



City Council Corner

TO UPD, OR NOT TO UPD

That seems to be the question around the Salt Lake County area lately; especially after Midvale City recently made the decision to abandon their police and fire departments in favor of UPD (Unified Police Department) and UFA (Unified Fire Authority). Taylorville has been a member of the UFA for many years and considers it to be a beneficial relationship; however, City residents, City administration, and City Council Members are far from “unified” in their opinions regarding the UPD.

There are arguments on both sides of the issue, but one fact is clear: it is not a “cut-and-dried” decision. Recently the Police Officers Association presented a petition to the Taylorville City Council expressing support of joining UPD; at the same time there have been numerous phone calls, emails, and letters from residents who are not in favor. Citing economies of scale, a larger police force to draw from, and money savings, proponents of UPD are calling it a “win-win” opportunity for the City. For City Council members there are still a lot of questions to be considered. The main issues seem to be: can the promised savings really be realized in the long run; will coverage in the City be diluted; will the City lose the control they sought to gain when we separated from the County Sheriff’s office, among others.

Currently the UPD has levied a household fee to support the service. This fee will be going away by legislative mandate next year, and there is a large question that remains as to how that shortfall will affect the member cities. Will the UPD still be able to deliver on its promise to lower costs for member cities once that funding source is gone, or will costs increase? Also, Taylorville City will only have one vote on the UPD board while the County will have several; how will that loss of control affect us in the long run.

The Police Officers Association and UPD representatives will be making a presentation to the City Council at the June 1st City Council meeting. Over the next few months it is certain that UPD will continue to be a topic of much discussion around the City. Whether you are for UPD or against it, we invite you to attend Council Meetings, and/or contact your Council Representative to weigh in on the subject.

Your Taylorville City Council,

Bud Catlin (District 1), Morris Pratt (District 2), Jerry Rechtenbach (District 3),
Dama Barbour (District 4), Larry Johnson (District 5)

PLEASE JOIN US THE FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAYS OF EVERY MONTH AT 6:30PM FOR OUR REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!