

ALTOONA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY – MARCH 10, 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, March 11, 2025.

CALL TO ORDER – by Vice-Mayor Ellis 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, and Kelley  
Mayor Pacifico was absent

PRESENTATION – Zoning & SALDO Re-write – czb

Vice-Mayor Ellis announced that Council held an Executive Session following the February 24<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and Work Session for personnel matters

The City Clerk asked to have a resolution added to the agenda, which is resolution e on the agenda as follows:

authorizing a Highway Use Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation, for the installation and maintenance of a new bus lane in front of 2200 Broad Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same.

The resolution was read into the record at this time by the City Clerk and there was a motion by Councilman Beatty to add resolution e to the agenda and a second by Councilman Ickes with all in favor. The Mayor was absent.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles LeMark of 310 Lexington Avenue regarding Orchard Park's retention

Paricia Reed of 504 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue stated Council has no heart or soul or integrity or honesty regarding Orchard Park

Timothy Smith of 524 Rosehill Drive referenced a letter from a law firm that was received by the City via email and asked Council to reconsider their vote to sell the park

Larry Carter of 1105 Broadway spoke about the licensing of electricians and plumbers and suggested Council review all information

Walt McCulloch 913 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue stated Beale Avenue needs improved with the property tax increase that was made; asked about HB 2536, the loop law, and owner occupied housing tax increase exemption for home owners of more than 10 years

Rosemary Ellis of 305 E Logan Avenue reported S. Kettle Street & Logan Avenue has an obstruction due to hedges at this intersection and asked that the owner trim the hedges or that the City remove them

Damian Spallone of 210 Beech Avenue stated he regrets moving to Beech Avenue due to the sale of the land and asked Council to consider building in another neighborhood

## RESOLUTIONS

- a) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Meeting held Monday, February 10, 2025. (0025-25)
- b) approving the minutes of the Altoona City Council Sole Purpose Special Meeting held Monday, February 24, 2025. (0026-25)
- c) accepting the completion of Nate Kissell's term as Interim City Manager, and accepting Nate Kissell's return to the Public Works Department, as the Director, and returning his base rate of pay and benefits to what he should currently be receiving as Public Works Director, effective Monday, March 3, 2025 at the start of business. (0027-25)
- d) approving Election Polling Place Agreements between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Board of Elections, and the City of Altoona, for polling places located at the City of Altoona Training Facility & Council Chambers and Fire Stations No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, for the 2025 primary and general elections, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0028-25)
- e) authorizing a Highway Use Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation, for the installation and maintenance of a new bus lane in front of 2200 Broad Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute all documents and the City Clerk to attest to same. (0029-25)

City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer read the resolutions into the record; the consent vote was taken by the City Clerk and passed 6 to 0; Mayor Pacifico was absent.

## CITY MANAGER UPDATES

Vice-Mayor Ellis welcomed new City Manager Chris McGuire to Altoona who offered gratitude and humility and thanked Council for trusting him to be a steward of Altoona's bright future and for trusting in his leadership ability. City Manager McGuire stated leadership is a privilege and that he is fully committed to fulfilling Altoona's vision through dedication, transparency, and commitment to excellence. City Manager McGuire stated he is eager to work with Council, the City's tremendous City staff and the community to ensure that Altoona's best days are not behind but ahead and filled with hope and optimism.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Butterbaugh thanked Chief Joe Merrill and Public Works Director Nate Kissell for their Interim City Manager roles and welcomed new City Manager Chris McGuire

## QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA

Bill Kibler of the *Altoona Mirror*

ADJOURNMENT – by Vice-Mayor Ellis at 7:00 p.m.