

## Upland Town Council Minutes: September 19, 2023

### Opening Remarks :

The Town Council of the Town of Upland met in a regular session on September 19, 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, Matt Voss and Brian Hunt.

Meeting minutes from September 5, 2023 were presented for approval by the clerk-treasurer. Motion to approve made by Heath Slain, 2nd-Matt Voss, Approved with a vote of 5-0.

### Department Reports:

- ❖ **Upland Police Department, Marshal Andy Cassidy**
  - Marshal Cassidy reported that Officer Hershell is now working on his own and the department is back to full strength with 4 full time officers.
  - Officers will be working on continuing education over the next month.
  - Marshal Cassidy wanted to remind the council that Officer Duncan will be retiring in early 2024. He would like to hire a 5th officer now to begin training. This person would take over Duncan's position when he retires.
  
- ❖ **Upland Volunteer Fire Department- Not Present**
  
- ❖ **Upland Town Attorney, Adrienne Hammond -**
  - Attorney Hammond reported that she is continuing to work on the Noise Ordinance
  - Vacations of 4 public alleyways should be finalized at the October 3 meeting.
  
- ❖ **Upland Clerk-Treasurer, Mary Fletcher**
  - Clerk-Treasurer Fletcher presented the August APV Register and Allowance Docket for approval. A motion to approve these reports was made by Heath Slain, 2nd- Brian Hunt, Approval by the vote of 5-0.
  - Councilman Sutherland asked Councilman Slain to meet with the Clerk-Treasurer to go over the fund report.
  
- ❖ **Upland Town Manager, Jonathan Perez**
  - Mr. Perez reported the following:
    - Clerk-Treasurer Fletcher and Mr. Perez met with Comcast concerning internet and phone service. We would like to add internet service to the Community Building also.
    - We are working on an RFP for the town trash contract.
    - Mr. Perez presented a bid for 2 UTV's for the Town use. The quote is for \$21,500 for both vehicles. This would be paid for from CCD funds. A motion was made to approve the purchase of these UTV's by Matt Voss, 2nd- Warren Ross, Approved by a vote of 5-0.

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- He continues to look into options for the purchase of a Mini Excavator.
- Mr. Perez is asking for approval to hire a 5th Police Officer using the Meijer Opioid Fund. A motion was made to approve this request by Warren Ross, 2nd- Brian Hung, Request was approved by a vote of 5-0.
- Grant County has missed the deadline for changing TIF rates.
- Mr. Perez apologized for the Vacates not being complete. He is working with Attorney Hammond on getting these complete.

### Action Items:

- ❖ Jeremy Hardy, Commonwealth Engineers gave a report on ongoing projects.
  - WWTP- Expected close out date is November 1, 2023
  - Jefferson Street Stormwater Project
    - Contactor is dragging their feet
    - There is a conflict with the Main Street Water Main Project. Commonwealth spoke with Bunn about working on property restoration on properties that are unsafe.
    - Councilman Sutherland asked how property owners will be kept apprised of the timeline of restoration of their property? Jeremy is working on that.
    - The Spencer Alley Project has been started by Yardberry.

### Public Comments:

- ❖ Brandon Pierceson, NearSpace Education
  - Presented a handout outlining the accomplishments and goal of the NearSpace Education Park development
  - There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct 10, 2023 at 4:30pm
  - NearSpace Education is still seeking money with Ready 2.0 Grant for the addition of restrooms to the park area.
- ❖ Phi Bowers and Jon Cruise, JGB Real Estate
  - Owners of 1484 S. 1st Street
  - Presented a proposal to build 4 Townhouses on property targeting traveling professionals such as nurses. It will be a \$700K investment. BZA asked for approval by the Town Council for the 5 foot variance request.
  - Councilman Sutherland asked if they plan to rent to TU students. Mr. Bowers said only married couples. The townhomes will be furnished with 1 King size bed. Renting would be restricted.
  - Mr. Long, Upland BZA representative, said the concerns presented at the meeting were parking, snow removal, size of lot for the project and

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drainage issues. Mr. Perez said there are no concerns about the drainage on this property.

- Councilman Ross asked why the council is just now hearing about this project. Mr. Perez said that BZA changed the steps and this would normally be presented to council once all necessary variances are received by the county.
- Mr. Perez asked for a vote of support for this project. A motion to give a vote of confidence on this project was made by Matt Voss, 2nd- Brian Hunt, Motion was approved by a vote of 3-1 with Heath Slain abstaining and Warren Ross voting No to the proposal.

**Council Reports:**

- ❖ **Brian Hunt** - Nothing to report
- ❖ **Matt Voss**- Upland Park Board met prior to the meeting
- ❖ **Heath Slain** – Nothing to report
- ❖ **Warren Ross** - Our Town Upland continues the planning for the Fall Fest.
- ❖ **Ron Sutherland**- Nothing to report

**ADA/Title 6 Concerns:** Nothing to report

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm

The next regular Council Meeting will be held October 3, 2023 at 7:00pm at Upland Town Hall.

ATTEST:   
Mary Fletcher (Clerk Treasurer)

SIGNED:   
COUNCIL PRESIDENT