

## Upland Town Council Minutes: February 20, 2024

### Public Hearing:

- ❖ Ordinance 2-2024- Solid Waste Ordinance. Clerk- Treasurer Fletcher reviewed the changes in rate from \$14.80 to \$19.15. This reflects the rate that is being charged by Best Way to the Town of Upland. Councilman Sutherland asked if there were any public comments concerning this ordinance. None were given. A motion was made to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 2-2024 by Michael Harbin and seconded by Shawn Sizemore. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0 . A motion was made to suspend the rules and waive the 3rd reading of Ordinance 2-2024 by Shawn Sizemore, seconded by Michael Harbin. Motion was passed by a vote of 4-0. Ordinance 2-2024 will go into effect in April, 2024
  
- ❖ Ordinance 3-2024- Nuisance Ordinance. Clerk-Treasurer Fletcher reviewed the changes that had been made to the ordinance since the 1st reading. Ordinance has been simplified and some fees have been updated to match Grant County Area Plans Nuisance Ordinance. Councilman Sizemore asked if this would go through Superior Court 3. Has this been verified with the court? Attorney Hammond suggested that we generalize the wording in the Ordinance to state that violation can be filed with any Grant County court. Councilman Sutherland asked if there were any public comments concerning this ordinance. None were given. Motion was made to pass the 2nd reading of Ordinance 3-2024 by Shawn Sizemore, seconded by Amy McCrea. Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. Motion was made to suspend the rules and waive the 3rd reading of Ordinance 3-2024, no one seconded this motion. 3rd Reading will be held at the March 5 meeting.

### Opening Remarks :

The Town Council of the Town of Upland met in a regular session on February 20, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President, Ron Sutherland.

In attendance were Ron Sutherland, Amy McCrea, Shawn Sizemore, and Michael Harbin. Brian Hunt was absent.

### Opening Business:

Councilman Sutherland asked for a motion to approve the February 20, 2024 Council meeting minutes. Motion was made by Michael Harbin, seconded by Amy McCrea. Minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0.

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### Department Reports:

- ❖ **Upland Police Department, Marshal Andy Cassidy- Not Present**
- ❖ **Upland Volunteer Fire Department - Not Present**
- ❖ **Upland Town Attorney, Adrienne Rines Hammond**
  - Attorney Hammond continues to work on the annexation of the properties on 8th Street . A voluntary annexation letter has been sent to the property owners. We have heard from a few already. We do need a physical plan for the annexation.
- ❖ **Upland Clerk-Treasurer, Mary Fletcher**
  - Clerk-Treasurer Fletcher presented the January APV Register and Allowance Docket for the approval of the Town Council. Michael Harbin made a motion to approve the January expenditure, seconded by May McCrea. Approved by a vote of 4-0.
  - It was reported that the current balance in the Water Fund at the end of January was -\$293,617.
- ❖ **Upland Town Manager, Jonathan Perez**
  - Mr. Perez reported that we received 9 bids for the South Street Extension project. The lowest bid was \$535,000.
  - Resolution 1-2024 was introduced to borrow funds from the General Fund to fund the extension project and payback with one of the following options
    - IFA Utility Infrastructure Grant
    - READE 2.0
    - Capital Outlays
    - Bond
  - Councilman Sutherland asked what other projects are slated for this year? Could the Resolution include other options to pay back the General Fund.
  - NearSpace Launch has requested the closure of Railroad Street for the April 8 Eclipse event. Council gave their approval of this request.

### Action Items:

- ❖ Ordinance 5-2024, Water Rate Ordinance was presented to the council for the 1st reading. Clerk-Treasurer Fletcher outlined the main points of the ordinance.
  - Ordinance proposes a 100% rate increase from current rates
  - Ordinance outlines billing, collection and write off procedures along with any additional charges for late payments
  - Ordinance outlines guidelines for leak adjustments and pool fill adjustments.
  - A motion to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 5-2024 was made by Shawn Sizemore, seconded by Michael Harbin. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

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- Councilman Sutherland stated that this decision is not taken lightly by the council members.
- ❖ Ordinance 6-2024 , Annual Water and Sewer Rate Increase Ordinance was presented to the council for the 1st reading. Clerk- Treasurer Fletcher outlined the main points of the ordinance
  - Ordinance proposes a 3% annual increase on both the water and sewer rate beginning January 1, 2025.
  - A motion was made by Michael Harbin to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 6-2024, seconded by Amy McCrea. The motion was passed by a vote of 4-0.

### Public Comments:

- ❖ Alex Reno, NearSpace Education, gave an update on the program including future goals and projects. Some upcoming events hosted by NearSpace Education will be the Eclipse Fest 2024 on April 8 which will include food trucks, bounce houses, live bands, and balloon launches. NSE will be hosting summer camps this summer. NSE is moving to the old Masonic Lodge on the corner of Railroad and Main Street.
  - NearSpace Park is seeking expansion funds through READE 2.0. This
  - expansion will include public restrooms, storage and completion of phase 3.
- ❖ Jackie Sheets- Asked council to consider if they are ok with solar companies building around Upland? Do we need guidelines for Solar?
- ❖ Linda Morgan, 10975 E. 500 S., Upland
  - Are schools closed for April 8, Eclipse? Yes, they are closed.
  - Where are public notices posted? Clerk-Treasurer Fletcher answered that public notices are posted in the Chronicle Tribune and on social media.
  - There seems to be a problem with trees and powerlines at the NearSpace STEM Park. Jonathan Perez and Matt Voss, NSE, answered that they are aware and are working with AEP to take care of that issue.
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### Council Reports:

- ❖ **Amy McCrea**- Nothing to Report
- ❖ **Shawn Sizemore**- [info@uplandindiana.com](mailto:info@uplandindiana.com) is now up and running. Residents can email this address with concerns and questions.
- ❖ **Michael Harbin** – Nothing to report
- ❖ **Brian Hunt** - Absent
- ❖ **Ron Sutherland**- There will be an Executive Session held on March 5 to discuss personnel matters.

ADA/Title 6 Concerns: Nothing to report

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

The next regular Council Meeting will be held March 5,2024 at 7:00pm at Upland Town Hall.

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ATTEST: Mary Fletcher  
Mary Fletcher (Clerk Treasurer)

SIGNED: Ron A. Linn  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT