

REGULAR MEETING-JANUARY 10, 2005-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding, and Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded to approve the minutes of December 13, 2004 as presented and the special meeting of December 20, 2004 with corrections.

Pg. 9 "Helen added this property at some point would have its own water and sewer..... "

Pg. 9 errorprovide direction from the top.

Schaefer needs to be spelled correctly in all places.

Motion so passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Mayor requested a moment of silence in remembrance of all military personnel abroad serving, those who have died, for all the civilians that have died and also for the victims of the Tsunami wave which is a catastrophe as no other we have seen in our lifetime.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move up item #7 in the agenda.

So passed unanimously.

Chief Hawthorne and Chief Jordan came forward for the presentation.

On December 31, 2004, a medical call, from the Juniper Hill Village senior housing complex was received. The three firefight/EMT's who responded arrived and found a fire yet were able to evacuate everyone from the structures in fairly short order.

Firefighters Richard Balogh, James Silva and Matthew Traber were being honored by the Town of Mansfield for their bravery and heroic service to the senior residents impacted by the Juniper Hill Village fire.

Marsha Zimmer, Administrator of Juniper Village fire, thanked the firefighters. Although the fire devastated the building there was no loss of life.

Lifesaving and valor awards were given to all three of the firefighters. Mayor Paterson presented them with Proclamations from the Town Council.

Steve Lofman presented dinner certificates to each one with thanks from Applebee's

Restaurant. A check for \$150 was given to the Town from the Mansfield Volunteer Fire Company to assist with needs of the residents of Juniper Hill.

Reception followed. Many family members and friends of the firefighters were present as well as the majority of firefighters in both departments.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr. Bob Cook, Separatist Road, suggested that when advertising a public hearing please include a phone number to call to receive a copy of the ordinance and to have a copy of it on the website.

Mr. John Brubacher, President of the Senior Center, met with the Committee on Aging this afternoon. At this meeting The Commission of Aging made the following motion:

“The Commission on Aging strongly supports the move towards assisted living in Mansfield, starting with the adoption of the proposal to undertake the market feasibility study that is being considered by the Town Council tonight. The Commission also requests that the Council keep them informed and involved regarding the status of the assisted living initiative, through the Chair, Susanna Thomas.”

Mr. Timothy Quinn, 101 Depot Road, Mansfield Depot, spoke in favor of the feasibility study on Assisted Living facilities. However he questioned if this study would be geared towards those who may not be able to buy in to a facility. Also he mentioned the sticker shock he received on his new assessment of his home. Perhaps a letter of explanation or article should be in the local Chronicle newspaper.

Sharry Goldman, Co-Chairman of the Coalition for Assisted Living, applauded the Council and urged they support the market study. However, the committee has found that there is not much support for a facility in which you must buy in. A facility is which a resident could pay on a Month to month rental basis would be better.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

At 8:20 p.m. the public hearing was opened on “An Ordinance for Regulating Litter.”

Mr. Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works and Ms. Virginia Walton, Recycling Agent, were present to answer questions. This ordinance would give the Town the opportunity to hold property owners accountable for cleaning up litter especially after a party was held in their yard.

The Director of buildings and grounds at the University of Connecticut was present in the audience and spoke regarding litter. He realizes that students have mostly created the litter on Hunting Lodge Road.

Mr. Richard Cowles, 50 Meadowood Road, expressed concern over the matter of litter and suggested that maybe the punishment for students, who have gotten in trouble with the University, would be to clean up the areas of towns affected by litter from parties of university students.

Ms. Lisa Arenson, 11 Southwood Road, commended the University Maintenance for picking up trash along the road. However, this is not his responsibility. Landlords who do not maintain their rental properties and do not make their renters cleanup should be held accountable. This ordinance would be a good measure to try to cleanup the areas affective.

Mr. Bob Cook, Separatist Road, expressed support for the anti-littering ordinance. However he had questions on some wording. He was concerned over Section 5-13. When you read Section 15 on violations he feels that there is no enforcement of 5-13. Also concerned over owners being responsible and not the ones that do the littering. He wants this to be very clear. Make person in control, not necessarily the owner be responsible. There is a potential problem with wording, please review. Also, what standard will be applied to see if litter was cleaned up? Person who is doing the littering should be fined.

Lisa Cowles, 50 Meadowood Road, feels that there should be a good oversight of landlords. Make sure the trash receptacles are available and emptied.

Public Hearing closed at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to move up items 4 and 11 on the agenda.
So passed unanimously.

Item #4 under Old Business

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective January 10, 2005, to adopt an "Ordinance regulating Litter": as presented by staff in its draft dated January 10, 2005, and which ordinance shall become effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation in the Town of Mansfield.

Mr. Schaefer feels that this penalizes the landowners. What about the person who just litters as he/she passes by? Concerned over receptacles which must be kept emptied, so that they are not overflowing. Whoever enforces this ordinance must do so with common sense.

By consensus this was tabled. Staff will return with recommendations.

Item #11 under New Business

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective January 10, 2005, to authorize staff to spend up to \$25,000 to issue a request for Qualifications to hire a firm to conduct a market feasibility study necessary to determine whether Mansfield and the local area can support an assisted living facility.

Ms. Redding noted that Nancy Sheehan from the University of Connecticut is an

expert on assisted living facilities and has done studies like this before and is willing to come and talk with the Council on this issue.

Ms. Koehn expressed concern over the term "Assisted Living" What will the study focus on: moderate, low-income, independent living?

The Mayor feels that the market feasibility will be as open as possible, looking at all forms of assisted living, but it is not independent living.

Mr. Clouette moved that the motion be amended to be:

Move effective January 10, 2005, to authorize staff to spend up to \$25,000 to issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) to hire a firm to consider the market feasibility of a wide range of assisted living programs and to determine whether Mansfield and the local area could support an assisted living facility.

So passed unanimously.

The Mayor thanked Sharry Goldman and Jane Ann Bobbitt for all their work on this issue and hoped that the Council will be able to move this issue forward.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

The Town Manager announced that there will be a DEP Wetlands Public Hearing and Landfill Open House on Thursday, January 27th at UConn's Bishop Center beginning at 5:00 p.m. The consulting team will be present to answer questions about the landfill closure and wetlands activities.

3. Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2004

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Haddad seconded that effective January 10, 2005, to accept the Financial Statements dated September 30, 2004, as prepared and submitted by the Department of Finance.

So passed unanimously.

4. An Ordinance Regulating Litter

So tabled

5. Classification and Pay Plan

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to table this item until next meeting.

So passed unanimously.

6. University Spring Weekend and Campus/Community Relations

No action needed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

7. Proclamation in Honor of Mansfield Firefighters

Presented earlier in meeting.

8. Capital Projects Fund

Material not ready for this meeting and will be presented at next meeting.

9. Resignation from Planning and Zoning Commission

Town Council received Audrey Barberet's resignation from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Due to the many years of service to the Town, the Council will be pleased to host a reception in her honor prior to the next Town Council meeting.

10. Planning and Zoning Commission Representative to Town/University Relations Committee

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded that effective January 10, 2005, to appoint Mansfield resident Gary Zimmer as the Planning and Zoning Representative to the Town/University Relations Committee, for a term not to exceed his tenure as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to place on the agenda the following motion:

That the Town Council congratulates Mansfield's Town Clerk, Ms. Joan Gerdson, on her successful application for a historic document preservation grant from the Conn. State Library.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded to add to the agenda and to refer it to the finance committee the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

So passed unanimously.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

The quarterly reports were just given to the Council members. They will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

No comments.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No reports.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No reports

XI. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc

The Draft Municipal Development Plan has been received by the Partnership before it goes to the State Department of Economic and Community Development.

The Management has decided to hire two outstanding candidates as police officers for the Town. They will be hired by the end of the month.

The Town Manager thanked Public Works Director and Rep. Denise Merrill for getting the University of Connecticut to continue the free fare program for the WRTD bus system. There is an ongoing need for this program.

There will be a special meeting of the Town Council in February to talk about financial issues.

The Town Manager thanked the Town Clerk who sponsored two Shandong Scholars from Central Conn. State University who did an internship at the Town Hall from Nov. through January.

Tonight the Town signed the contract with local 4120, the paid Firefighters. This was important in the reorganization of the fire departments.

The new assessments have gone out to all homeowners. There was supposed to be an article in the paper, hut the notices came out before the article was in the paper. Suggestion by the council to put an article on the website and the muni-vision explaining the assessment.

The Mayor and Town Manager met with Rob Simmons our Congressman regarding the Downtown Partnership project. He is extremely enthusiastic about the project and will be in contact with the Town.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Alan Hawkins requested that the Fire Service Re-Organization and the impact upon the classification and pay plan as well as the upcoming budget preparation be discussed.

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICAIONS

12. Mansfield Senior Sparks, January 2005-“Greetings from President John Brubacher”

13. Town of Coventry Town Council re: Reorganization of Probate Court System

14. United Services, Inc. re: Fiscal year 2004 Annual Report

15. Connecticut Department of Transportation re: 2005 Construction Season Paving Program

16. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection re: CGS Section 22a-6h Notice, University of Connecticut

17. Connecticut State Library re: Historic Documents Preservation Grant

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:34 p.m. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk