

REGULAR MEETING –MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-JANUARY 24,2005

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

This meeting followed a reception for Audrey Barberet who retired from the Planning and Zoning Commission at the end of December. Ms. Barberet has served on many committees and boards and served the Town as Mayor. Many people thanked her for her years of dedicated service to the Town and wished her well.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of December 13, 2004 meeting with Planning and Zoning as presented.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of January 10 as corrected.

So passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson asked for a moment of silence for all those people serving in uniform abroad, for all those citizens who lives have been disrupted in Iraq, and also the Tsunami victims.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC

Ms. Blair moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to move up item # 4. under new business-“Meeting with State Legislators”

So passed unanimously.

4. “Meeting with State Legislators”

Senator Donald Williams and Representative Denise Merrill spoke to the Council on the upcoming session of the General Assembly. Discussion followed on the state deficit, increased funding for ECS and Special Education and possible reorganization change of probate courts. The town recognized the legislators; Senator Williams who has now become Majority Leader and Rep. Merrill who now chairs the appropriations committee. The legislators also spoke on reforming contracting procedures and the need to discuss ethics on both the state and local level. The legislators are awaiting the Governor’s budget at the beginning of February.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of Max Felix Drive

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded that effective January 24, 2005, to accept Max Felix Drive as a town road, subject to the execution of a one-year maintenance bond in the amount of \$22,500. Said bond shall specifically reference the need to re-grade and re-vegetate roadside areas along Lot 18 to address an existing drainage issue.

Mr. Greg Padick, Town Planner, explained the process of the bond issue. So passed unanimously.

2. Classification and Pay Plan

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Clouette seconded that effective January 24, 2005, to adopt the Classification and Pay Plan as prepared by the firm of Springsted, Inc. and dated October 2004; to implement the wage adjustments for nonunion personnel as proposed by the Town Manager in his correspondence dated January 10, 2005; and to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate with Local 760, Civil Service Employees Affiliates the recommended wage adjustments for union employees.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to table this item until staff can present council members with actual figures in addition to the pay plan

So passed unanimously.

The Town Manager will meet with Council members who request further clarification on this plan. Assistant Town Manager will send to all members actual proposed salary changes in figures. Mr. Hart explained the classification and pay study process. The study cost \$15,000.00.

3. University Spring Weekend and Campus/Community Relations

VI. NEW BUSINESS

4. Meeting with State Legislators

Already completed.

5. Capital Projects Fund

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective January 24, 2005, to adopt the adjustments to the capital projects fund, as recommended by the Director of Finance in his correspondence dated January 20, 2005.

Mr. Jeff Smith, Director of Finance discussed the analysis of current and proposed revenue and expenditure budgets for specific capital projects.

Council member Ms. Koehn asked if the Council had any options as to the proposed change in the capital projects fund. The Town Manager and Director of Finance spoke on the specific funds and the reason for the recommendations.

Motion so passed unanimously. Suggestion that the budget pages be listed with the changes so the items can be researched quickly.

6. Capital Nonrecurring Fund

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded that effective January 24, 2005, to authorize staff to implement the transfers and adjustments to the Capital Nonrecurring Fund and Capital Projects Fund, as recommended by the Director of Finance in his correspondence dated January 24, 2005.

So passed unanimously.

7. 2005 Recreational Trails Program Grant

Ms. Koehn moved and Ms. Blair seconded the following resolution:

Resolved, effective January 24, 2005, to authorize the Town Manager, Martin H. Berliner, to submit an application seeking funds in the amount of \$15,340 from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Recreational Trails Program to fund a trail improvement project in the vicinity of Mansfield's Commonfields. In furtherance of this resolution alone, the Town Manager is duly authorized to enter into and to sign contracts on behalf of the Town of Mansfield. The Town Manager is further authorized to provide such additional information and to execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions and revision thereto.

So passed unanimously.

8. Proposed Amendments to Mansfield Code of Ordinances Chapter A192 Committees, Boards and Authorities

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded that effective e January 24, 2005, to amend Chapter A192 of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances, as recommended by the Committee on Committees in its draft dated January 24, 2005.

Mr. Clouette, Chair of the Committee on Committees explained the reasons behind this change. This change would assist with the administration and management of the committees' responsibilities. The Council only needs to approve this change as it is a town regulation as opposed to an ordinance, and needs only to have Council approval.

Motion so passed unanimously.

9. Fire Services Reorganization

This is information for the Council, no action necessary.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

No comments.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Clouette reported that the Committee on Committees had met and discussed appointments. The following are recommendations to be approved:

Historic District Commission

Reappoint: Isabelle Atwood, Anita Bacon to full five year terms, and alternates Richard Roberts, and John Nardi. The appointment of Herman Marshall for 5 years as an alternate.

So passed unanimously.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Hawkins requested that material, not in council packet and given to members the evening of a council meeting, be included, scanned in to packets and placed with other material on the web page. Assistant Town Manager said that this was possible.

Mayor Paterson reported that she and the Town Manager had attended a Campus Community Partnership meeting. At that meeting the committee reviewed the recommendations of the University President's Task Force that dealt with off campus issues. There were 4 or 5 students present at the meeting who gave good input into the discussion. One possible suggestion was a letter from the Mayor welcoming new students living off campus to the Town. Also proposed was a possible Off-Campus housing office at the University. Discussions will continue with this committee.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager and the Assistant Town Manager attended a meeting on clean energy options for municipal buildings.

Town Manager and Director of Public Works have met with UConn/DEP/Health Dept to discuss the water supply at the University. The University has hired another consultant to look at the water supply and the report will be given out in the future.

The Town's share of running The Eastern Highland Health District will be increased this year. This rate increase was based upon population.

The Town Manager and Mayor thanked Senator Williams and Rep. Merrill for their support of the Downtown Partnership project.

The Town Manager and Director of Finance met with Rep. Merrill on the State Pension plan affecting municipal workers who move from town to town.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATION

10. G. Scheme re: Full-day Kindergarten Proposal

Council members asked if this had been approved by the Board of Education. The Town Manager said that it will be discussed at the next Board of Education meeting.

11. Connecticut Department of Transportation re: Tentative Vendor-in-Place Paving Program, 2005 Construction Season

12. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Municipal Management Bulletin- "Retention of Email and Voice Mail"

13. Town of Tolland re: Probate Court Financing and Reorganization Issues

The Mayor asked Council if the Council wished to write a letter regarding possible change in probate court financing. No consensus.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 p.m. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk