

UPLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2009

The regular scheduled meeting of the Upland Borough Council was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Edward M. Mitchell. The meeting was held in the Upland Municipal Building.

Present were President Edward M. Mitchell and Vice President Christine Peterson. Also present were Council members Mr. Leland Hunter, Mrs. Sandra Miazza, Mrs. Georgiana 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. Mr. Dennis Walls was absent due to illness.

Approximately 13 residents were also present.

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

5. A-1- Council meeting minutes July 17, 2009

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Leland Hunter seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

6. Treasurer/Manager Report A-1 through A-2 – Shirley Purcival

Ms. Crawford made a motion to accept the Treasurer/Manager's report and Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

7. Auburn Village Report – Christine Peterson

Mrs. Peterson reported that several of our on-going projects are progressing nicely.

The trash truck had to be taken in for servicing due to a problem with the air conditioning.

8. Code Official Report – Leland Hunter

Mr. Hunter reported he is working very hard with residents on property maintenance issues and having success in cleaning up the neighborhood.

A-1 Fire Marshall's Report – Dave Favinger

Mr. Hunter reported the Fire Marshall performed 2 rental inspections and 21 business inspections. Mr. Favinger also investigated 3 fires and also attended the Emergency Management Seminar at the 911 Center.

A-2 Fire Chief's report – Dan Smith

For the month of July we had 4 fire incidents, 8 non-fire incidents, 16 mutual aid for a total of 28 incidents and 2 drills for a total activity of 30.

We had \$11,000.00 structure loss and \$4,000.00 in contents for a total of this month of \$15,000.00.

There were 4 civilian injuries for the month of July.

There were 13 assists for fire, 3 cover assignments, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 motor vehicle accident with entrapment, 2 electric lines down, 1 fire alarm, 2 good intents, 1 trailer and 1 grass fire. 28.9 hours of service for the month, 17 day time, 13 night time, average runner 9. Chief Smith stated this was a very busy month for the Fire Company.

Chief Smith also reported that the 16 new air packs have arrived and are in service. The chief will be available to show anyone how they work. The system also has a pack tracker which will make it easier to find a firefighter who is lost or in trouble. A safety feature well worth the money.

Chief Smith also reported there were several kitchen fires which have resulted in burns and more damage to the residence as a result of the resident not dialing 911 and getting out of the house, but trying to put out the fire themselves.

President Mitchell suggested looking into to have this information put on our web site.

President Mitchell wanted to continue along the lines of safety discussion and directed Council's attention to the live feed shown on the screen set up to show Council the 4 new cameras that have been installed in the ball park pavilion. President Mitchell reminded Council of the vandalism in the park, which has been increasing over the past few years, as well as people fighting in the park. President Mitchell then turned the presentation over to Sandy Miazza who is credited with the idea.

Mrs. Miazza reported the pavilion is going to be enlarged and will have roll up doors so various items can be stored there. One camera is directly pointed at the pavilion which should cut down on the graffiti problem.

Ms. Crawford then reported the live feed will benefit residents who are homebound and not able to attend various festivities such as Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day. The live feed will also show the progress on the construction of the new police station. Ms. Crawford also gave instructions on how to access the cameras on the Upland Borough Website.

The Borough Manager reported her part of the project involved bringing the cameras to the internet and working with Logan Technologies and Comcast. Ms. Purcival reported that the Government Representative at Comcast was very helpful and within 10 days we had two survey's done, one to see the technical terms of land line versus underground and the second survey to tell us what equipment was needed.

President Mitchell wanted to thank Council for their efforts in making this project a success.

9. Motion to terminate Peter Manfra – Leland Hunter

- A-1 Mr. Hunter made a motion to terminate Peter Manfra as part-time Police Officer who did not pass his probation. Mrs. Georgianna Hicks seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with Mrs. Peterson abstaining.

11. Finance & Insurance Report – Moira Crawford

- A-1 Approval of General Fund Bills - \$172,449.58
- A-2 Approval of Auburn Village Bills - \$47,704.71

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve A-1 and A-2 and Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

12. Ordinances & Resolutions Report – Georgianna Cassidy-Hicks

A-1 Resolution #12 – Transfer of Funds - \$50,000.00

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution #12 and Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously passed the motion.

A-2 Resolution #13 – Non-Uniform Pension Funding Requirements

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution #13 and Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-3 Resolution #14 – Police Pension Funding Requirements

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution #14 and Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-4 Resolution #15 – Act 32 Appointments

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to accept Resolution #15 and Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

13. Research & Development – Moira Crawford

Ms. Crawford has updated the website photo gallery to show the progress on the construction of the new Police Station, and also has updated the slide show of the War Memorial with the most recent photos, and, as noted above the live feed from the cameras in Bristol Lord Field.

Updated information has been added to our homepage announcing the sign up meeting being held on Wednesday, August 26, the Blue Rocks on Saturday, August 22 and the Labor Day fireworks being held on Sunday, September 6, 2009.

A hit counter has also been added to the website to monitor how many people are showing up on a daily basis. The web counter was started on July 16th at 500 and we had about 263 hits on the website.

A scrolling text bar has been added to the home page so we can post short messages immediately if the need arises. The monthly calendar and events calendar have been updated with new information and events.

The Photobucket account we have for the month of July shows 29,668 file views with 49album photos.

President Mitchell at this time announced he has been informed that some residents are not receiving our recorded phone tree messages regarding upcoming events and general information. If you have an unlisted phone number, you will not receive these messages. If you have a private phone number and wish to receive these messages, please notify the office with your phone number.

14. Streets & Equipment Report – Christine Peterson

Vice-President Peterson reported the Police Department feels there is too much speeding through our town especially on the streets that are posted 25 or 35 mph. People are going down hills 50 and 60 miles per hour. Motorists are also running stop signs. Since we have several streets and roads that are State roads, PennDOT has allowed us to put speed lines, provided we follow their rules.

Vice-President Peterson made a motion to have Catania Engineering measure and certify those speed lines. Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

15. Community Affairs Report – Sandra Miazza

Mrs. Miazza reported we are having a luncheon for the Seniors who meet at the Borough every Monday. On Saturday, August 22nd we are having a trip to the Blue Rocks game for the kids and on Saturday, September 6th we are having fireworks at the ball park. Rain date is Monday, September 7th. We will be selling hot dogs, soda, pretzels and water and everything will be \$1.00. September 19th we are having a spaghetti dinner in MacQueen Hall from 4:00 pm till 7:00 pm. October 24 will be the children's Halloween Party in MacQueen Hall and November 27th we are having the tree lighting and children's Christmas Party with Santa Claus.

16. Use & Occupancy Report – Shirley Purcival

For the month of July, 11 units received certificates for their Use and Occupancy, 4 units failed their inspections and no unit received a temporary U & O and a total of \$1,975.00 was deposited into the General Fund Account for Use and Occupancy inspections.

17. Mayor's Report – Michael Ciach

For the month of July, there were 159 citations issued for a total of \$24,584.00 of which, the Borough's share is \$12,292.00 which brings our total number of citations so far this year to 2,924. There were 7 parking tickets issued of which \$80.00 have been paid, 4 have been sent to the District Justice. We had 10 motor vehicle accidents, 5 accident reports copied. The amount received from the District Justice court is \$1,806.04. The total calls answered were 248 with 39 assists.

Mayor Ciach reported there will be a Town Watch Meeting on Wednesday, August 26th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Mac Queen Hall.

President Mitchell asked if we could get out a phone tree to the residents announcing the meeting and Mayor Ciach thought that would be a good idea and the Manager will get one out on Monday of that week.

18. Solicitor's Report – Robert O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor noted the draft contract for Ellis Construction for the window replacement at Auburn Village was reported on earlier. Also, he referred to the confidential portion of the Solicitor's Report.

Mr. O'Connor also reported on the problem with Phantom Fireworks and the letter he drafted to Phantom Fireworks regarding their failure to correct the left turn lane. He stated he has received no response and after discussion with the Borough Manager he will be sending them another letter giving those 2 weeks to respond with a workable solution and state what their intentions are. Mr. O'Connor will keep the Engineer and the Borough Manager updated.

19. Engineer's Report – Charles Catania

The 2009 resurfacing contract will be completed and we are requesting release pertaining to A. F. Damon in the amount of \$3,925.00. Also, a 10 % retention for the parking lot on 6th Street.

The Police Station is progressing and Mr. Catania released Certificate 1 to pay Gateway Management \$77,625.00 for work completed until July 28, 2009.

The Auburn Village windows have been ordered and are due to arrive the week of August 17th and the work is due to start the week of August 24th. The contractor, Ellis Construction, will notify the residents in advance of the schedule as approved by the Borough Manager.

The CDBG Project 2009 Municipal Park Pavilion Expansion Project will need authorization to advertise for bids for September 4th so we can award the bid at the September Council Meeting.

President Mitchell wanted clarification on the authorization process for paying Gateway Management. President Mitchell was advised by the Borough Manager that approval has been given and all the necessary procedures have been put in place so the payment can be made.

President Mitchell asked for a motion to authorize the Engineer to bid for the CDBG 2009 Project. Ms. Crawford made a motion to authorize the Engineer to advertise the bid process and Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

20. Old Business

A-1 Mrs. Peterson made a motion to cancel the second Council Meeting of the month and Mr. Hunter seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

21. New Business – Chris Peterson

A-1 Mrs. Peterson made a motion to increase the salary of the Recording Secretary by .25 per hour and an additional .20 per hour in January when raises are due. Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-2 Community request

Vice-President Peterson read a letter from the Lighthouse Church requesting use of the park area located at 6th & Main Street on Friday 14, 2009 from 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm and also Friday, August 28, 2009 between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm for a movie night. President Mitchell and Council were in agreement and granted the request.

22. Floor Open to the Public

Mr. David Pysher of 1214 Oak Lane wanted to address the issue of basketball nets. Mr. Pysher had heard that Council was considering an Ordinance banning ball playing in the streets and he wanted to voice his opinion against the idea.

President Mitchell informed Mr. Pysher the Ordinance banning ball playing in the streets has been on the books for quite some time. However, President Mitchell stated that we have had complaints regarding ball playing from motorists as well as residents.

Mrs. Peterson reported that there have been other problems with ball playing in the street by groups of older children who were gambling and selling drugs, and to alleviate this problem, the Ordinance is now being enforced.

Jennifer Steigerwalt of 1201 Oak Lane also wanted to address Council and does not feel there is problem of basketball playing on her street. Ms. Steigerwalt feels the children on her street are good kids who should not be penalized. Mrs. Steigerwalt feels the Borough has not done enough to provide recreation for her children and needs to find a solution to the problem.

Both President Mitchell and Vice-President Peterson pointed out the Borough cannot differentiate between streets or families.

Mayor Ciach stated he was on Council when the Ordinance was passed, the reason being, the City of Chester, at that time, closed all their recreational parks and all their basketball courts. Upland Borough had 4 active basketball courts at that time. So children from neighboring communities came to Upland and the basketball courts became a haven for drugs, alcohol and fighting until midnight and that is when all the basketball courts were closed. At that point, people purchased their own personal basketball courts. Hence, the adoption of the Ordinance.

Vice President Peterson stated Council would be willing to listen to any workable solutions and discuss them as long as it will work for the entire Borough.

Fire Chief, Dan Smith also pointed out, there are problems with personal basketball courts. The particular street in question, Oak Lane had an incident about a year ago, where the game got out of hand and a ball hit the electrical wires and severed the wires in half. This caused an electrical short and some residents lost power. Chief Smith also stated there have been instances where the Fire Company is responding to an emergency and they have to wait for the children to get out of the street, and if this is allowed on all streets in the Borough, the Police and Fire Departments have to worry about children playing in the street. Chief Smith invited the children of Oak Lane attending the meeting tonight, who are over 14, to join the Fire House and play basketball there as they have their own private court.

Several Oak Lane residents voiced their opinions and suggestions and asked questions regarding the basketball problem and were advised to bring their suggestions to the next Council meeting scheduled for September 8, 2009.

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Purcival
Borough Manager

Linda Saylor
Recording Secretary