

Minutes  
Council Meeting  
March 11, 2008

- I. A regular scheduled meeting of the Borough Council was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Edward M. Mitchell. The meeting was held in the Upland Municipal Building.
  - A. Present were: President Edward M. Mitchell and Vice President Christine Peterson. Present were Council members Mrs. Sandy Miazza, Mrs. Georgianna Hicks, Ms. Moira Crawford, Mr. Lee Hunter and Mr. Dennis Walls. Mr. Charles Catania, Sr. P.E., Mr. Robert O'Connor, Esquire, Mayor Michael Ciach and Mrs. Shirley Purcival, Borough Manager Treasurer/Secretary were present. Also present were Mike Hill of Centax and Leo Hackett, Esquire.
  - B. Approximately thirty-five residents attended the meeting.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was lead by President Edward M. Mitchell. The Pledge was followed by a moment of silence.
- III. President Mitchell asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting of February 12, 2008.

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2008. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

IV. Treasurer/Manager's Report - Mrs. Shirley Purcival

Mrs. Miazza made a motion to accept the Treasurer/Manager's Report, #6, Items A-1 through A-5. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

V. Floor Open to the Public

Mrs. Jackie Nagy would like to express her disgust at the disrespect that this Council has been shown. As a resident of Upland, I thought we were living in the twenty-first century and classification no longer existed.

Evidentially it still does, so I would like to give an explanation of these words according to the dictionary. A taxpayer - one who pays taxes. A homeowner - one who owns property. A renter - a person that pays a stated payment at fixed intervals for property or land.

These words have been used quite often at previous meetings. I wanted to explain these words because some homeowners believe they are superior to renters in my mind. Everyone pays taxes of some kind. The only difference is property tax.

As a renter of Auburn Village, I pay local, state, federal, sewer and trash. I'm also required to pay a pet fee. The only tax I don't pay is property.

The gentleman at the last meeting asked if Auburn Village pays for itself. I wish he would realize that people like myself have paid over the years thousands of dollars of our own money for damages and replacement of items in the house due to wear and tear or the damages not caused, not by ourselves, but by weather and water damage. For instance, right before Thanksgiving, I repaired a wall in my living room caused from ten years of water damage and disintegration of the wall. I repeatedly asked to have it fixed, but it wasn't. I'm not blaming any one person, but that's just how things were before. You just accepted it and fixed it yourself.

I thought everyone was aware that the budget is printed every year in the paper. That's why I don't understand why this Council has been questioned so much about money, when it very seldom was questioned before.

In conclusion, I would like to say that our town is made up of people from all walks of life, not just homeowners. Just as with the Presidential election coming up, people wanted change. They were tired of the same council doing nothing for our town. Promises were never kept. We needed a change. Our other Council forgot they were elected officials not a monarchy. Thank you.

President Mitchell thanks Mrs. Nagy for her comments.

#### VI. Auburn Village - Mr. Dennis Walls

Mr. Walls stated that the council members had an opportunity to review the Lease Addendum revision dated February 22, 2008. Mr. Walls offered a motion to adopt the Lease Addendum Policy revisions. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Miazza. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

Mr. Walls stated that the council members had a chance to review the Auburn Village Pet Policy, revision dated March 3, 2008. The Auburn Village Committee members recommend that I offer a motion that the revised pet policy be adopted for Auburn Village. Mr. Walls offered a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Miazza. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

Mr. Walls stated that is all he has to report tonight.

## VII. Public Safety - Mr. Leland Hunter

Mr. Hunter stated that he had several meetings with Chuck Love, who is our training officer. I've had quite a few discussions with our police officers. We were having problems with the portable radios, which has been corrected. We've interviewed several candidates, and as far as we are concerned right now, two of them, we are sure they will be hired upon completion of the MPOTEC test required by Harrisburg.

Mr. Hunter stated that Chuck Love and Officer Curran went to a UCR (Uniform Crime Report) seminar in Skippack, PA. When they arrived, the UCR's from 2003 through 2007 were full of errors. They are now 99% complete.

Mr. Hunter stated that the Public Safety Committee interviewed four people this month and two officers have been offered positions upon completion and passage of the MPOTEC test.

Mr. Hunter stated the new police car is striped with a new design and has been equipped with a radio and computer and has been put on the road.

Mr. Hunter stated the door on car #23 is being repaired. This car will also be striped with the new design when it's completely repaired.

### A.2 Fire Marshall Report - Mr. Leland Hunter

Mr. Hunter stated that the Fire Marshall began business inspections in March. Rental inspections will begin after the owners comply with the Ordinances. The new ordinances will be mailed out to all Business and Rental Property owners once passed by the Borough Council at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Hunter stated that fire investigation reports were filed on February 24, 2008 for 22 Eighth Street and on February 25, 2008 for 900 Main Street to the Station #57 Firehouse.

Mr. Hunter stated that the Fire Marshall attended the County Emergency OPS seminar on February 28, 2008.

Mr. Hunter stated that the Fire Marshall attended the following meetings with Chief Dan Smith regarding the house fire at 22 8<sup>th</sup> Street and multiple concerns with 900 Main Street that will be addressed soon. Mr. Hunter stated the Fire Marshall met with CCMC on March 6, 2008 with Mark Mitchel.

Mr. Hunter reads a letter dated February 14, 2008 from Upland Fire Company #1 regarding the Annual Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the ballpark and Main Street School. Mr. Hunter stated that anyone who would be interested in hiding eggs early Saturday morning, should meet at the ballpark around 8:00 a.m.

The Upland Fire Company greatly appreciates past donations and is hoping that within our budget the Borough Council can contribute \$150.00 which will be used for the purchase of various items and prizes for the borough children of all ages up to and including age twelve. A visit will also be made at the Crozer burn center and that each sponsored organization's name is noted and stuffed rabbits will be given out. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Meekins, Chairman of the Easter Egg Hunt at 484-881-1774.

Mr. Hunter offers a motion to donate \$150.00 to the Upland Fire Company, which is seconded by Mr. Walls. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

#### VIII. Building and Grounds - Mrs. Sandra Miazza

Mrs. Miazza stated the price for the diamond for the ballfield is \$24.18 per ton. They need fifteen tons which will come to \$362.70.

Mrs. Miazza offered a motion for this purchase, which is seconded by Mr. Walls. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

Mrs. Miazza stated the price for the cleaning of the (2) port-o-potties is \$75.00 per month. They come and clean them every week. This will be for six months for a total of \$450.00 from April until October for the summer recreational programs.

Mrs. Miazza offered a motion for this purchase, which is seconded by Mrs. Hicks. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

#### IX. Finance and Insurance Report - Ms. Moira Crawford

Ms. Crawford stated the invoices for approval from the General Fund were in the amount of \$104,387.62. Ms. Crawford offered a motion for approval of payment of these invoices, which is seconded by Mr. Walls. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

Ms. Crawford stated the invoices for approval for the Auburn Village were in the amount of \$11,314.78. Ms. Crawford offered a motion for approval of payment of these invoices, which is seconded by both Mr. Walls and Mr. Hunter. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

#### X. Ordinances and Resolutions - Mrs. Georgianna Hicks

Mrs. Hicks offered a motion to adopt Resolution #11 of 2008 - Appointment of Centax, Resolution # 12 of 2008 - Transfer of Money, which is seconded by Mrs. Peterson. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion.

Mrs. Hicks offers a motion to adopt Ordinance #1 of 2008 - Parking Fee, Ordinance #2 of 2008- Certificate of Occupancy Fees, Ordinance #3 of 2008 - Inspections of Rental Properties, Ordinance #4 of 2008 - Duties of Fire Marshall and Inspections and Ordinance #5 - E.I.T., which is seconded by Mrs. Peterson on Ordinances #1 through 4 of 2008.

President Mitchell tabled Resolution #13 of 2008 - Adoption of Earned Income Tax and Ordinance #5 - E.I.T. until further notice. This is scheduled for the meeting of March 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Council unanimously voted aye on the motion and tabling of Resolution #13 and Ordinance #5.

#### XI. Research and Development Report - Mrs. Georgianna Hicks

Mrs. Hicks asks if everyone has information on the webmaster @ PSAB. As you can see, the information in front of you. It is just gathering all of the information we need. I have given everyone a copy of the some other communities home web pages connected to this as well. As you can see, they have tons of information, not only on the home page, but borough activities, council members histories, photos, ordinances, things about the Fire Marshall, the Fire Department, Police Department, recycling, recreation, the War Memorials, and how to contact us. There are tons of information that we can have on a web page. One hundred fifty dollars will get us started and that is for five hours of web design. All we have to do is give them the information.

Mrs. Hicks stated they will set it up and maintain it for us. It is extremely inexpensive for all of the work that is involved. Now it is just information gathering and finding out what we want on this web page. From not only our logo, but what links. Not only will the people outside of the borough look at this, but the people within our borough. Whether it is history facts, things about the community plus all different kinds of things. It is an open book.

President Mitchell asks Mrs. Hicks if she has an anticipated time frame from start to finish.

Mrs. Hicks responds to President Mitchell that we could gather in the next eight weeks enough information to get up and running. We don't want a half done website. I want to get us started with the right kind of information and then we can add onto that. I just wanted everyone to know what was going on and by the next council meeting in April, I'm sure we'll have more information and maybe at that point we can make a motion on money.

President Mitchell responds he is sure everybody wants to be heard and start looking at the information and is excited about the website. I think it's an opportunity for the community to dial in to see what is going on in their government. I think it is very important to get this up and running.

Mrs. Hicks responds, absolutely.

Mrs. Hicks stated that is all she has for council.

## XII. Streets and Equipment Report - Mrs. Christine Peterson

Mrs. Peterson stated that several candidates have been interviewed for the highway position. They will be replacing Jim Machamer who will be retiring at the end of this month.

Mrs. Miazaa asked if the council was doing anything for his retirement.

President Mitchell responded, yes, we will be having a catered retirement party for him and the borough will be purchasing a plaque.

Mrs. Peterson continued and stated that one candidate had a lot of municipal highway experience. He has been offered the position and he is being trained currently. His name is George German.

President Mitchell asked if the candidate is present tonight so he may be introduced to the public?

Mrs. Peterson responded: No, he is not present this evening.

## XIII. Mayor's Report - Mrs. Sandra Miazza

Mrs. Miazza stated that they had a meeting in February with a good turnout with the organizations and they are really interested in helping out. We have a lot of things on the agenda for the kids to do. The first thing we are having is the Clean Up Day, which we have been having over the past two years, and that will be May 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

President Mitchell asks if we have county help on this?

Mrs. Miazza responds that we usually do.

Mrs. Miazza stated that was all for council this evening.

## XIV. Use and Occupancy Report - Mrs. Shirley Purcival

There were eight inspections that passed and there were four units that failed the inspection this month. A total of \$780.00 was deposited into the General Fund for U & O Inspections.

## XV. Mayor's Report - Mr. Michael Ciach

Mayor Ciach stated the Christmas decorating contest winners awards have been distributed to all but one winner. I didn't want to leave it in the Peterson's doorway because of their close proximity to the street and they don't have a door to leave it in. I do have their prize. We have all the information for the checks that need to be distributed and they should be going out shortly.

Mayor Ciach stated that he prepared two written police reports. One is the standard police report. Total Citations for the month : 155 Total of Citation fines - \$12,606.00. Borough's share is \$6,303.00. There were 20 parking tickets issued for a total of \$210.00. The amount received from DJ Court was \$1,221.00. There is also a running report, which is a work in progress. It is a program that's going to be running, which will give you the year-to-date and the monthly and going forward showing all the numbers. That will be more ready after the first quarter.

Mayor Ciach stated that last month he was unfortunately not able to make the meeting, however the Communication Protocol Policy packet was given to everyone in their mailboxes. Mayor Ciach asked if there is any communication that has to come through the Police Department if that it should go through the Public Safety Department. There is a form that has been provided to everyone. If you're not sure of what that form is, just let him know and he will put another copy in your box.

Mayor Ciach stated he would like to put another newsletter out in the spring and is looking for input. If you could get the information into his office, the target date is for May, if possible.

Mayor Ciach on Town Watch - Mayor Ciach stated that we have started proceedings and discussions with some residents that are interested in getting together a town watch and Chuck Love and I will be meeting with Mr. De Prince tomorrow to push that a little bit further.

Mayor Ciach stated the Smooth Operator Program has started for the residents. What that is, is a state funded and sponsored program. You'll see a lot more police patrols on the streets. It's really targeting aggressive drivers, so just be aware that when you are out there, they are out there watching.

Mayor Ciach stated that is all he has for council this evening.

#### XVI. Solicitor's Report - Mr. Robert O'Conner

Mr. O'Conner stated he had one item to discuss which are the negotiations and meetings taking place with the borough and the representatives from Verizon Cable concerning the laying cable throughout the borough for the FIOS television and internet service.

#### XVII. Engineer's Report - Mr. Charles Catania, Sr.

Mr. Catania stated that he received information about a resident's flooded basement from the Borough Manager and he suggests that if they haven't, that you submit a damage estimate to the insurance carrier so they could get an adjuster and then ask the property owner if they have done the same thing with their own insurance so if there is a settlement to be made, or a claim to be paid that it will be handled by the insurance companies.

### XVIII. Fire Marshall's Report - Mr. Dan Smith

Chief Smith reads the monthly Incident Summary for February 2008 as follows:

Fire Incidents -2 Non-Fire Incidents - 9 Mutual Aid - 17 Total Incidents - 28

Drills -3 Total Activity - 31

Chief Smith reads the Mutual Aid Report as follows:

Assists for Fire - 11 Cover Assignments - 2 Rapid Intervention Calls - 4

Motor Vehicle Accidents - 2 Electrical Malfunctions - 3 Auto Alarm System Failure - 3

Good Intent Call - 1 Trash Fires - 2

Chief Smith reports there were 14 daytime calls, 17 night time calls for a total this month was 21.5 with an average runners of 8.

### XIX. Floor Open to the Public

Mrs. Georgianna Ladd - 21 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Upland

Mrs. Ladd wants to commend the council members for how quickly they came to her aid when her home was flooded by the heavy rainfall. She felt like a celebrity with all of the help given to her. She appreciates everyone who helped her and reads the following statement:

I am contacting you about the plight of my property that occurred on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. On Saturday, you told me to take pictures of the damage that had occurred. I've enclosed these pictures and I also have damage to my heater. At this time I have received one estimate. I also have included this estimate.

During the flood from the ballpark/street a lot of soil from my yard and around the bricks on the sidewalk was washed away. I will be replacing this myself and be presenting you with receipts for the soil, because as you all know I live where that picket fence is and I love dirt and love my garden and my grass and I just love that type of work. If I can do it with fifty bags of dirt or whatever way is cheaper, I'll do it. My problem right now is removing the mulch. My concern is future rain that will cause the same damage, if not corrected.

As Mr. Mitchell stated, there is a problem because of how they paved the road. I hate to see the borough pay for this when it's a paving/construction company that did it. I would think it would be their responsibility to reimburse me.

President Mitchell responds to Mrs. Ladd as follows: What we are going to do is have our engineer, Mr. Catania go down to take a look at it and how it lapped up over your curb and he will advise us accordingly.

Mrs. Ladd continues reading as follows: I would like to thank you for your assistance that was given during this time. Without your help, I feel the damage would have been greater. With your help I was able to save my hot water heater. The minor items that were damaged were Christmas decorations, wool rugs, and an antique chair which are minor. A police report was filed on Saturday. The police officer that was on duty has come back twice to make sure that I was alright and I want to recommend him.

The Fire Department came in to make sure I didn't get electrocuted and checked everything. A councilwoman was on the phone and they were there within five minutes. I received excellent service. Thank you for your time to explain my situation. The pictures are enclosed along with the estimate. Thank you all.

Mr. Kamp - 3744 Clearwater Lane

Mr. Kamp stated that as he drives through Auburn Village he can see the roofs need repair, but as he drives down other streets of Upland, he can see the same thing. Mr. Kamp wants to make sure the Council does due diligence in making sure that the rest of the residents also benefit from the earned income tax as you look at repairing or rebuilding Auburn Village.

Mr. Kamp continues on the replacement cost of a one bedroom house in Auburn Village with a bond at 3%. Mr. Kamp wants reassurance from the Council as to how they look at how they maintain the Village, so that people aren't displaced.

There being no other business before the Council, President Mitchell requested a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Peterson offered a motion, which is seconded by Mr. Hunter to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Purcival  
Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

Virginia M. Sentyz  
Recording Secretary