

Upland Town Council Minutes: November 21, 2023

Opening Remarks :

The Town Council of the Town of Upland met in a regular session on November 21, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President, Ron Sutherland.

In attendance were Ron Sutherland, Warren Ross, Heath Slain, and Brian Hunt. Councilman Voss was absent.

Opening Business:

Meeting minutes from the October 17, 2023 Council Meeting were presented for approval by the clerk-treasurer. Motion to approve made by Heath Slain, 2nd-Brian Hunt, Approved with a vote of 4-0.

Department Reports:

- ❖ **Upland Police Department, Marshal Andy Cassidy**
 - PD is experiencing internet issues
 - There were 642 calls in October which included 41 traffic stops and 1 thief call.
 - Marshal Cassidy introduced Officer Doak LaBarr to the Town Council. Officer LaBarr will be going to the Police Academy in January. Councilman Sutherland welcomed Officer LaBarr to Upland.

- ❖ **Upland Volunteer Fire Department**
 - Chief Bruce Howard presented the Annual Fire Department Report. (see attached).
 - There were 358 runs from November 1, 2022-October 31, 2023. Many of those calls were ambulance assistance calls.
 - Chief Howard announced that he will service one more year as chief. He has served for 37.5 years
 - The past year's accomplishments include the purchase and renovation of a new fire truck and a lot of testing of equipment.
 - Councilman Sutherland thanked Chief Howard for serving the Town of Upland
 - Councilman Ross expressed how impressed he was with how well our volunteers are trained.

- ❖ **Upland Town Attorney, Adrienne Rines Hammond**
 - Attorney Hammond reported that she is working on the Nuisance Ordinance . Councilman Sutherland expressed that he would like to have the 1st reading at the December 12 meeting.

- ❖ **Upland Clerk-Treasurer, Mary Fletcher**
 - Clerk-Treasurer Fletcher presented the October APV Register and Payroll Allowance Docket for approval. A motion to approve was made by Heath Slain, seconded by Warren Ross, motion approved by a vote of 4-0.

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- The 2024 Salary Ordinance was presented to the council for the 1st reading. This ordinance includes a 4% cost of living raise for all town employees including elected officials. Also, the employee's portion of the health insurance premium will be increased from \$7/week to \$10/week.
 - The Council was presented with a report showing the pay of other council members in Grant County. Councilman Sutherland proposed a pay increase for the council members to \$5,500 per year.
 - Council approved the 1st reading of the 2024 Salary Ordinance with the increase in council pay. 4-0 Vote
- Our next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2023 in lieu of meeting December 5 and December 19.

❖ Upland Town Manager, Jonathan Perez

- Mr. Perez handed out a packet of information concerning our READE 2.0 application. We are requesting funds to connect the Upland Trailhead to Taylor's Trailhead.
 - Councilman Sutherland reported that the Cardinal Greenway has requested \$2,000,000 to connect the Upland Canoe Ramp to the Taylor University cross country course.
- Mr. Perez reported he is working on mapping and getting quotes to lay utility infrastructure for the Indiana Ave/ South Street extension.
- The second call for the Community Crossing Grant is January 2, 2024.
 - Our submission will include the resubmission for South Street road infrastructure from 8th Street to 11th Street.
 - 2nd Street from Jefferson Street to North Street, 3rd Street from South Street to Indiana Ave, 4th Street from South Street to North Street and 5th Street from Indiana Ave to North Street.
 - The second application represents roughly \$1,000,000 of road work of which the match will come from MVH- Restricted Fund.
 - Mr. Perez asked for a vote of support of this application: 1st- Heath Slain, 2nd- Warren Ross, Approved 4-0.
 - Councilman Ross asked if utility extension will help with some residents' current sewage issues on 8th Street? Mr. Perez said that yes it will help with these issues.
- Mr. Perez presented the updated ADA & Title VI Resolution 2-2023 which is in line with the new State of Indiana Standards. Motion to approve Resolution 2-2023 was made by Brian Hunt, 2nd- Heath Slain. Approved with a 4-0 vote.
- Mr. Perez reported that he is coordinating on the Main Street Light project with INDOT and AEP. Working on getting a quote for work.
- There has been a new home permit request for a property in the 300 block of west South Street. The Building design is not in compliance with our Building Code guidelines or Area Plans guidelines. The Building Permit request will be denied.
- Concerning the issue with Larry & Pam Stump, we have resubmitted the claim to our insurance for review.

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- Aaron Thomas of the Upland Farmers Market has requested the use of the community building for a Winter's Farmers Market. We would waive the rental fee. Mr. Perez asked for a vote of support to waive the fee. Motion was made by Warren Ross, seconded by Brian Hunt, approved by a vote of 4-0.
- Mr. Perez presented the 2024 Holiday Calendar. A motion to approve the calendar was made by Heath Slain, seconded by Brian Hunt, Approved by a vote of 4-0.
- Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineers, presented his monthly update on projects.
 - The WWTP is completed ahead of schedule and under budget. The extra funds were used to purchase a mini excavator.
 - The Jefferson Street project should be completed by December 4.
 - Mr. Hardy asked for additional funding to continue to oversee the Jefferson Street project since their contract has run out. This would be paid from ARPA Funds. Councilman Sutherland would like a spending plan for the ARPA Funds before approving any other use of those funds.

Action Items:

Public Comments:

- ❖ Larry Stump, 120 W. Washington Street, advised the council that the alley next to his home needs to be graded and repaired from the June 15 Water Main Break. There is a valve sticking up. Mr. Perez will work on this. Mr. Stump also expressed concern about the old Legion Building on Railroad Street. It is an eye sore and a safety hazard. Is anything being done to condemn this property? Mr. Perez responded that this is being worked on.

Council Reports:

- ❖ **Brian Hunt** - Is there an issue with the trash receptacle being placed at Main Street and Washington? There have been complaints that it obstructs the view of drivers turning onto Main Street.
- ❖ **Matt Voss**- Absent
- ❖ **Heath Slain** – Nothing to report
- ❖ **Warren Ross** - Councilman Ross reported that he attended Lane Chessers, Eagle Scout Ceremony on November 19 and the Vectren Day Parade in Marion. December 3 will be the Upland Tree Lighting ceremony and there will be a luminary lighted trail along the trailway.
- ❖ **Ron Sutherland**- Councilman Sutherland proposed a \$2500 bonus for each town employee including the Town Manager and Clerk-Treasurer. Motion was made to accept this proposal by Brian Hunt, seconded by Warren Ross, Motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.
Mr. Sutherland asked about the progress of the annexation of the 8th Street properties. He would like this completed by the end of January, 2024. A larger annexation conversation will happen in the Spring.

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ADA/Title 6 Concerns: Nothing to report

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

The next regular Council Meeting will be held December 12, 2023 at 7:00pm at Upland Town Hall.

ATTEST: Mary Fletcher
Mary Fletcher (Clerk Treasurer)

SIGNED: Paul B. Smith
COUNCIL PRESIDENT