

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY – JANUARY 13, 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, January 14, 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, Kelley and Mayor Pacifico

Mayor Pacifico announced that Council held an Executive Session following the December 2nd Council Meeting for real estate, personnel and potential litigation.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Devin Saylor of 1409 13th Street thanked Council for his appointment to the City’s Planning Commission for the last three years

Louise Burkholder of 2042 Broad Avenue stated she and her husband do not want new sidewalks or tree removal/new trees in front of their home for the upcoming project on Broad Avenue.

Charles LeMarc of 310 Lexington Avenue provided a photo of Orchard Park

Shasta Langenbacher of 2524 Oak Avenue stated more housing is needed but parks and building relationships with kids in neighborhoods are needed

Timothy Smith of 524 Rosehill Drive stated Council should vote at this meeting to return this area to a park or it is going to court

RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, December 2, 2024. (0001-25)
- b) reappointing Dave Hess to the Altoona Code Appeals Board for a term of five years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2030. (0002-25)
- c) reappointing Norman Young to the Altoona Housing Authority for a term of five years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2030. (0003-25)

- d) reappointing Mayor Matt Pacifico to the Altoona Parking Authority for a term of five years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2030. (0004-25)
- e) reappointing Dave Albright to the Altoona City Planning Commission for a term of four years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2029. (0005-25)
- f) appointing Peter Folen to the Altoona City Planning Commission for a term of four years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2029. (0006-25)
- g) reappointing Bill Neugebauer to the Altoona Water Authority for a term of five years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2030. (0007-25)
- h) reappointing Don Belsey to the Civil Service Board for a term of four years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2029. (0008-25)
- i) reappointing Ted Beam (alternate) to the Civil Service Board for a term of four years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2029. (0009-25)
- j) reappointing Joe Eckels to the Electrical & Plumbing Examiners Board for a term of four years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2029. (0010-25)
- k) reappointing Stu Sellers to the Electrical & Plumbing Examiners Board for a term of four years. Said term shall expire the first Monday of January 2029. (0011-25)
- l) awarding a demolition contract to Earthmovers Unlimited, Inc. of Kylertown, PA, for the demolition of 1916 10th Street, Altoona, PA 16601, in the amount of \$11,487.00, payable from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Blighted Property Program Funds, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0012-25)
- m) authorizing an Easement Agreement between the City of Altoona and The Jaffa Improvement Association, for the purpose of the installation & maintenance of a Bus Lane in front of 2200 Broad Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, as shown on the Easement Plan attached hereto (prepared by The EADS Group, dated November 14, 2024, Project No. 0120-19-478.81), and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0013-25)
- n) authorizing the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority and/or the Cambria County Building Codes Enforcement Agency to submit an application for grants in aid through the PA Department of Community & Economic Development, through the shared municipal services program, on behalf of the City of Altoona, as the City will be operating an inter-municipal cooperative project for Uniform Building Code Enforcement, and further authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0014-25)

- o) authorizing the destruction of City public records, in accordance with the Municipal Records Manual of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. (0015-25)
- p) appointing Christopher McGuire to the position of City Manager, and approving the formal Employment Agreement, and further authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Employment Agreement. (0016-25)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk and passed 7 to 0; Councilman Kelley abstained from item m as a member of the AMTRAN Board and as a member of the Jaffa; the vote passed 6 to 0 with all present; an abstention form will be attached to the resolution

ORDINANCES

Introduction

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE VACATION AND ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF A FIFTEEN (15) FOOT ALLEY SITUATE BETWEEN 18TH AVENUE AND 19TH AVENUE AND LEADING FROM 8TH STREET TO 10TH STREET 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 BRITTANY N. PODELCO AND ANY ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION TO RELINQUISH ANY RIGHT, TITLE AND/OR INTEREST THE CITY OF ALTOONA HAS OR MAY HAVE IN SAID UNOPENED ALLEY; 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 Ickes.

Adoption

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE CAMBRIA COUNTY BUILDING CODES ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AND DELEGATING MUNICIPAL POWERS THERETO. (ORD. NO. 5821)

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

CITY MANAGER UPDATES – thank you to all City staff who made the ARPA allocations happen and kept the projects moving by the deadline as it was a lot of

work for everyone; thanks to all of the City departments regarding the large fire on 13th Avenue between 11th and 12th Street

MAYOR & COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Councilwoman Clinich complimented the Altoona Police Department on the capture of Luigi Mangione and thanked them for a great job and for how everything was handled

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

ADJOURNMENT – by Mayor Pacifico at 6:45 p.m.