foreclosed Property Registration Fees, increasing Rental Inspection No Show Fee, and increasing Sexually Oriented Business Annual Permit Renewal Fee, increasing the Right of Way Street Restoration Fee, increasing various Utilities Fees and updating language. (0207-24)
- h) authorizing Mayor Matt Pacifico to sign the Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative Form (2848) for the Sewer Revenue Bonds (GSRB), Series 2019 Audit. (0208-24)
- i) approving a Repository Bid in the amount of \$250.00, submitted by Rachel William of 1710 4th Street, Altoona, PA 16601, for property located at 324 Spruce Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Form. (0209-24)

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 7 to 0 with all present

ORDINANCES

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE CAMBRIA COUNTY BUILDING CODES ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AND DELEGATING MUNICIPAL POWERS THERETO.

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

Adoption – Mayor Pacifico

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 2025. (2025 BUDGET ORDINANCE) (ORD. NO. 5818)

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

Introduction – Mayor Pacifico

Motion for Adoption – Vice-Mayor Ellis

Second – Mayor Pacifico

The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present

Adoption – Councilman Ickes

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA CHAPTER 646 ENTITLED "TAXATION" BY AMENDING ARTICLE VIII THEREOF ENTITLED, "EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS TAX", TO LEVY A TAX ON EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS OF RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AT THE FOLLOWING RATES FOR 2025: ONE PERCENT (1%) FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES BY AUTHORITY OF "THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT" (ACT 511); THREE TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.30%) FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER AND OPTIONAL PLANS LAW; AND FOUR TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.40%) TO DEFRAY COSTS RELATED TO THE PENSION PLANS OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA BY AUTHORITY OF THE MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN FUNDING STANDARD AND RECOVERY ACT (ACT 205). IN ADDITION, SAID ORDINANCE WILL LEVY A TAX ON EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS OF CERTAIN NONRESIDENTS WHO WORK IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA AT THE FOLLOWING RATES: ONE PERCENT (1%) FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES BY AUTHORITY OF THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT (ACT 511); AND FOUR TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.40%) TO DEFRAY COSTS RELATED TO THE PENSION PLANS

OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA BY AUTHORITY OF THE MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN FUNDING STANDARD AND RECOVERY ACT (ACT 205). SAID ORDINANCE WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE TAX RETURNS; REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO WITHHOLD AND REMIT TAX; CONTAINS DEFINITIONS, REFERENCES APPLICABLE STATUTES, DESIGNATES A TAX COLLECTOR, ESTABLISHES INTEREST, PENALTIES, COSTS AND FINES, PROVIDES FOR SEVERABILITY, A PURPOSE AND ESTABLISHES AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (2025 EIT ORDINANCE) (ORD. NO. 5819)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Introduction – Councilman Ickes
Motion for Adoption – Councilman Ickes
Second – Vice-Mayor Ellis
The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present

Adoption – Vice-Mayor Ellis

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 7.129 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 2025 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. (2025 TAX MILLAGE ORDINANCE) (ORD. NO. 5820)

This ordinance was read into the record by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer
Introduction – Vice-Mayor Ellis
Motion for Adoption – Councilwoman Clinich
Second – Councilman Beatty
The vote was taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and passed 7 to 0 with all present

CITY MANAGER UPDATES – Glow-up (tree lighting and fireworks) will be held Friday, December 6th from 5-7 in Heritage Plaza; the Christmas Parade, sponsored by 7 Mountains Media, will be held on Saturday, December 7th beginning at 1 pm.

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

MEDIA – media attendance included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror* and Jordan Mansberger, WTAJ TV 10

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:59 p.m.