

MINUTES**REGULAR MEETING OF UPLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL****DATE**

July 11, 2023

TIME

6:03 P.M.

PLACE

Upland MacQueen Hall, 224 Castle Avenue, Upland, PA

CALL TO ORDER

President Peterson called the Regular Scheduled Meeting for Upland Borough Council to order at 6:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Peterson – Present; Ms. Crawford – Present; Mrs. Kerns – Present; Ms. Gertner – Present; Mrs. Bush – Present; Mr. Bloom – Present; Mr. Steigerwalt – Present; Mayor Dennon – Present; Mr. Archdeacon, Catania Engineering – Present; Robert E. O'Connor, Esquire – Present; and Mr. Michael Ciach, Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer - Present.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Shannon Strigle, Dan Smith, Dawn C. Lucas, Carmella Young, Anthony DeMarco

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A-1 Council Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2023

President Peterson asked if there were any questions on the Council Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2023. Hearing none, Ms. Crawford made a motion to accept the Council meeting minutes of June 13, 2023. Mrs. Bush seconded the motion. President Peterson asked for a roll call. Roll Call was taken: Mrs. Kerns – Aye; Ms. Gertner – Aye; Mrs. Bush – Aye; Mr. Bloom – Aye; Mr. Steigerwalt – Aye; Ms. Crawford – Aye; Mrs. Peterson – Aye. Motion carries.

6. Treasurer's Report

A-1 Treasurer's Report

President Peterson asked if there were any questions on the Treasurer's Report. With no questions, Ms. Crawford made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mrs. Kerns seconded the motion. President Peterson requested a roll call. Roll Call was taken: Mrs.

Kerns – Aye; Ms. Gertner – Aye; Mrs. Bush – Aye; Mr. Bloom – Aye; Mr. Steigerwalt – Aye; Ms. Crawford – Aye; Mrs. Peterson – Aye. Motion carries.

A-2 Income Statements

President Peterson asked if there were any questions on the Income Statements. Hearing none, Ms. Crawford moved to accept the Income Statements as presented. Mrs. Bush seconded the motion. President Peterson requested a roll call. Roll Call was taken: Mrs. Kerns – Aye; Ms. Gertner – Aye; Mrs. Bush – Aye; Mr. Bloom – Aye; Mr. Steigerwalt – Aye; Ms. Crawford – Aye; Mrs. Peterson – Aye. Motion carries.

A-3 Manager's Report

President Peterson asked if there were any questions on the Manager's Report. With no questions, Ms. Crawford made a motion to accept the Manager's Report as presented. Mrs. Kerns seconded the motion. Council unanimously voted Aye on the motion – no Nays. Motion carries.

7. **Auburn Village Report – Matt Steigerwalt**

President Peterson stated that Mr. Steigerwalt reported continuing inspections.

8. **Public Safety Report – Abigail Gertner**

A-1 Fire Marshal/Public Safety Officer's Report – June 2023

Mr. Smith read the Fire Marshal/Public Safety Officer's Report for June 2023 into the record.

A-2 Fire Company's Report – June 2023

Ms. Gertner stated that there is no Fire Company's Report for June 2023.

A-3 Code Officer's Report – June 2023

Ms. Gertner read the Code Officer's Report for June 2023 into the record.

9. **Buildings & Grounds Report – Judith Bush**

A-1 Motion to Approve the September 3, 2023 Fireworks Show with D&M Fireworks for \$9,400.00

Mrs. Bush made a motion to approve the September 3, 2023 fireworks show with D&M Fireworks for \$9,400.00. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. President Peterson asked if there

were any questions. Hearing none, she asked for a roll call. Roll Call was taken: Mrs. Kerns – Aye; Ms. Gertner – Aye; Mrs. Bush – Aye; Mr. Bloom – Aye; Mr. Steigerwalt – Aye; Ms. Crawford – Aye; Mrs. Peterson – Aye. Motion carries.

10. Finance & Insurance Report - Moira Crawford

A-1 Approval to Ratify Payment of General Fund Bills June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 - \$240,755.63

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve to ratify payment of the General Fund bills for June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$240,755.63. Mrs. Kerns seconded the motion. President Peterson asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she asked for a roll call. Roll Call was taken: Mrs. Kerns – Abstained from check number 43498 and Aye on the remainder; Ms. Gertner – Aye; Mrs. Bush – Aye; Mr. Bloom – Aye; Mr. Steigerwalt – Abstained from check number 43422 and Aye on the remainder; Ms. Crawford – Abstained from check numbers 43438 and 43501 and Aye on the remainder; Mrs. Peterson – Abstained from check number 43429 and Aye on the remainder. Motion carries.

A-2 Approval to Ratify Payment of Auburn Village Bills June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 - \$44,964.31

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve to ratify payment of the Auburn Village bills for June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$44,964.31. Mrs. Kerns seconded the motion. President Peterson asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she asked for a roll call. Roll Call was taken: Mrs. Kerns – Aye; Ms. Gertner – Aye; Mrs. Bush – Aye; Mr. Bloom – Aye; Mr. Steigerwalt – Aye; Ms. Crawford – Abstained from check number 9971 and Aye on the remainder; Mrs. Peterson – Aye. Motion carries.

A-3 Approval to Ratify Payment of the PLGIT Procurement Credit Card Purchases June 2023 - \$11,259.70

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve to ratify payment of the PLGIT Procurement Credit Card Statement for June 2023 in the amount of \$11,259.70. Mrs. Kerns seconded the motion. President Peterson asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she asked for a roll call. Roll Call was taken: Mrs. Kerns – Aye; Ms. Gertner – Aye; Mrs. Bush – Aye; Mr. Bloom – Aye; Mr. Steigerwalt – Aye; Ms. Crawford – Aye; Mrs. Peterson – Aye. Motion carries.

11. Ordinances & Resolutions Report – Abigail Gertner

President Peterson stated that Ordinances & Resolutions reported progress.

12. Research & Development - Julie Kerns

Present Peterson stated that Research & Development reported progress.

13. Streets & Equipment – Judith Bush

President Peterson stated that Streets & Equipment reported progress.

14. Community Affairs – Moira Crawford

Ms. Crawford stated the second Senior Citizens' Coffee Club took place since the last Council Meeting. The event was held at MacQueen Hall on June 24, 2023 with approximately 30 people in attendance. With the improved attendance, the Community Affairs Committee plans on adding about four of these events to the 2024 calendar.

The July 4th Celebration at Bristol Lord Field was well attended even with the extreme heat of the day.

Upcoming Events:

- **Basket Bonanza Bingo Fundraiser** – July 22, 2023 at MacQueen Hall. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. – Bingo will start at 7:00 p.m. There will also be raffle baskets, 50/50 as well as a bonus game available for purchase.

Tickets: \$20.00 if purchased in advance – \$25.00 if purchased at the door based on availability. Tickets can be purchased from Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Kerns or the Borough office.

- **Free School Supplies** – August 12, 2023 at MacQueen Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This event is for current Borough children. Parents or Guardians must sign up their child or children to be eligible. Sign up forms can be found on the Borough website or at the Borough office. Completed forms must be received no later than August 1, 2023 to be eligible. Please note that items must be picked up on August 12, 2023.
- **Free Winter Coats** – September 16, 2023 at MacQueen Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This event is for current Borough children. Parents or Guardians must sign up their child or children to be eligible. Sign up forms can be found on the Borough website or at the Borough office. Completed forms must be received no later than September 1, 2023 to be eligible. Please note that coats must be picked up on September 16, 2023.

15. Use & Occupancy Report – Michael Ciach

Mr. Ciach read the June 2023 Use and Occupancy Report into the record.

16. Mayor's Report – William Dennon

Mayor Dennon read the June 2023 Mayor's Report into the record.

17. Solicitor's Report - Robert O'Connor

President Peterson stated that the Solicitor has no report.

18. Engineer's Report –Dan Archdeacon

Mr. Archdeacon reported that the project for the 2023 Road Program is complete including punch list items. Mr. Archdeacon received invoice number 23144 for Payment #2 and Final from A. F. Damon in the amount of \$9,820.22 and he recommended approval for payment.

A-1 2023 Road Program – Approve Application for Payment #2 & Final in the Amount of \$9,820.22 to A. F. Damon, Inc.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve application for payment #2 and final in the amount of \$9,820.22 to A. F. Damon, Inc. Mr. Steigerwalt seconded the motion. President Peterson asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she asked for a roll call. Roll Call was taken: Mrs. Kerns – Aye; Ms. Gertner – Aye; Mrs. Bush – Aye; Mr. Bloom – Aye; Mr. Steigerwalt – Aye; Ms. Crawford – Aye; Mrs. Peterson – Aye. Motion carries.

Mr. Archdeacon stated that land development plans were submitted to the Borough for a stand-alone drive-thru only Dunkin Donuts in the parking lot of Upland Shopping Center. The plans are currently under review and he should have a review letter prepared within a week or two.

Other project updates are contained in the report Mr. Archdeacon has submitted to Council.

19. Future Projects – Matthew Steigerwalt

President Peterson stated that Future Projects reported progress.

20. Old Business

President Peterson stated that there is no old business to report.

21. New Business

President Peterson stated that there is no new business to report.

22. Floor Open to Public

Resident, Ms. Dawn Lucas addressed Council. Ms. Lucas explained that she is a longtime resident and has been cited repeatedly about her yard. She explained that this has never happened before and she was never aware of any codes related to your property such as tents her children set up. She informed Council that her son was shot and his wheelchair was outside. Her brother had a stroke and his oxygen tank was outside.

She is going to put up a fence to stop the Code Enforcement Officer from speaking to her. She stated that he acts like he is running a plantation and can say whatever he wants to her. She came to the office and asked about a fence. She was informed that she could put up a 4' fence.

She does not appreciate the Code Enforcement Officer's comments. She says he is using pictures from 2 years ago. President Peterson asked Mr. Ciach for the pictures that the Code Enforcement Officer had on file. Ms. Lucas stated she had her own pictures. Mrs. Peterson asked that she email them to her and provided her email address. Ms. Lucas stated that the judge said she edited the pictures. She insisted she did not.

The Code Enforcement Officer told her she needed to get rid of her Cadillac. President Peterson asked why he told her to remove the car. She said it had a flat tire. She also added that the car is insured and registered.

Ms. Lucas admitted that she did need help with the yard. Due to the health and/or age of her family members, her brother and father could not help. She reached out to others. Sometimes they show up and sometimes they do not. Ms. Lucas said the Borough's Highway guys wave to her every day. They see her in the yard doing what she can to make it look nice. She stated that it does look nice. She stated that the judge said she did it that day. Her response was a strong no.

Ms. Lucas reiterated that she is putting up a fence. President Peterson asked if she got a permit for her fence. She stated that she did not get the fence yet. President Peterson said her reason for asking was not to add more issues.

Ms. Lucas said if the Code Enforcement Officer says anything else to her, she will not say what she is planning to say to him. President Peterson asked what he is saying to her. She replied why can't you show the pictures she just showed you instead of those from 2 years ago? He said he took the pictures on Friday. Ms. Lucas said he took the pictures when the PECO man was there. President Peterson stated that the pictures are dated June 23, 2023. Ms. Lucas said yes, it was in June.

With the PECO people cutting trees around lines and then a storm took down 2 trees which fell in her yard which belonged to her neighbor; she had to get rid of it. Ms. Lucas said life happens. She does not have thousands to get rid of trees by the next day. She called 2 people and they have it scheduled. President Peterson asked if she tried talking to the Code Enforcement Officer

about it. She said she is not talking to him anymore. She said that he stated the old Code person never did anything; he just took a check. President Peterson asked who took a check and Ms. Lucas confirmed the Code Enforcement Officer said that the previous Code people just took a check and never did any work.

Ms. Lucas also inquired as to the opioid situation and what the Borough is doing with regards to money and assistance for those suffering from this issue. President Peterson explained that the Police Department applies for every grant possible. However, Ms. Lucas should speak with Chief Irey for specifics. President Peterson gave Ms. Lucas the police station phone number and the Chief's name.

Ms. Lucas ended by thanking President Peterson for listening.

23. **Adjournment**

Ms. Crawford made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Kerns seconded the motion. All Council verbally voted Aye; no Nays.

Council adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Ciach
Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

Dana A. Dudek
Recording Secretary