

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:35 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, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the minutes of September 12, 2005 as presented.

So passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence for our troops serving abroad and for those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Richard Pellegrine, 269 Clover Mill Road, had concerns over voting this November. Since there were three bonding questions on the ballot this year he asked how the Town Council would be creating interest to inform voters of these questions. At the last municipal election only 38% voted. He asked if there was going to be a fact sheet given out to all voters. He also was concerned over the change of polling place from the Southeast School to Buchanan Library/Center. He thought that the exposure of the voting procedure was important to the children attending school.

Cynara Stittes, Hanks Hill Road, spoke on concerns of the Development Plan for the proposed Storrs Downtown development. She had three major areas of concern that she wanted the Council to address before they adopted the plan. The first was lack of provisions to give or assist existing businesses to have new space in the plan. She also asked if the Town was giving away regulatory control over the Downtown Plan under the provisions of the development contract. The third concern she had was the question of an adequate water supply.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. First Supplemental Agreement for the Clover Mill Road Reclaim and Overlay Project

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

RESOLVED, effective September 26, 2005, that Martin H. Berliner, Town Manager, is hereby authorized to execute the First Supplemental Agreement to

the Original Agreement dated June 3, 2004 between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield for the construction, Inspection and Maintenance of the Clover Mill Road reclaim and Overlay Project Utilizing Federal Funds under the Rural Component of the Surface Transportation Program.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to add "Fourth Quarter Financial Statement" to the agenda.

Motion so passed. Ms. Koehn abstained.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded to add to the agenda Mansfield Development Plan.

So passed unanimously.

2. Campus/Community Relations

No action needed.

2a. Fourth Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to accept the Fourth Quarter Financial Report as reviewed by the Finance Committee.

So passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

3. Town Council Policy

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to have the Town Manager or his designated staff, examine various means to implement a system to index and maintain present and future policy established by the Town Council and to report back to the Town Council.

Discussion followed. The issue which needs to be clarified is; "what is the difference between policy and a resolution, and how long is it binding?".

So passed unanimously.

4. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities 2006 Legislative Program

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded that effective September 26, 2005, to authorize staff to submit its proposed suggestions for inclusion within the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities 2006 Legislative Program.

So passed unanimously.

5. Financial Performance goals

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded that effective September 26, 2005, to amend the town's financial performance goals by adding the finance committee's proposed goals concerning fund balance and reserve performance.

So passed unanimously.

6. Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to join the class action of the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding in order to make sure that the town's interests are protected.

So passed unanimously.

7. Fenton River

The Town Manager spoke to this issue. He handed out the list of water conservation advisories to the University community. The University sent out this letter on September 9th. The Town Manager has had further discussions regarding this matter with the President of the UConn Board of Trustees, Tom Callahan and Richard Miller at the University as well as Representative Denise Merrill. The University is taking immediate action to upgrade certain well pumps and water mains in order to withdraw additional water from the Willimantic River.

Motion to establish an adhoc committee to look into the Town's water needs that has an effect on the Fenton River aquifer was withdrawn.

8. Establishment of Custodian Position

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective September 26, 2005, to establish the regular full-time classification of custodian, and to set the compensation for the position at grade 8 of the Town Administrators Pay Plan.

So passed unanimously.

8a. Municipal Development Plan for the Storrs Center

By consensus this issue will be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to hold a public hearing on October 11, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, to hear public comment on the Municipal Development Plan for the Storrs Center.

So passed unanimously.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Council requested that the quarterly reports be placed electronically on the website.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTSIX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEESX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Paulhus spoke on the success of the "Festival On the Green" which was held on Sunday, September 25, 2005 from 12-4 in the parking areas of the plazas on Route 195.

The Mayor reported on the tremendous turnout for the Fireworks at Mansfield Hollow Part on Saturday, September 24, 2005. The event began at 4:00 with bands and concluded with the fireworks. Thanks to Sara Ann Chaine, Management Assistant, for her hard work on this event. The Fire and emergency personnel were all there and traffic seemed to flow well following the event. From all reports this was a most successful event.

Mr. Clouette spoke on the Town/gown meeting. At that meeting Mr. Padick, Town Planner presented the Town Plan of Development and Conservation. There was a discussion of planned student housing. The University's Environmental Chief is working hard to address the water issues.

Mr. Paulhus attended the Assisted Living presentation meeting with Mayor Paterson on September 15, 2005. Consultants, Brecht Associates, Inc., seems to be going in the right direction and have spoken to many people in town.

The Mayor spoke on the Senior Center's 30th Anniversary luncheon given on September 21, 2005. May 11, 2005, marked the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Mansfield Senior Center and in September members celebrated the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Mansfield Senior Center as an organization. Judy Rowe, the first coordinator was present as well as Rep. Denise Merrill.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

There is a public hearing on the Plan of Conservation & Development on Oct. 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

There is a public hearing on the Storrs Center Municipal Development Plan on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2005 at the Bishop's Center, University of Connecticut.

The Town Manager announced that Mr. Topliff, Assessor, has taken a position with the town of Bloomfield, as Assessor.

The 2005 Regional Transportation Plan has been given to the town. There is an opportunity for public comment on October 5, 2005 at the WINCOG office in Willimantic at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Governor Jodi Rell has sent notification to the Town Manager that she is forming a task force on Education Grant Funds.

The Manager has received notification from the Registrars and Town Clerk that the polling place for District #3 has been moved to the Mansfield Library/Buchanan Center from SouthEast School.

Council member Ms. Koehn spoke on the Administrators' Association Contract for the Board of Education. She has been attending the meetings with the Board of Education. The Town Manager said that the contract has not, as of yet, been given to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk will then date stamp the contract, place a legal ad in the newspaper of its receipt and then the Council will have the opportunity to review it.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

9. CenterEdge Project
10. Presentation on Lead Testing

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. CT Conference of Municipalities Environmental Management Bulletin, US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement
12. CT Secretary of State-"Federal Government Bans Use of Lever Voting Machines in 2006"
13. CT State Police re: Undercover Sting Operation
14. Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board re: Current Initiatives
15. L. Frankel re: Town's Construction Priorities
16. R. Genuario re; Storrs Center Municipal Development Plan
17. Mansfield Downtown Partnership-Notice of Public Hearing
18. B. Miela, J. Gerdson, M. Stanton re: District 3 Polling Place
19. Slate.com-"Where to Hide from Mother Nature"
20. University of CT Advance-" Community rallies to help New Orleans area students
21. Town Owned Land and Conservation Easements as of August 1, 2005
22. WINCOG re: Draft 2005 Regional Transportation Plan Update
23. S. Gordon re: Skate Park
24. Broadwater re: Presentation on Proposed Broadwater Energy Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal

25. Connecticut Fund for the Environment re: Sound Alliance

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:40 p.m. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to go into executive session with the Town Manager for a personnel issue.

So passed unanimously.

At 10:25 p.m. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to come out of Executive Session.

So passed unanimously.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:26 p.m. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk