

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-NOVEMBER 12, 2002

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:37 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Hawkins, Holinko, Paterson, Rosen, Schaefer, Martin, Thorkelson
Absent: Haddad

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 28, 2002.

Motion so passed. Mr. Thorkelson abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Diane Nadeau, 150 Thornbush Road, President of the Tri-Town Youth Football and Cheerleading Association, requested the Council consider the changes necessary to keep sponsorship signs on the fences in the Town parks. She presented a letter to the Town Council members.

Dennis Mullaney, President of WAM, spoke on youth sports needing funds from sponsorships of local businesses. There are 48 Teams in the soccer District League.

Carolyn Burke, Knowlton Road, presented the Council members with a petition signed by 186 families who are in support of corporate sponsorship signs in the parks.

Scott Johnson, Hampton, Conn., praised the Council and the Town for their signage on "sharing the roads" with bicycles and cars. He hopes that the signs will remain along the roads in Mansfield. These signs he feels, slow down traffic and make drivers aware of the possibility of cyclists on the roads.

Ayla Kardestuncer, Storrs Road, is opposed to commercial signage in the parks.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill Including the UConn Consent Order, Public Participation Relative to the Consent Order and Well Testing

The Town Manager reported that the comprehensive Report and Remedial Action

Plan has been submitted, and in January there will be a public review of it.

2. Financial Statements Dated June 30, 2002

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Martin seconded to accept the Financial Statements dated June 30, 2002, as presented by the Director of Finance.

So passed unanimously.

3. Business Sponsorship and Commercial Advertising in Town Parks

At its' September 9th meeting, the Council did direct the staff to draft a proposed change to the Parks Regulations. This draft will be presented to the Council on November 25, 2002.

No action taken.

4. University Spring Weekend

The Town Attorney, Dennis O'Brien, presented a letter to the Council regarding the Town's liability for the actions or inactions of the Town or its agents to ensure public safety at off campus sites during the annual spring weekend event at the University of Connecticut. He summarized the issue by writing "that the Town has the authority and legal responsibility to take whatever steps are reasonably necessary to ensure public safety off campus during spring weekend."

More discussions will be held as the Town's plan for this event develops.

No action taken.

V. NEW BUSINESS

5. Proposed Consent Order-Municipal Transfer Station

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Martin seconded to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Department of Environment Protection's proposed consent order between the Town of Mansfield and the State of Connecticut to provide for the continued operation of the Town's bulky waste transfer operation while the Town's transfer station permit application is pending.

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- So passed unanimously.

6. Transportation Enhancement Proposals

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to schedule a public information meeting for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on November 25, 2002, to solicit public comment concerning the proposed transportation enhancement projects in Mansfield.

So passed unanimously.

7. Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Graduate Student Apartments and Downtown Master Plan Projects.

Greg Padick, Town Planner, discussed this issue with the Town Council. The University of Connecticut will be having a public hearing regarding the EIE at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2002 in the Bishop's Center. The area of the proposed housing for 1,000 graduate students is not specifically referenced, however it will most likely be near Northwood Apartments or in the Downtown area. Two issues of concern are a comprehensive storm water management plan and traffic regulations both onsite and offsite. The proposal includes 280 parking spaces for 400 units.

No action taken. Later in November the Council and Planning and Zoning may sign a joint letter with comments for submission by December 5, 2002.

8. Community Center Staffing Proposal

Mr. Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager and Mr. Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation, made a presentation to the Council on the proposed organizational chart and classification plan for the Mansfield Community Center. This classification plan consisted of only full-time positions.

They presented a revised action plan for the Community Center Operations and Administration Project, a summary of proposed positions, a classification plan and a series of draft job descriptions.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

VII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The court case of Hirsch vs. Negro has been upheld in favor of the Town. There is now a 20-30 day appeal if Mr. Negro wishes to take this to the Connecticut Supreme Court. There is another pending suit, but it may be negotiated and be dismissed.

The newly installed prison calling system was tested today and appeared to work well.

The Council was handed out copies of the emergency plan

The Town/Gown met and discussed spring weekend.

The line of pine trees on the University property located on Route 195 near the chicken coops will remain there. It is to cover the view of the building and landscape yard of the University.

Town Manager sent a letter to the Department of Transportation regarding the Rt. 89 and Mt. Hope Road intersection. In this letter he requested the DOT to clarify and intervene in this project as a "context sensitive design." There was a public outcry over the proposed project, which would allow a 45-mph on the road.

Jim Gibbons gave an excellent presentation as part of the plan of development update.

Lands of Unique Value presentation was at the White Building at UConn.

The Partnership met last week. The Finance committee will hire the consultant and will make their decision on Dec. 3.

Road sharing signs for bicycles/cars should be a minimum of 1300' instead of 900'. The Public Works Department will, as weather permits, most probably in the spring, adjust the signs.

On October 29, 2002 the University held an update on its projects.

Mr. Steve Larson, President of Natchaug Hospital, took the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager on a tour of the facility. The hospital has requested to add on a resident facility for young girls.

Town Manager announced that a special meeting would be held at the Senior Center either on December 7 or 14 from 9 until 12 noon.

X, FUTURE AGENDAS

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UConn Bus Plans and support of WRTD busline.

Date of the Annual Town Meeting.

Line of Pine Trees on Rte. 195 up by Chicken coops on University of Connecticut property.

XI PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIO

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9. Planning and Zoning Application Referral-Meadowbrook Lane/Adeline Place
- 10.OPM re: FY 02/03 Mansfield Application to Small Town Economic Assistance Program
- 11.M. Hart re: Bergin Correctional Institute's Community Notification System
- 12.M. Berliner re: Application to Fund Assisted Living Services at Juniper Hill Village
- 13.M. Berliner re: Appointments to Conservation Commission
- 14.VNA East-FY 02/03 First Quarter Statistics
- 15.University of Connecticut Academic Calendar
- 16.Storrs/Willimantic Bus News
- 17.Northeast Connecticut Visitors District-Annual Report 2001/02
- 18.Honorable N. Wyman re: Monthly letter to the Governor
- 19.Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations-Connecticut Municipal Budget Adoption Experiences
- 20.M. Kelly re: Commercial Advertising in Town Parks
- 21.D. Simonsen re: Commercial Advertising in Town Parks
- 22.B. Pittman re: Commercial Advertising in Town Parks
- 23.G. Padick re: Proposed Telecommunications Tower North of Route 44, between Baxter Road and Cedar Swamp Road
- 24.Stadium Road Detention Basin- Storm Water Sampling Report
- 25.Route 89 Near Mt. Hope Road in Mansfield
- 26.Permit Approval-Separatist Road Detention Basin

- 27.U.S. Census Bureau Census- Census 2000 Population and Housing Unit Counts for Town of Mansfield

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:08 p.m. Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk