

## REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-FEBRUARY 13, 2006

Mayor Betsy Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers 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. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting.

The motion to approve the minutes passed with Ms. Koehn abstaining.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of the troops serving abroad.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Joan Lamont, who runs Cats Northeast, spoke in favor of the soon to be proposed spay and neuter ordinance. Cats Northeast is a Mansfield-based nonprofit organization that is concerned primarily with feline overpopulation and its effect on the community. She stated that this ordinance, written for Mansfield at the request of the Animal Control Department, would be very helpful and could serve as a model for other towns.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move New Business Item 4, Meeting with State Legislators. Motion so passed.

4. The Mayor welcomed State Representative Denise Merrill and State Senator Donald Williams, thanked them for coming, and asked them to update the Council on the issues before the legislature. Senator Williams, noting that it is a short session this year, discussed some of the issues that he would like to see addressed including jobs, the economy, transportation, and health care. Representative Merrill discussed tax policy noting that tax cuts make most sense when they have a public policy purpose. She also noted that this might be the time to look at issues surrounding transportation, especially mass transit. Both elected officials commented on Governor Rell's proposal regarding the elimination of the motor vehicle tax and the effect it will have on the state budget, the town budget and individuals.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Year Ended June 30, 2005

Mr. Schaefer moved, effective February 13, 2006, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Year Ended June 30, 2005 as presented by the Department of Finance.

Motion so passed

2. Fenton River

No Report

3. Campus/Community Relations

No Report

VI. NEW BUSINESS

4. Meeting with State Legislators

Already completed

5. Proclamation in Honor of the Mansfield Middle School Clean Energy Team

Mr. Schaefer moved, and Ms. Blair seconded, effective February 13, 2006, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of the Mansfield Middle School Clean Energy Team.

Mayor Paterson and Ms. Koehn will make arrangements with the Middle School to present the proclamation to the students involved in the project.

Motion so passed.

6. Fenton River and Mt. Hope River Greenway Designations

Ms. Koehn moved and Ms. Blair seconded, resolved, effective February 13, 2006 to issue the attached resolution endorsing Mansfield's participation in the nomination of the Fenton and Mt. Hope River corridors as state greenways. Mr. Clouette questioned the appropriateness of the word 'issue' in the motion and suggested that it be changed to "approve." Both the maker of the motion and the seconder agreed with the correction.

Motion as amended passed.

7. Grant application to Recreational Trails Program

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, resolved, effective February 13, 2006, to authorize the Town Manager, Martin H. Berliner, to submit an application not to exceed \$49,800 from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Recreational Trails Program to expand the Willimantic River Greenway/Blueway trail and public information system at Mansfield's River Park on Plains Road in Mansfield. In furtherance of this

resolution alone, the Town Manager is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the Town of Mansfield. The Town Manager is further authorized to provide such additional information and 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 revisions thereto.

Motion so passed.

8. State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, resolved, effective February 13, 2006, to authorize the Town Manager, Martin H. Berliner, to submit an application to the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation. In furtherance of this resolution alone, the Town Manager is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the Town of Mansfield. The Town Manager is further authorized to provide such additional information and 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 revisions thereto.

Motion so passed.

9. Social Services Block Grant Contract

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, resolved, that Town Manager, Martin H. Berliner, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the town with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Social Services Block Grant program, and to affix the corporate seal of the town.

Motion so passed.

10. Market Feasibility Study for Assisted Living

A presentation on the market feasibility study for assisted living will be presented at the next meeting.

11. Grant Agreement for Alternative Fuel

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective February 13, 2006, to authorize Director of Public Works, Lon R. Hultgren, to execute the attached "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and Town of Mansfield for a Cash Grant toward the Purchase of Alternative Fuel Motor Vehicles."

Mr. Hultgren noted that this will be the third alternative fuel car that the town owns and that his department is tracking fuel and upkeep cost on these cars in order to compare them with the other fleet cars. Once additional data has been gathered a report will be presented to the Council. Initial indications show that the alternative fuel cars are cost effective in higher mileage vehicles and possibly less effective in lower mileage cars.

Motion so passed.

12. WPCA, Community Sewer System Agreement for Valley Mobile Home Park

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to recess as the Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion so passed.

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective February 13, 2006, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the attached Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Valley View, LLC.

Motion so passed.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn as the Water Pollution Control Authority and reconvene as the Town Council.

Motion so passed.

Mayor Paterson requested a motion to add the Financial Statements dated December 31, 2005 to the agenda. Ms. Blair moved to add the item, seconded by Mr. Schaefer, the motion passed.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, to refer the Financial Statements dated December 31, 2005 to the Finance Committee for review.

Motion so passed.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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No Reports

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Redding, Chair of the Committee on Committees, outlined the long- range plan that they have adopted. This plan includes a staff person, an e-mail system to announce and keep track of appointments, and an organizational plan to appoint and notify citizens. The Mayor thanked Mary Stanton and Matt Hart for their assistance.

Ms. Koehn, Chair of the Special Committee Regarding the Establishment of a Charter Revision Committee, noted that the Committee would start interviewing candidates in early March. They currently have 13 applicants and the cutoff date is February 17, 2006.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Hawkins attended the kickoff event for the University of Connecticut's 125 Anniversary and noted that the Mayor gave a very good positive speech at the event. Mr. Schaefer agreed.

Mr. Paulhus and Mayor Paterson attended the League of Women Voters Breakfast with the Legislators.

Mr. Schaefer noted that the Friends of the Mansfield Library netted \$17,500 from the recent book sale.

Ms. Koehn and Mayor Paterson attended the Mansfield Middle School for the presentation of the 100<sup>th</sup> sign up for the Clean Energy Program. She noted that Chad Vincente, one of the student leaders, made a wonderful presentation and that she and Ms. Koehn will return to present the proclamation passed earlier this evening.

The Mayor and the Town Manager will attend the Council of Small Towns Annual Meeting on February 14, 2006.

John DeStefano, Mayor of New Haven, will be coming to town on Saturday February 18, 2006 to a public forum on Early Childhood Education. At a later date Dan Malloy, Mayor of Stamford, and possibly Governor Rell will be in attendance at similar community forum events. All of these potential gubernatorial candidates will be available for questions from the public.

Ms. Koehn spoke about a letter she received from Dolly Whitham regarding the inclusion of the yellow barn in the University's 125 Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Schaefer and the Mayor, both members of the Anniversary Committee, will raise the issue at the next meeting.

#### X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Marty Berliner, the Town Manager, announced that the Town/ University Relations meeting would be February 14, 2006 at 4:00p.m.

The Eastern Highland Health District Board Meeting will be on February 16, 2006.

#### XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Koehn requested that Earth Day events be added to a future agenda. Earth Day is on April 22<sup>nd</sup> this year. She suggested that an event be planned in accordance with the Council's commitment in the Clean Energy Program.

#### XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

13. CT Department of Economic and Community Development re: Municipal Development Plan for Storrs Center

14. C. van Zelm re: Proposed Permitting Process for Storrs Center

15. C. van Zelm re: December 31, 2005 Progress Report for the Downtown Revitalization and Enhancement Program

16. C. van Zelm re: Final Report for the Downtown Mansfield Revitalization and Enhancement Project and Final Request for Reimbursement
17. CATS Northeast re: Spay/Neuter Ordinance – Ms. Blair noted that Joan Lamont's organization raises over \$50,000 per year from donations.
18. CT Department of Environmental Protection r: Approval of Mansfield's Aquifer Protection Area Regulations.
19. Journal Inquirer, "Aussie Outfit Buying up Hundreds of Units"
20. Mansfield Community Center, "Even More Family Fun"
21. M. Berliner re: Appointment to the Conservation Commission
22. State Elections Enforcement Commission re: Pilot Program for Public Financing of Municipal Elections
23. Storrs Center Preliminary Schedule
24. Hartford Business Journal – "Biggest Developments in the Hartford Region"
25. UConn Office of the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer re: Appointment Capital Project Planning Advisory Committee

### XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Redding seconded to go into Executive Session.

Motion so passed.

Executive Session

Ms. Blair moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to move out of Executive Session.

Motion so passed.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk