

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – JUNE 10, 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, June 11, 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

PRESENTATIONS – Phyllis Baker, Community Engagement/Development Director & Frank Kopriva, Executive Program Director of the Blair Regional YMCA discussed the Angie Gioiosa 4th of July Memorial Race that is held in Downtown Altoona and thanked the City for their assistance

Attorney Jens Damgaard, Eckert Seamans discussed the proposed City Ordinance Approving Guaranty for the Altoona Water Authority Pennvest Loan for the Logan Boulevard Waterline Replacement Project

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an Executive Session May 13th for potential litigation, real estate and personnel matters.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Elias Rifkahn spoke about the property that is behind his Chestnut Avenue office and pain management clinic on the 100 block of Lexington Avenue that is currently a playground that will become low-income housing and eliminate the playground; a letter was also submitted

Steve Hess with an accounting office at 127 Lexington Avenue stated with the playground closing for a housing development project, the kids are playing in his office parking lot and asked Council to do something about the housing project and the playground; a letter was also submitted

Paul Mingh spoke on behalf of his mother who has been a resident of her home on 36th Street since 1986; a letter was received from the Altoona Water Authority regarding a sewer bill that had not been paid since 2003; Mr. Mingh stated this is the AWA's clerical error and not his mother's fault; he asked Mayor and Council to contact AWA about this matter and stated they will be attending the next AWA board meeting

RESOLUTIONS

a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, May 13, 2024. (0112-24)

b) awarding the Altoona Transportation Center Renovations Project to the following bidders:

General Construction – J.C. Orr and Son, Inc., 428 7th Ave, Altoona, PA, in the amount of \$954,179.00

Plumbing Construction – K&K Plumbing Company, Inc., 302 Constable Ave, Johnstown, PA, in the amount of \$38,595.00

Electrical Construction – Westmoreland Electric Services, LLC., 193 Central Rd., Tarrs, PA, in the amount of \$233,300.00 HVAC Construction – Hranec Sheet Metal, Inc., 763 Route 21, Uniontown, PA, in the amount of \$410,000.00

for a total amount of \$1,636,074.00, with \$1,145,251.80 payable from a Multi Modal Grant, and the City's Match of 30%, in the amount of \$490,822.20, payable from ARPA Funds, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0113-24)

c) approving a Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement, Union Avenue-31st Street-Crescent Road, with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation, for new and replacement sidewalks within their project area, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0114-24)

d) approving a Contribution Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation, for the installation and upgrades of stormwater facilities within their project limits, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0115-24)

e) authorizing the Interim City Manager to enter into a Professional Engineering Agreement with the EADS Group, Inc., 1126 8th Avenue, Altoona, PA, for Consultant Engineer Services, for the period 2024-2029, and further authorizing the City Clerk to attest to same. (0116-24)

f) authorizing the filing of a Declaration of Taking for the purpose of obtaining an Easement for property owned by Jason A. Miller and Robert E. Miller, identified as Blair County Tax Map Number 01.13-35..-024.00-000 (1717 North 6th Avenue), with respect to the Intakes Project, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0117-24)

- g) authorizing the filing of a Declaration of Taking for the purpose of obtaining an Easement for property owned by John M. Davis, identified as Blair County Tax Map Number 01.13-35..-060.00-000 (1712 North 5th Avenue), with respect to the Intakes Project, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0118-24)
- h) in accordance with the Home Rule Charter of the City of Altoona, approving the sale of a 1992 Wells Cargo Haz-Mat Trailer (removed from service) to Alpha Fire Company of State College, PA, in the amount of \$500.00, fair market value, plus all other fees associated with the sale, to include transfer fees, and for the City Clerk to execute all documents related to the sale. (0119-24)
- i) approving a contract for Police Services with the Altoona Housing Authority, for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at the Green Avenue Towers and the Eleventh Street Towers, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and for the City Clerk to attest to same. (0120-24)
- j) appointing Altoona Police Chief Joseph Merrill to the AMED Authority to fill the unexpired term of Councilman Dave Ellis. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January, 2027. (tabled)
- k) amending the 2022 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), transferring \$16,440.98 from the 2022 HUD-CDBG Administration to the Single Family Rehabilitation Program. (0121-24)
- l) amending the 2023 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), transferring \$272,331.00 from the 2023 HUD-CDBG Administration and \$30,000.00 from the Fair Housing Administration, for a total amount of \$302,331.00, to the 8th Street Curb and Sidewalk Project. (0122-24)
- m) awarding a demolition contract to G&R Excavating & Demolition, Inc., 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686, for the demolition of the following properties:
- 715 North 6th Avenue
1229 4th Avenue
628 North 9th Avenue
- Altoona, PA, in the amount of \$25,170.00, payable from the Blighted Property Program, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0123-24)
- n) approving Repository Bids in the amount of \$300.00, submitted by Courtney Wynn of 412 Wilson Avenue, Lyons, GA 30436, for property located at

1464-66 Washington Avenue, and in the amount of \$300.00 for property located at 2005-07 3rd Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Forms. (0124-24) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)

o) approving Repository Bids in the amount of \$250.00, submitted by Creighton DeKline of 6692 Chupp Rd. Apt C, Lithonia, GA 30058, for property located at 208-10 East Cherry Avenue, in the amount of \$250.00 for property located at 1109-11 17th Avenue, in the amount of \$250.00 for property located at 1810 12th Avenue, in the amount of \$250.00 for property located at 2409-11 Oak Avenue, and in the amount of \$250.00 for property located at 1926 12th Avenue, Altoona, PA, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Taxing District Forms. (0125-24) (VOTE DID NOT PASS)

p) accepting the proposal for consulting services, submitted by Strategic Solutions, LLC, of 524 Sandrae Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243, to assist the City with the City Manager search, reorganization of Community Development and prioritization and implementation planning of the objectives and strategies outlined in the 2018 Community Development Plan, and outlined in other studies, payable in accordance with the rates and fees set forth in Exhibit A, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0126-24)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; Councilman Kelley motioned to table item j and Councilman Ickes seconded the motion; the City Clerk called for a vote and it passed 7 to 0 with all present; Councilman Butterbaugh requested that items n and o be pulled for separate votes; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk on items a – m and p and excluded item j, and passed 7 to 0 with all present; a vote was taken on item n and did not pass by a vote of 0 to 7 with all present; a vote was taken on item o and did not pass by a vote of 0 to 7 with all present

ORDINANCES

Introduction – Councilman Butterbaugh

INCURRING "LEASE RENTAL DEBT," AS DEFINED IN THE PENNSYLVANIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT DEBT ACT, IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,500,000, 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 WATER 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 WATER 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 City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer and introduced by Councilman Butterbaugh.

Introduction – Vice-Mayor Ellis

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA TO AMEND CHAPTER 405 ENTITLED "LEASE AND/OR CONVEYANCE OF CITY OWNED LANDS", TO: AUTHORIZE CONVEYANCE OF CITY OWNED LAND LOCATED AT 201 BEECH AVENUE, 205 BEECH AVENUE, 209 BEECH AVENUE, 213 BEECH AVENUE, 217 BEECH AVENUE, 221 BEECH AVENUE, AND 225 BEECH AVENUE, TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ALTOONA, FOR \$1.00; REAFFIRM THE REMAINDER OF CHAPTER 405; REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDE SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Introduction – Councilman Ickes

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA AMENDING CHAPTER 700, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, TO RESCIND ARTICLE XI MOVING VIOLATIONS, AND FURTHER RESCINDING SECTION, 700-57 ENGINE BRAKE RETARDER, TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

CITY MANAGER UPDATES – Flag Day is June 14th and the Gospel Hill Flag Day Ceremony is at Heritage Plaza at 12 noon; Levity is holding Summerfest Saturday, June 15th; the Redevelopment Authority has two RFP's on the website and advertised

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Kelley thanked AFD and APD for attending and participating in Jaffa Community Days; Senate Bill 1236 involves squatters and gives landlords and others assistance

Councilman Ickes thanked Overflow Church for the clean ups held downtown in May

Councilman Butterbaugh stated there are many projects taking place throughout the City over the summer and there will also be paving and asked the public to be patient

Vice-Mayor Ellis thanked Overflow Church for their Wednesday clean ups in May; also, the clean ups produced 10 roll offs and thanks to Burgmeier for donating these; the clean ups targeted Kettle Street to 12th Street and 7th Avenue to 1st Avenue and had a significant impact; during the project four homes received work; Vice Mayor Ellis stated as of today, Team Effort started programs across the County and they have taken on projects to help people get out of code issues; also, thank you to the Blair County Commissioners for their \$30,000 donation to Team Effort and \$50,000 commitment to help people get out of code issues; this is a grant program available for \$5,000 per person per household (owner occupied)

Councilman Beatty stated he spent a few days at Prospect Pool and the Blair Regional YMCA is doing a great job and the pool running well and it looks good; the diving board is a hit and it is always being used; the Redevelopment Authority has two RFP's on the City website regarding the rehab of two properties and encouraged people to view them

Councilwoman Clinich thanked APD and AFD for a very nice community event she participated in at Baker School recently

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

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