

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-MAY 23, 2005

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
(arrived at 7:45 p.m.) Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of May 9, 2005 as presented with minor corrections.

So passed unanimously.

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of May 10, 2005, Special Meeting, as presented.

So passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence for all those serving abroad in the armed services.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr. Richard Pellegrine, 269 Clover Mill Road read a letter from his wife and him regarding the conduct of the Annual Budget Meeting. See Attached.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Clean Energy

The Town Manager reported that just today the Town received a notice from Smart Power. The Assistant Town Manager will be attending a meeting in Hartford regarding this issue and will report to the Council at their next meeting. Ms. Koehn will also be attending that same meeting.

2. Eminent Domain Authorization-Separatist Road Easements

Mr. Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, reported that one person who was most enthusiastic on this project is now being relocated and negotiations will now need to be extended with that family. The town staff will continue negotiating with them. The project begins June 20, 2005.

3. Strategic Planning Project Update

Mr. Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager, updated the Council on this project. The "Balance Score Card" have suggested ten facilitators that could be used at the Town Council's retreat. The proposal is not complete, however the staff is pursuing this strategic planning project. Other facilitators may be available.

4. University Spring Weekend and Campus/Community Relations

Mr. Clouette moved that this item be removed as a continuing agenda item. Seconded by Ms. Blair. He felt the town has ongoing committees, which should be able to update the Council on a regular basis.

Vote: In favor: Blair, Clouette, Hawkins, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer
Against: Haddad, Koehn and Redding

Motion so passed.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded to have as a regular meeting agenda item: Campus/Community Relations

So passed unanimously.

Discussion on item under New Business :Fiscal Year 2005/06 Budget-Mill Rate. By consensus it was moved up under Old Business.

5. Fiscal Year 2005/06 Budget-Mill Rate

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

RESOLVED: Effective, July 1, 2005, the tax rate for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year 2005-2006 be set at 22.01 mills, and the Collector of Revenue be authorized and directed to prepare and mail to each taxpayer tax bills in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and such taxes shall be due and payable on July 2, 2005.

So passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

6. Contract Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield for Resident State Trooper Service

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

RESOLVED: That Martin H. Berliner, the Town Manager, be and herewith authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of Mansfield with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for the services of five Resident State Troopers for the period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005.

Discussion followed on the wording of the contract.

So passed unanimously.

7. Draft UConn Water Supply Plan

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to authorize the Mayor to submit to the Sate Department of Public Health joint Town Council/Planning and Zoning Commission review comments on the November, 2004 University of Connecticut draft Water Supply Plan. The town's letter to DPH will incorporate staff review comments as documented in a 5/18/05 memo from the Director of Planning.

Mr. Greg Padick, Town Planner, addressed the Council on this Plan. Both he and Mr. Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, have reviewed this plan and have made some observations. The University has enough water supply to meet their needs. However it was noted that the numbers stated regarding the residential units in the Downtown Partnership Plan was too low. Also the number of inmates in the Correctional Facility may vary.

Mr. Paulhus asked if this plan included the Depot Campus. Mr. Padick replied that yes it did.

Ms. Koehn asked about the leakage rate on the campus. Mr. Padick did not know the answer. However, Mr. Schaefer stated that in his building on campus there are added water conservation items in place.

Motion so passed. All were in favor except Ms. Koehn who voted against accepting this plan.

8. Draft Plan of Conservation and Development Update

Mr. Padick presented the Draft Plan of Conservation and Development update. The Town has been working on a Plan of Conservation and Development update since 2002. Planning and Zoning Commission and Director of Planning have prepared the draft plan text and associated mapping. The current schedule is to complete work on a draft plan by the end of June, therefore a joint meeting of the planning and zoning Commission and the Town Council will be scheduled for mid-June. Then a Public hearing will be held in September and adopted by the Town this fall.

The Town Planner requested the Council members review this plan and bring to the joint meeting any suggestions or concerns on the plan.

9. State Grant for Alternate Fuel Vehicle

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to adopt the following resolution: RESOLVED: that Lon R. Hultgren is duly authorized in his capacity as Director of Public Works, to enter into an Agreement between Mansfield, Ct. and the State of Connecticut for a Cash grant toward the purchase of an Alternative Fuel

Vehicle.

So passed unanimously.

10. Youth Services Bureau Grant Application

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded that effective May 23, 2005, the Town Manager, Martin H. Berliner, is authorized to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut for a Youth Service Bureau Grant.

So passed unanimously.

11. Financial Statements Dated March 31, 2005

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded that effective May 23, 2005, to refer the Financial Statements Dated March 31, 2005 to the Finance Committee for review.

So passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

No comments

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Clouette reported on the last Town/Gown meeting, which he and the Mayor attended. They both discussed the postmortem meeting with the Fire and Emergency Services of Mansfield to discuss Spring Weekend at the University. Much discussion on whether to meet once a month or every 2 months.

Mr. Schaefer stated that the list of activities in collaboration between the Town and the University was excellent. He sent a copy to President Austin of the University of Connecticut.

Mr. Hawkins noted that the Common Cause report on Ethics Commissions had rated the Town, as a number 6. This was the highest mark given any town in the state.

Mr. Paulhus, the Mayor and Helen Koehn all attended the League of Women Voters meeting Senator Donald Williams.

Mr. Paulhus spoke on the good presentation on the Downtown Partnership Project at the joint meeting of the Council and Planning and Zoning.

Ms. Blair spoke on the excellent Children's Health Day at the Community Center. The children had a good time and hoped that the Council would receive a report from the Director of Parks and Recreation on this program.

Mayor Paterson attended a meeting today of the Community Campus Partnership which developed goals and as its mission will put together a brochure for student Orientation.

Town Manager has not received a report from the Agriculture Committee on possible tax abatement for farms in town.

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The staff is working on the project "Mansfield Matters"

The report on sustainability will be presented at the next meeting on June 13, 2005.

There was a question on the telephone survey, which inquired about resident attitudes regarding spring weekend. This survey was not done by the University of Connecticut but by the University of Rhode Island. The survey inquired about resident views as a comparison school.

The Moss Sanctuary will be transferred to the State of Connecticut and then to Joshua's Trust.

A response is being drafted to Joyce Perfetto who had concerns about assessments and the appeal process.

The report on Land of Unique Values is available on the Town's website.

The Town Manager announced that the Town Attorney has stated that it is not necessary to have a Town Meeting to appropriate additional non-tax revenue.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

XII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

12. C. vanZelm re: Progress Report for Mansfield Revitalization and Enhancement Project and Request for Reimbursement of Rural Business Enterprise Grant

13. R. Miller re: Fourth Quarter 2004 Separatist Road Storm Water Sampling Report

14. Common Cause, 2004 Municipal Ethics Survey

15. Revised 2005 Regional Transportation Plan

16. 2005 Firefighters Assistance Grant Application

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 P.M. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk