

## REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-NOVEMBER 14, 2005

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Blair

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved, and Mr. Haddad seconded, to remove a letter written by Mr. Schaefer, dated October 20, 2005, to Ms. Cynara Stites and replace it with a written statement by M. Cynara Stites.

So passed unanimously. See attached.

Mr. Hawkins moved, and Mr. Clouette seconded, to approve the minutes of October 24, 2005 with corrections.

Motion so passed.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

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Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence for the troops serving at home and abroad and for all the victims of the hurricanes.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mary Gawlicki, 132 Lorraine Drive East, presented the following statement requesting that the Council authorize the formation of a Charter Revision Commission to consider revisions to the Town Charter.

Charles Eaton, 89 Lorraine Drive, presented the following statement, and spoke on the low voter turnout (25%) in the last election. He also spoke on his concerns of why he believes a Charter Commission is necessary. He feels that the time the annual Budget Meeting is held prevents registered voters and taxpayers from voting. It's difficult for the elderly, caregivers of young children and those traveling on business. Another concern was that those who are paid through Mansfield's budget might feel intimidated in casting a public vote.

Mr. Haddad moved, and Mr. Schaefer seconded, that the Proclamations in Honor of Dr. James S. Peter II, Julie K. White and Timothy J. Veillette be the next order of business.

So passed unanimously.

Move, effective November 14, 2005, to authorize Mayor Paterson to issue the attached Proclamations in Honor of Dr. James S. Peters II, Julie K. White and Timothy J. Veillette.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Depot Road Traffic Update

Mr. Hawkins asked about accident data on Depot Road and its two highway intersections. Director of Public Works, Lon Hultgren, stated he is awaiting more information. The next Traffic Authority will meet on December 8, 2005.

2. Skate Park Proposal

Questions addressed to Parks & Recreation Director, Curt Vincente, by the Council included: how many trees would need to be removed for the project; annual cost to run the Skate Park; annual cost of insurance; the kind of equipment needed and its cost; the projected hours of use; whether revenues will offset the cost of staff and expenses and whether neighbors will be notified of the noise level.

Motion by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by Mr. Paulhus to table the item.

So passed unanimously.

3. Fenton River

Town Manager, Martin H. Berliner, reported on draft meeting notes and correspondence from the University of Connecticut regarding the final draft report on the Fenton River study. The next meeting is to be held on December 5. The University has signed a contract to upgrade the transmission line for \$620,000. Four hundred thousand dollars will be coming from the University's deferred maintenance account and \$220,000 from UConn funds.

4. Campus/Community Relations

Assistant Town Manager, Matt Hart, gave an update. He plans to have a proposal for the Council by late Fall on the draft housing code for rental properties.

5. Compensation Adjustment for Town Manager

Move, effective November 14, 2005 to modify the town manager's compensation package as follows: 1) a 3.0 percent wage increase retroactive to July 1, 2005; 2) health insurance coverage as provided to the town's nonunion personnel; and 3) an annual annuity payment of \$29,000 per fiscal year, retroactive to July 1, 2005.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded.

So passed unanimously.

#### 9. Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2006

Move, effective November 14, 2005, to adopt the Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2006, as presented by the Town Clerk.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded.

So passed unanimously.

#### 10. Petition for Appointment of Charter Revision Commission

Mr. Haddad suggested that the Council think about what direction, suggestions and guidelines the Council could give the proposed Commission. A few suggestions to be brought before the proposed Charter Revision Commission were on the bonding referendum; separating the PZC and Inland Wetlands Agency; whether constables should continue to be elected, and should the powers of the Mayor be changed.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to table the issue.

So passed unanimously.

#### 11. Email Registration Service

Assistant Town Manager, Matt Hart, reported that the information technology office would give a demo to the Council.

#### 12. 2006 Child Day Care Grant Application

Resolved, effective November 14, 2005, that the Town Manager, Martin H. Berliner, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name, and on behalf of, the Town of Mansfield, with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Child Day Care program for the Mansfield Discovery Depot, and to affix the corporate seal of the Town.

Mr. Schaefer moved, and Mr. Haddad seconded.

So passed unanimously.

### VI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Paulhus reported that the Mansfield Senior Center held a luncheon for Veterans that was well attended.

Mayor Paterson, Town Manager Martin Berliner & Mr. Paulhus attended the State Capitol where Dr. Peters was inducted into the Veterans Hall of Fame.

Mayor, Paterson thanked Howard Raphaelson for his private support to the constituency explaining and urging support for the community center.

Mr. Schaefer expressed his appreciation for the amount of work that went into the petition for establishing the Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Hawkins discussed his concern on the Regional District's lack of communication in providing minutes on the Reynolds School project. The last minutes posted on our web page were March 2005.

Ms. Koehn attended the League of Women Voters program on late school starts. She stated that high school students biologically cannot wakeup and urged the Town Council to become more educated on the issue.

She also reported on Clean Energy, the DEP being the first state agency to get power from renewable sources. Seventy-five percent of Mansfield residents have signed up for the Clean Energy option.

## VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Clerk, Joan E. Gerdson read her invitation and invited Council members to attend her retirement gathering on November 21.

Martin H. Berliner, Town Manager commented on an advertisement in the Hartford Courant on Clean Energy.

The UConn Board of Trustees will be meeting at the Rome Center on November 12 at which time they will be voting on the sale for land use.

The Mayor and Town Manager attended a Public Hearing meeting with the Regional Board on the Reynolds School Project. About 40 people attended.

## VIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Clouette commented that his understanding was that under Town Charter, if something fails under referendum, they can vote to have another referendum.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:03 p.m. Mr. Paulhus moved, and Mr. Schaefer seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk

