

UPLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Upland Borough Council was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Edward M. Mitchell. The meeting was held in the Upland Municipal Building.

Present were President Edward M. Mitchell and Council members Mr. Leland Hunter, Mrs. Sandra Miazza, Mrs. Georgianna Hicks, Ms. Moira Crawford, Mayor Michael Ciach, Mr. Charles Catania, Sr., P.E., Mr. Robert O'Connor, Esq. and Mrs. Shirley Purcival, Borough Manager/Treasurer Secretary was present. Mrs. Christine Peterson and Mr. Dennis Walls were both absent due to illness.

Approximately 9 residents were also present.

President Mitchell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence followed by a roll call.

President Mitchell stepped out of the normal order of business for the swearing in of the 3 new Police Officers by turning the meeting over to Mayor Michael Ciach.

Mayor Ciach apologized for having to leave early for a prior commitment and thanked Council for allowing him to go out of the normal order of business in order to give the Police Report.

Mayor Ciach reported for the month of August the total citations issued were 171. The total amount in citations amounted to \$ 22,900.00, half of which is the Borough's share totaling \$11,450.00. There were 7 parking tickets issued, 9 motor vehicle accidents, and 4 reports copied. The amount received from DJ court is \$1,613.26. There were a total of 260 calls answered and 37 assists.

At this time Mayor Ciach called Robert Schwarting, Jason Diamond and Steven Carr to come forward and take the oath to be sworn in as Upland Borough Police Officers. After congratulations and applause, President Mitchell returned to the normal order of business at 7:07 pm.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes

A-1 Council Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2009

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-2 Bid Opening Minutes – September 4, 2009

Mrs. Miazza made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

6. Treasurer/Manager Report – Shirley Purcival

A-1 Treasurer’s Report
A-1 a) Income Statements

Mr. Hunter made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report and Income Statements, and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-2 Manager’s Report

Mrs. Miazza made a motion to accept the Manager’s Report and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-3 Proof of Publication – C.D.B.G. Bids

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to accept the Proof of Publication and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

7. Auburn Village Report – Manager Purcival for Vice-President Peterson

Mrs. Purcival reported that progress is being made on installing the 1 ½ windows in the bottom levels of Auburn Village. Progress is also being made on the installation of new doors.

8. Code Official Report – Leland Hunter

Mr. Hunter reported that progress is being made in cleaning up the Borough. People are cutting their grass and we have gotten rid of more vehicles.

A-1 Fire Marshall’s Report – Dave Favinger

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to accept the Fire Marshall’s report and Mr. Hunter seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-2 Fire Chief's Report – Dan Smith

Chief Smith reported for the month of August 2009 there was 1 fire incident and 9 non-fire incidents and 9 mutual aid, for a total of 19 incidents with 3 drills for a total activity of 22. We had \$5,000.00 in structure loss and \$15,000.00 in contents from a kitchen fire.

There were 7 assists for fire, 2 cover assignments, 1 motor vehicle accident and 1 ambulance assist. There were 2 fuel spills, 1 C.O. detector, 2 fire alarms.

We had 15 hours of service for the month, 14 daytime and 8 night time with an average runner of 8.

President Mitchell asked Chief Smith if the residents of Oak Lane have contacted him about joining the Fire Company to be able to use the basketball court. Chief Smith replied they have not, and he believes the reason being they would have to earn the privilege by having jobs to do around the Fire House.

9. Public Safety Report – Shirley Purcival

Mrs. Purcival thanked the Police Department, Code Official, Mr. Hunter, Health Officer, Cathy Warfield, Fire Marshall, Dave Favinger, and our Highway Department for working with her on an unusual situation in the Borough.

A property on Mulberry Street was found in deplorable condition. The home was infested with fleas, trash and guns. The Police and Highway Department filled up our dump truck full of weapons. C.I.D. was contacted and came in to remove gun powder and blasting caps.

This situation was discovered by the Police due to the death of an individual who resided in the home along with the elderly owner. The elderly gentleman and his family were estranged, however when we contacted the family and apprised them of the situation and condition of the property they immediately became involved.

The family has secured permits for dumpsters and have begun cleaning out the entire contents of the home and garage. Nothing is being salvaged including the gentleman's personal belongings due the infestation of fleas. The family has stated they are going to gut the entire home and put it up for sale. The exterior has been cleaned up and the grass has been cut. The elderly gentleman will not be returning.

The clean up is going to take time. For example, there are approximately 2,000 to 10,000 tin cans in the basement, there was only a pathway through the home, there was approximately 5 inches of built up grease on the stove and the garage is in the same condition.

The utilities have been shut off to ensure there is no danger of fire from the pilot light. All the necessary emergency personnel have been advised of the situation to ensure their safety in case of an emergency.

Mrs. Purcival praised everyone involved for the wonderful job and thanked them for their service.

10. Building & Grounds Report – Sandra Miazza

- A-1 Motion to accept the Engineer’s recommendation for the C.D.B.G.
- A-2 Motion to have the Solicitor draw up contracts for the C.D.B.G.

Mrs. Miazza made a motion to accept the Engineer’s recommendation for the C.D.B.G. on the condition the Borough receives additional funding and A-2 to have the Solicitor draw up contracts for the C.D.B.G. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

11. Finance & Insurance Report – Moira Crawford

- A-1 Approval of General Fund Bills - \$ 261,491.17
- A-2 Approval of Auburn Village Bills - \$ 53,453.44

Ms. Crawford made a motion to accept the bills for approval and Mrs. Hicks seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

12. Ordinances & Resolutions Report – Georgianna Cassidy-Hicks

- A-1 Ordinance No. 4 – Amend Chapter 170 “Vehicles Abandoned”

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to advertise for Ordinance No. 4 to Amend Chapter 170 “Vehicles Abandoned” and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-2 Ordinance No. 5 - Historic Resource and Preservation Policy

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to advertise for Ordinance No. 5 Historic Resource and Preservation Policy and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-5 Resolution No. 16 – Transfer of Funds - \$89,978.21

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to adopt Resolution 16, Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$89,978.21 and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-6 Resolution No. 17 – Five Year Winter Traffic Services Agreement

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 17, Five Year Winter Services Agreement and Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-7 Resolution No. 18 – Transfer of Funds - \$35,343.00

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 18, Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$35,343.00 and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

13. Research and Development – Moira Crawford

Ms. Crawford gave a brief update on the Borough's website. She has added photos from the Blue Rocks game which was rained out, but some photos were taken, also, photos from the Senior Luncheon and the Labor Day fireworks.

The hit counter for the month of August is 1,510. In the month of August we had 747 hits to the website. September is expected to be even higher. The scrolling text bar was updated to show the spaghetti dinner on September 19, 2009. The monthly events calendar has also been updated.

The photobucket account for the period of March 2009 through August 2009 indicates that we have 856 total files, 146,656 total files were used with 483 total album visits. For the month of August there were 13,885 files used with 181 album visits.

14. Streets & Equipment Report – Manager Purcival for Mrs. Peterson

Mrs. Purcival reported things are progressing nicely on all projects.

15. Community Affairs – Sandra Miazza

Mrs. Miazza reported on the Blue Rocks baseball game which was rained out stating, the Borough should get a really good deal next year. The Labor Day fireworks display was a success and everyone seemed very happy with the display.

September 19th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm is our Spaghetti Dinner and the Upland Firehouse Tag Day is the 11th and 12th of September. The Upland Fire House is having their open house on October 5, 2009 from 6:30 until 8:00 pm.

The Baptist Church is having their Fall Festival the 26th of September from 2:00 to 6:00 pm.

The Borough will be having a celebration at the Caleb Pusey House on October 24, 2009 from 12:00 to 4:00 pm.

The Borough's annual Halloween party will be held on October 24th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm and trick or treat will be on the 31st from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

The annual Christmas tree lighting will be held November 27th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm which also includes the children's Christmas party.

President Mitchell commended Mrs. Miazza on the Labor Day fireworks thanking her for her efforts.

16. Use and Occupancy Report – Shirley Purcival

Mrs. Purcival reported that for the month of August there were 9 Use and Occupancy Certificates issued. 14 units failed their inspections and 1 unit received a Temporary Use and Occupancy Certificate. \$2,100.00 was deposited into the General Fund account.

18. Solicitor's Report – Robert O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor reminded Council of the discussion regarding the reassignment of Chester Upland School District employee Janet Russello and Council's request to have him send a letter to the School District voicing their disapproval and concern. Mr. O'Connor stated he has not received a response.

President Mitchell spoke of his disappointment in the test scores of the children of the Main Street School. The new test scores should be in around the end of the month. President Mitchell will review the information with the Solicitor and intensify our efforts to see where we stand with the Chester Upland School District.

19. Engineer's Report – Charles Catania

Mr. Charles Catania reported to Council during the caucus.

20. Old Business

A-1 Cancel 2nd Council Meeting of the Month

Mr. Hunter made a motion to cancel the 2nd meeting of the month and Mrs. Hicks seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

21. New Business – Moira Crawford for Christine Peterson

A-1 Motion for Flood Plain Administrator to attend “Managing Flood Plain Development” class

Ms. Crawford made a motion to allow our Flood Plain Administrator, Ray Peden to attend a Managing Flood Plain Development class, the amount not to exceed \$150.00, and also to allow Mr. Peden \$100.00 per year for membership to the Association of State Flood Plain Managers. Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

22. Floor Open to the Public

Resident, Mark Matthews from 1201 Oak Lane addressed Council regarding a special permit to play basketball in the street. President Mitchell responded if it was allowed for one street Council would have to allow it for the entire Borough.

President Mitchell also wanted Mr. Matthews to understand in order to bring about changes the young members of the community need to get involved as suggested by Fire Chief, Dan Smith. Chief Smith, at the August Council meeting, suggested getting involved in the Fire Company and they could utilize their basketball court.

Mr. Matthews then suggested having a small plot of the baseball field that no one uses be fenced in to construct a basketball court.

President Mitchell noted if you use taxpayers money, it becomes open to the public and anyone can use it, even if they are not residents.

Several members of Council told Mr. Matthews the old gym which sits back on Main Street is owned by Crozer and they would be willing to help put a basketball court together, at no charge, if they were willing to put the time in to perform some maintenance.

Council members suggested he contact Mr. Ray Peden and Mr. Pysher who would be more than willing to help.

23. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Purcival
Borough Manager

Linda Saylor
Recording Secretary