

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN CLERK-MARCH 28, 2005

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:33 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 Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes from March 14, 2005.

Motion so passed. Mayor Paterson abstained.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence to remember all those persons serving in uniform abroad and for the victims of the Tsunami wave.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Scott Glennon, from the White Oak Association, requested that the Town consider a small cities grant to the Association for a community septic system. There are 64 –2 bedroom condos. Most of the occupants are low to moderate income housing persons.

Irene Schein, owner of the Storrs Automatic Shop, expressed concerns of the plans for Mansfield Downtown Partnership. There is no space for her business in the plan and she wants to know where her business will be located. She is not opposed to development but she does want to support a relocation plan in which her business is located.

Howard Raphaelson, 119 Timber Drive, has lived in Mansfield 41 years and urges the Council to place a high priority on the values and characteristics which Mansfield has had and please do not look just at the bottom line of the budget. He urged that the town be preserved as it is now. The services of town government and the fine education system are all important to the town.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Application to Department of Economic and Community Development for Small Cities Program Funds

Larry Wagner of Wagner and Associates, the town's consultant for the small

cities grant program, spoke about the program, He urged that the hearing remain open until April 6, 2005.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to hold open the hearing until Wednesday, April 6, 2005.

At 8:00 p.m. the hearing was over.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to move item #4 up on the agenda since the Board of Education and Superintendent were present.

So passed unanimously.

4. Mansfield Board of Education legal fees under New Business

Present to represent the Board were Superintendent Gordon Schimmel, Chairman of the Board Bill Simpson and two members of the board, April Holinko and Mary Feathers.

Chairman Simpson handed out a memo on the legal fees, a reprint from Common Good "Over Ruled: The Burden of law on America's public school and a chart of the Shipman and Goodwin legal bills from 2000-2004 for each bargaining unit.

Supt. Schimmel said that all the legal fees were not just from bargaining units but also other issues such as board policies, student discipline, special education, residency and other "general" matters.

Mary Feathers, a Board member and Chairman of the Personnel committee said that MEUI was on the verge of settling their contract. Hopefully the Board budget contains enough money to cover the results of these negotiations.

The Superintendent did acknowledge that this year's legal fee line was overspent but that this amount may be reallocated from other lines. There is not just one lawyer to do the Board's business, but many with diverse specialties.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. An Ordinance Regulating Litter Discussion on 2)a. Added "and"

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective March 28, 2005, to adopt an "Ordinance Regulating Litter" as presented by staff in its draft dated March 28, 2005, and which ordinance shall become effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield.

So passed unanimously.

3. University Spring Weekend and Campus/Community Relations

Mr. Clouette stated that the final draft of the report of the Committee on Community Quality of Life was almost complete and will be presented at the second meeting in April.

Mayor Paterson has met with the subcommittee of the University on Substance Abuse.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Mansfield Board of Education
Already reviewed.

5. Clean Energy

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to table this item.

So passed unanimously.

Ms. Koehn will be giving to Town Manager some materials for future inclusion in another agenda.

6. Application for FY 2005/06 Library Services Adaptive Technology Grant

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Haddad seconded that effective March 28, 2005, to authorize staff to submit an application to the Connecticut State Library seeking \$17, 550 in funding to assist with the Mansfield Public Library's Senior Outreach Project, and to execute any related grant documents.

So passed unanimously.

7. Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield for FY 2005 State Homeland Security Grant Funds.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Ms. Blair seconded that effective March 28, 2005, to authorize the Town Manager, Martin H. Berliner, to execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield for Fiscal Year 2005 State Homeland Security Grant Funds, and to execute any related grant documents.

So passed unanimously.

8. Grant Application to Small Town Economic Assistance Program

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to support the following attached resolution on the Grant Application to Small Town Economic Assistant Program.

The Town Council did approve the submission of this grant application, and the state has accepted the application. However, the state has revised some of its grant administration requirements, and has asked the town council to execute

another resolution in support of the application.

So passed unanimously.

9. An Ordinance Establishing a Division of Fire and Emergency Services

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective March 28, 2005, to schedule a public hearing for 7:45 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on April 11, 2005, to solicit public comment on "An Ordinance Establishing a Division of Fire and Emergency Services."

So passed unanimously.

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to add to the agenda item 9a "Relocation of Businesses in the Storrs Center Project Area".

So passed unanimously.

9a. Relocation of Businesses in the Storrs Center Project Area

Ms. Koehn moved that the following resolution be adopted:

The Town Council resolves to encourage the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, via our representatives, to provide a fair and equitable relocation compensation for these businesses.

So passed unanimously.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No comments.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Koehn attended the Mansfield Downtown Partnership meeting on LEED certification or in lieu of LEED certification. She stated that she was very impressed with the Steve Winters Consulting Group.

Mayor Paterson attended the National Cities League meeting. She was kept busy with many meetings and discussions with state legislators. There was a great presentation on the national debt. The climate and mood of the conference was different this year. It is a difficult with funds not being available to the cities and towns.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

On Wednesday evening after the special meeting there will be a Finance meeting.

On the 6th the meeting will begin at 6:30 with the continuation of the public hearing on small cities grant program.

Planning and Zoning is talking about placing a nine month moratorium on subdivision plans. The Commission will be holding a public hearing on this matter.

Sewer/Water for the Four Corners. Mr. Hultgren, Public Works Director, has begun the process of studying the costs of such a project and getting a grant for it. This is when the road from the University of Connecticut out to Route 44 is completed. At that time it would be good to put in water and sewer.

On Tuesday, April 4, 2005, there will be a public hearing on the Regional District's Education budget.

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership will be meeting on April 5, 2005 in their office at 4:00 p.m.

The Town Manager and the Mayor attended the appropriations committee meeting in Hartford and spoke in favor of continuing the Conveyance tax for towns at the same level it is now.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Renovation of Reynolds School and how the LEED policy would apply.

The Board of Education and Superintendent will be present on the 11th to discuss the proposed all day Kindergarten program.

Discussion of Browns Road/Rte 195. Mr. Hultgren said inquiry may be sent to the Traffic Authority.

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICAITONS

10. J. Smith re: Funding for the Mansfield Community Center
11. L. Cole-Chu re: Relocation of Businesses in Storrs Center Project Area
12. W. Hammon re: Small Water Systems
13. UConn Center for Survey Research and Analysis re: Findings From the Full-day Kindergarten Survey
14. Mansfield Advocates for Children re: Full day Kindergarten
15. Glen Ridge Residents re: Full-day Kindergarten
16. M. Brown re: Full-day Kindergarten
17. CCM Federal Issues Bulletin-President Bush's FY 06 Budget
18. Honorable J. Lieberman re: Federal Budget Issues Affecting Cities and Towns
19. Testimony of P. Schenck, Town Manager of Avon and President of CCM to the Appropriations Committee.
20. The Advance, March 14, 2005-"Design of New Athletic Facilities Seeks to Meet 'Green' Standards."

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 p.m. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk