

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-JANUARY 13, 2003

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Haddad, Hawkins, Holinko (arrived at 7:28 p.m.) Paterson, Rosen, Schaefer, Martin (arrived at 7:25 p.m.) Thorkelson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 14, 2002 as corrected.

Second page of minutes, the question was moved after the passage of the motion itself, the order had to be reversed.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 9, 2003 as corrected.

Under appointments Alice Kinne's name was omitted as a Housing Authority Commissioner.

So passed unanimously.

III. MEETING WITH STATE LEGISLATORS (7:00 P.M.)

- Denise Merrill, State Representative, discussed in great detail the budget problems facing the State of Connecticut. She has suggested a three year plan which includes raises in the state tax. There is a great concern that this deficit will impact the funds already designated for municipalities. The Town of Mansfield under the Governor's budget plan will lose important funds. At 7:15 p.m. Senator Donald Williams arrived and also discussed the gloomy outlook of the state budget. He said that state taxes must be raised. Denise Merrill and Donald Williams would like to see the state unions and the governor submit to mediation. They will do all they can to save the municipal revenues to the towns. Legislators left at 7:55 p.m.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Open Space Acquisition-Larkins Property
2. Open Space Acquisition-Vernon Property

Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave an overview and description of the properties. Mr. Jim Morrow, Chairman of the Open Space Committee was also present.

Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, is an abutter of the Larkin property and is supportive of the purchase of this property for open space. However, she urged the management plan to include wildlife management. She is concerned over the abundance of the deer population.

Susan Nantos is in support of the purchase of these properties for open space acquisition however she would not want the wildlife to be managed.

The hearings closed at 8:06 p.m.

V. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Maria Gogarten, Warrenville Road, suggested the easiest way to solve the problem at the intersection of Rte 89 and Mt. Hope Road was to install a 4 way stop sign.

Paula Paterson, Warrenville Road, feels that the speed has increased on that road since the road has been paved. She urged that no further widening be allowed.

Harold Abramson, 214 Wormwood Hill Road, read a letter to the council as Treasurer of the Friends of the Mansfield Library. The letter urged the Council to pass the proposed resolution regarding the USA Patriot Act to direct the town personnel not to help federal or state officials in activities that could be considered a violation of the civil liberties or civil rights of Mansfield residents.

Richard Sherman, President of the NE Civil Liberties Union introduced Theresa Unger Executive Director of the Conn. Civil Liberties Union who read a letter in support of the proposed Council Resolution. See attached.

Ayla Kardestuncer, Storrs Road, supports the suggestion of Maria Gogarten to have a 4 way stop at the intersection of Route 89 and Mt. Hope Road. She further supports the proposed resolution on the US Patriot Act.

Dave Nelson was concerned over the US Patriot Act and urged the Town Council to approve the proposed resolution. He felt that this act was a terrible act and greatly affects the right to free speech.

Eleanor Plank, 99 Dog Lane, spoke in favor of a resolution concerning the US Patriot Act. She is concerned over information which may be given out by libraries on lists of books people read. Our public library only retains two books on someone's card and then as soon as another book is taken out, the previous ones are removed.

At 8:45 p.m. the opportunity for the public to address the Council closed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

3. Open Space Acquisition-Larkins Property

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to authorize the Town Manager to complete the proposed purchase agreement dated December 9, 2002 between the Town of Mansfield and Ms. Mildred J. Larkins for the purchase of the 11.7 acre parcel as depicted on Mansfield Assessor's map 28, block 91S, and to expend \$23,400 from the Capital Projects Fund-Open Space Acquisition Account for the subject purchase.

So passed unanimously.

4. Open Space Acquisition-Vernon Property

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to authorize the Town Manager to complete the proposed purchase agreement dated January 3, 2003 between the Town of Mansfield and Sheridan Vernon, Kim Vernon and Kirsten Vernon Ramundo for the purchase of the 11.16 acre parcel designated as Parcel #5 on a survey map dated August 13, 2002 and prepared by Meehan & Goodin, and to expend \$9,400 from the Capital Projects Fund-Open Space Acquisition Account for the subject purchase.

So passed. Mr. Martin abstained since he is an abutter to this property.

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

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No action taken.

6. Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2002.

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

So passed unanimously.

7. Resolution in Response to USA Patriot Act

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to adopt the following Resolution:



RESOLUTION CONCERNING CIVIL LIBERTIES IN MANSFIELD

The Mansfield Town Council is concerned by the erosion and violation of the rights and liberties of citizens and legal non-citizen residents of the Town of Mansfield, rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, and by the Declaration Rights of the constitution of the State of Connecticut.

The Mansfield Town Council notes with growing concern that such erosion and violation is taking place under certain provisions of the U.S.A. Patriot Act, the Homeland Security Act and other actions of the Federal Government of recent years and through certain administrative actions of the U.S. Department of Justice. In particular, the detention of persons without the bringing of legal charges; denial of detained persons' right to counsel; expansion of authority to conduct unregulated electronic surveillance of lawful activities; limiting access to public documents; expanded information gathering about persons without any demonstrated evidence of criminal behavior and without court order; the threat of secret military tribunals; the unregulated ethnic profiling of individuals; and the threatening public statements by the U.S. Attorney General regarding legal public opposition to these policies.

The Mansfield Town Council now therefore resolves that:

1. Officials of the Town of Mansfield are hereby urged, to the extent legally permissible, not to cooperate or participate in actions which appear to violate constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties.
2. The Council shall urge other municipalities and the State of Connecticut similarly to prohibit government actions within their control from violating such civil liberties.
3. The Council's concerns shall be communicated to state and federal representatives who shall be urged to work toward repeal of the unconstitutional provisions of the U.S.A. Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act.

This resolution was unanimously approved on January 13, 2003

8. Route 89/Mt. Hope Road Intersection

Mr. Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works spoke to this issue. He said that DOT has never discussed the possibility of a 4 way stop sign, however in his opinion they would not agree to this measure. He said that he felt that DOT would probably say it would be ineffective.

Mr. Bellm left the Council meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to move item #17 under New Business, up on the agenda.

So passed unanimously.

17. Emergency Services Operations and Management Improvement Project-
Employment Conditions for Paid Personnel.

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to:

Move, effective for the pay period March 9, 2003, to offer employment under their existing terms and conditions to all active paid personnel of the Eagleville Fire Department and Mansfield Volunteer Fire Company.

So passed unanimously.

9. University Spring Weekend

No action taken.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

10.2003 Child Day Care Contract

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Martin seconded to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Town Manager, Martin H. Berliner, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town of Mansfield with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Daycare Services Grant Program for the Mansfield Discovery Depot, and to affix the corporate seal of the Town.

So passed unanimously.

11.Town of Mansfield Zoning Citations Ordinance

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to schedule a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on January 27, 2003 to hear public comment regarding a proposed amendment to the "Town of Mansfield Zoning Citations Ordinance".

So passed unanimously.

12.Hourly Compensation for Registrar of Voters

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective the first pay period in January 2003, to set the pay rate for the registrar of voters at \$15.00 per hour and the pay rate for deputy registrar of voters at \$10.00 per hour.

So passed unanimously.

13.State Taxation Issues

Mr.Thorkelson moved that the Mansfield Town Council urges the legislature and the Governor to rescind the excessive state tax cuts of the past decade and examine other revenue generating options as part of a comprehensive solution to the state budget crisis. Seconded by Mr. Schaefer.

Motion so passed. Mr. Martin voted no. Seven yes votes.

14. Willimantic River Greenway Proposal

No action taken.

15. Easement to Connecticut Light & Power Company to Extend Utilities to Mansfield Community Center

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Mansfield Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to deed permanent easement rights situated on property owned by the municipality on the southwesterly side of Connecticut Route 195 in the Town of Mansfield on which the town is constructing a community center, to the Connecticut Light and Power Company for the purpose of enabling the utility company to install, maintain and repair electric and gas lines over, under and across said town-owned land, as set forth in the proposed easement area description attached hereto as Schedule owned land, as set forth in the proposed easement area description attached hereto as Schedule owned land, as set forth in the proposed easement area description attached hereto as Schedule owned land, as set forth in the proposed easement area description attached hereto as Schedule A.

So passed unanimously.

16. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Year Ending June 30, 2002.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Martin seconded to refer the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Year Ending June 30, 2002 to the Finance Committee.

So passed unanimously.

At 10:10 p.m. Mr. Rosen left the meeting.

17. Emergency Services Operations and Management Improvement Project- Employment conditions for Paid Personnel.

Previously discussed.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Haddad reported on the Committee on Committees.

The following list of appointments were reviewed by the committee and approved.

Mr. Haddad moved that the Council accept: for the; Mansfield School Readiness Council-Louise Bailey, Nancy Rucker, Steven Tucker, Donna McLaughlin reappointments until 12/31/2004 and for the

Housing Authority Joan Christison-Lagay appointment until 10/31/06. She replaces JaneAnn Bobbitt.

So unanimously approved by the Council.

XI. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Community Center project: the pre-cast is now onsite, the windows have been made and shipped to the local distributor, and although the project is behind schedule, it can be completed as proposed.

The Town Manager is on the Substance Abuse Task Force at the University of Connecticut. The report by this committee is due to the President of the University in April.

On February 1, 2003 there will be a Special Town Council meeting.

On January 25, 2003 there will be a public involvement meeting about the proposed Remedial Action Plan for the UConn Landfill. The meeting will be from 10-3:00 p.m. at the Bishop Center on the University of Connecticut campus.

There will be a Fire Management Committee meeting on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in Room B.

The Town/Gown meeting is cancelled for tomorrow night.

The Downtown Partnership has met and the 6-month plan has been completed.

On January 15, 2003, the Plan of Conservation and Development Citizen Committee will meet. All are invited.

Budget meetings are going on and Manager has requested all department heads to keep budget requests at a minimum.

There has been a series of meetings regarding the Water Supply Plan. The Department of Environmental Protection has urged the Town to have a greater relationship with the University of Connecticut, as the need of the Town is quite small in the overall picture.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:40 p.m. Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk