

CITY OF ALTOONA, WI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2010

(I) Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Tom Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. held in the Council Chambers at Altoona City Hall.

(II) Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Meyer led the Common Council and others in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(III) Roll Call

The City Clerk called the roll. Council Persons Ray Henning, Dale Stuber, Colleen Weber, William Spangler, and Brendan Pratt were present. Also present: Mayor Tom Meyer, City Attorney John Behling, City Administrator Mike Golat, Police Chief and Fire Chief Todd Chaney, Finance Director Jon Pfeilsticker, City Engineer Dave Walter, and City Clerk Cindy Bauer.

Absent: Council Member Red Hanks

(IV) Citizen Participation Period

There being no citizen participation, motion by Stuber/Weber to close Citizen Participation Period.
Motion carried.

(V) Approval of minutes.

Motion by Henning/Weber to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2010 Regular Council Meeting.
Motion carried.

(VI) City Officers/Department Heads Report

City Administrator Golat mentioned that the City of Altoona, in coordination with the City of Eau Claire and Eau Claire County, received a joint grant from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding to create "25x25" plans to meet the Governor's goal of generating 25 percent of the state's electricity and transportation fuels from the renewable resources by the year 2025.

City Committee Reports – none.

(VII) Unfinished Business - none

(VIII) New Business

(1) Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. (Or as soon thereafter as is practical) on rezoning Parcel #201-1048-06 located at 1203 10th Street West from Commercial to Residential Single Family as submitted by Gary Rambo. (Discussed at the February 8, 2010 Plan Commission Meeting).

Mayor Meyer opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

City Engineer David Walter explained that Gary Rambo has submitted a request to rezone his property located at 1203 10th Street West. The request is to rezone the lot from Commercial to Residential (R-1). Mr. Rambo is proposing to add a 4-season family room to the back of his existing house. City Code does not allow an addition to a single family home in the Commercial District for the reason that it is a non-conforming use. Adjacent properties to the north, east, and west are zoned residential. The property south of the subject parcel is zoned commercial and also has a non-conforming single family home use. The property lies within the 10th Street corridor and the commercial zoning was apparently applied to promote commercial development along 10th Street. The Plan Commission recommended approval at their February 8, 2010 meeting.

Motion by Spangler/Henning to close the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(2) Consider Ordinance 2A-10 to rezone Parcel # 201-1048-06 located at 1203 10th Street West from Commercial to Residential Single Family as submitted by Gary Rambo.

Motion by Henning/Stuber to approve Ordinance 2A-10 to rezone Parcel 201-1048-06 located at 1203 10th Street West from Commercial to Residential Single Family as submitted by Gary Rambo. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(3) Consider Ordinance 2B-10 amending Section 10.20.010 “Parking prohibited where” to prohibit parking on the west side of 2nd Street East from Bartlett Avenue to the south dead end.

City Engineer David Walter explained Ordinance 2B-10 amending Section 10.20.010 “Parking prohibited where” to prohibit parking on the west side of 2nd Street East from Bartlett Avenue to the south dead end. This ordinance is necessary due to the reconstruction of 2nd Street East wherein we narrowed the street to 28 feet curb to curb. The necessity of a parking prohibition on one side due to the narrowing of the road was discussed with adjacent property owners during the public hearing for the assessments, and all property owners present expressed support for the narrow street and the parking prohibition on the west side. Calendar parking will remain in effect for these two blocks, which will effectively prohibit street parking in these two blocks every other night when calendar parking applies. This approach is consistent with the approach the City took on High Point Drive, and this approach seems to be working well there. Walter noted that city staff provided notices last week to affected property owners living on 2nd Street East of the proposed parking ordinance change and time of meeting.

Motion by Spangler/Weber to approve Ordinance 2B-10 amending Section 10.20.010 “Parking prohibited where” to prohibit parking on the west side of 2nd Street East from Bartlett Avenue to the south dead end. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(4) Update on establishing an Altoona Municipal Court.

City Administrator Golat explained that at the November 12, 2009 Council Meeting, Council directed the City Administrator to continue moving forward with the concept of creating a municipal court for the City of Altoona and to calendar the item for consideration by the City Council after January 1, 2010. Golat said that as part of the City’s due diligence, Police Chief Chaney has been gathering information regarding whether the City would incur significant additional jail and medical costs if the Municipal Court Judge issues jail warrants and also if there would be significant additional costs for a process server. Golat said staff has also been tracking proposed legislation that would affect municipal court operations. Golat indicated that information was provided in the Council packets regarding the updated status of the proposed Municipal Court Bill provided by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. Golat said city staff also contacted staff at the Wisconsin Court System Office familiar with the proposed bill. City staff asked whether there was anything in the bill that, in their opinion, would add significant costs or operational problems; Courts staff commented there weren’t any issues in the bill that would give them any reservations about proceeding with establishing a municipal court.

Finance Director Jon Pfeilsticker provided a revised cost summary analysis for creating a Municipal Court. Pfeilsticker explained the total annual fines and forfeitures revenue within the last 10 years and the number of citations issued. Pfeilsticker also provided a cost analysis for estimated start up and 1st year costs based on the 2008 citations/revenue and a cost analysis for estimated start up and 1st year costs based on the 2009 citations/revenues.

Mayor Meyer said financially it’s probably not a good deal but he questioned some of the annual expenditures especially the software charges.

Attorney Behling explained the process regarding citations; when they are processed and when they get paid. Behling also gave an update on the amended assembly bill 383 – municipal court bill; this bill would

impact how a municipal court can function. Behling felt it would not have a negative impact on the City of Altoona.

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Police Chief Chaney commented on other unknown costs such as fees for lodging people in jail. Attorney Behling commented on the process serving or personal service processor. Behling said most law enforcement agencies have an informal agreement where they will serve each other's subpoenas. Behling said in Eau Claire County we could likely reach an agreement with the Sheriff's Department for the process serving which would be little or no impact to the City.

Mayor Meyer asked staff to come up with more concrete figures and report back at the next Council Meeting.

(VIII)(5) Consider approval of Resolution 2A-10, A Resolution authorizing the City of Altoona to enter into a Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Agreement.

Police Chief Chaney explained Resolution 2A-10, a resolution authorizing the City of Altoona to enter into a Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Agreement. The term MABAS is an acronym for Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. Chaney said this resolution formalizes the mutual aid agreements we currently have in place with neighboring jurisdictions as well as any other jurisdiction in the state that passes a resolution consistent with state statutes. MABAS is a system of pre-determined responses to fire rescue and emergency medical services. Additionally, MABAS would greatly improve response to any natural disaster or man-made Catastrophes. MABAS formalizes the procedures for emergency services agencies to work cooperatively to prepare response protocols for manpower, equipment, and other apparatus based on incident needs for mutual aid. The incident commander at any fire or rescue incident can then make an instant determination of the next level of mutual aid response required and activate MABAS to obtain resources he/she might need to handle an incident with advantage. All agencies that participate in MABAS agree to provide aid as designated in the pre-determined box alarm matrix. Golat said he enclosed for Council's review an Agreement Document that outlines, in more detail, MABAS and the protocols involved in the system.

Motion by Pratt/Henning to approve Resolution 2A-10 authorizing the City of Altoona to enter into a Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Agreement. **Motion carried.**

(VIII)(6) Consider approval of Resolution 2B-10 amending the 2009 General Fund budget to account for unanticipated fire department expenditures.

Finance Director Pfeilsticker explained Resolution 2B-10 amending the 2009 General Fund budget to account for unanticipated fire department expenditures. Pfeilsticker said the Altoona Fire Department recruited and trained seven (7) additional firefighters in 2009 which were not anticipated at the time of adoption of the 2009 budget. The Fire Department also had the opportunity to conduct training on a burning house on May 16, 2009, which was not anticipated. Total additional labor costs for the trainings were calculated at \$12,147.43 plus social security. The Fire Department also incurred unemployment and equipment repair expenses in 2009, which were not budgeted. Total unemployment claims for 2009 were approximately \$1,100.00. The Fire Department also incurred non-budgeted costs of \$12,321.55 to repair the pump system on one of its fire trucks in December 2009 that failed. Golat said that based on these items, staff has drafted Resolution 2B-10, amending the City of Altoona 2009 budget, transferring \$26,000.00 from reserves to cover \$12,000.00 in Fire Suppression Pay, \$900.00 in Social Security related to the additional Fire suppression Pay, \$1,100.00 to the Fire Suppression Unemployment line item and \$12,000.00 to the Fire Department Vehicle Maintenance line item.

Fire Chief Chaney explained the training of a new firefighter. Chaney suggested limiting the maximum number of firefighters.

Motion by Spangler/Pratt to approve Resolution 2B-10 amending the 2009 budget. Roll call vote 5-ayes, Spangler, Pratt, Weber, Henning, Stuber, 0-nays. **Motion carried 5-0.**

(VIII)(7) Consider approval of Bartender Licenses.

The City has received bartender license applications from Michael Hickey, Sarah Holmstadt, Jason Johnson, Michael Netland, Eric Sanders, Tracy Streveler and Bridget Mulhern which has been approved by the Altoona Police Department.

Motion by Spangler/Weber to approve the bartender license to the above mentioned applicants.

Motion carried.

(VIII)(8) Consider convening in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. A. City Administrator Contract.

Motion by Henning/Weber to convene in closed session at 6:48 p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(c) 1. City Administrator Contract. Roll call vote, 5-ayes, Henning, Weber, Stuber, Pratt, Spangler, 0-nays.

Motion carried 5-0.

(VIII)(9) Reconvening in Open Session.

Motion by Spangler/Weber to reconvene in open session at 8:05 p.m. **Motion carried.**

No action reported out.

(IX) Miscellaneous Business and Communication

None.

(X) Adjournment.

Motion by Pratt/Spangler to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by
Cindy Bauer, City Clerk