

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL- MARCH 27, 2006

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:38 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

- Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding
Absent: Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2006 meeting. Ms. Koehn requested that her comments thanking Mr. Long for his service on the Housing Authority be included.

Motion to approve as corrected passed.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence for all our armed service people serving both here and abroad.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- No comments

V. PUBLIC HEARING – AN ORDINANCE REGULATING BIKEWAYS

Ms. Koehn reported that she received a call from Sam Gordon, who was unable to attend the meeting, questioning allowing horses on the bikeways.

The hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Clouette moved to move Item #9 Charter Revision Commission as the next on agenda item. Seconded by Ms. Blair, the motion passed.

Mr. Haddad moved to add under New Business Item #15 A Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Seconded by Mr. Hawkins, the motion passed.

9. Charter Revision Commission

Ms. Koehn moved the resolution to initiate the revision of the Mansfield Town Charter.

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes § 7-188 provides that any action by a municipality to amend its charter shall be initiated by a resolution adopted by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the appointing authority of such municipality, which in the Town of Mansfield is the Town Council;

And WHEREAS, it has been more than ten years since the Town Council last voted to enact a resolution to initiate amendment of the Mansfield Town Charter;

And WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the members of the Special Committee Regarding the Establishment of a Charter Revision Commission that it is in the best interests of the people of the Town of Mansfield that the process of revision to the Mansfield Town Charter be initiated at this time:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Town Council hereby initiates the process of amendment of the Mansfield Town Charter, in accordance with the provisions of § 7-188 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.
2. This resolution shall take effect upon enactment.

Seconded by Ms. Blair, the motion passed.

Ms. Koehn moved the resolution to appoint members of the Charter Revision Commission.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 7-190(a) of the Connecticut Statutes the Town Council is charged with the authority to appoint the members of the Charter Revision Commission:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED TO:

Appoint a Charter Revision Commission of the Town of Mansfield with the following electors of the Town as its members:

- 1) Stephen Bacon
- 2) Aline Booth
- 3) Nancy Cox
- 4) David Dzurec
- 5) Lisa Eaton
- 6) Shawn Grunwald
- 7) Denise Keane
- 8) Henry Krisch
- 9) Gene Nesbitt
- 10) Sheila Quinn Clark
- 11) Lucinda Weiss

Seconded by Mr. Clouette the motion passed.

Ms. Koehn moved the resolution to charge the Charter Revision Commission to consider areas of the town charter, and to submit its draft report to the Town Clerk by a date certain.

WHEREAS, Section 7-190(b) of said Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the Town Council to make recommendations for amendment of the Town Charter to the Charter Revision Commission, and requires that the Commission comment in its report on each recommendation that it has been directed to consider by the Town Council;

And WHEREAS, the Commission may also consider other items for inclusion in the Charter, other changes to the Charter, and such other items as it deems desirable or necessary, and

comments on such items and/or changes shall be included in its report;

And WHEREAS, said Section 7-190(b) also requires the Town Council to specify by resolution when the Commission shall submit its draft report to the Town Clerk, who, pursuant to General Statutes Section 7-191(b), shall then transmit such report to the Council:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Charter Revision Commission shall review and make recommendations in its report on each of the following sections of the Mansfield Town Charter and related subjects, and provide its draft report to the Town Clerk by April 2, 2007, for submission to the Town Council:

1. §C202 Elective Officers - review with regard to composition, organization and the best interests of the town.
2. §302(a) Organization and Procedure (Role of the Mayor) - review the role of the Mayor within the context of council manager form of government.
3. §C305(B)(C) Town Attorney - consider granting the Town Manager and/or the Town Attorney the ability to appoint special counsel.
4. §C306 Committees, Commissions and Boards - define more fully the role and relationship of these bodies to the Town Council and consider, in particular, the discretion that these bodies should have to establish and communicate policy on behalf of the town.
5. §C307, Introduction of Ordinances - update to reflect current practice.
6. §C405, Budget Town Meeting - review to determine the budget adoption procedure for the town and also define the term "item."
7. §C406, Appropriations Not in Budget and Budget Transfers — consider expanding the Town Council's authority to execute budget transfers.
8. §C407, Issuance of Bonds - consider increasing the threshold at which the Town Council can issue bonds without referendum. Also, for a bond referendum, consider a reasonable threshold of registered voters and options to arrive at that threshold.
9. §C502, Duties of the Town Manager –update the list of duties.
10. §C504-513, Administrative Departments - update various sections regarding municipal departments and consider establishment of municipal departments by ordinance.
11. §C506(B)(c)(2), Department of Finance - examine this section to assure that the language is consistent with best practice and also consider raising the threshold for which the sealed bid process is required.
12. §C510, Health Department - revise to reference the town's participation in the regional health district.

13. §C6O2, The Classified Service - revise to reflect that most employees are organized under collective bargaining agreements.
14. If allowable under the Connecticut General Statutes, consider a regular schedule for Charter Revisions.

Seconded by Mr. Hawkins the motion passed.

Ms. Koehn moved the resolution to budget funds to support the work of Charter Revision Commission

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

To appropriate a budget of Fifteen Hundred (\$1,500.00) Dollars to the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission for the purpose of defraying necessary expenses incurred during the course of the Commission's deliberations.

Seconded by Mr. Hawkins, the motion passed.

Mr. Haddad expressed his appreciation to all who came forth and were willing to serve on the Commission. There were many well-qualified volunteers. He suggested that Ms. Koehn be authorized to send a letter of thanks to all who volunteered. In response to concerns regarding whether the appropriated \$1500 is sufficient, Mr. Hart noted that in the 2006/2007 budget there is an additional \$3000.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. An Ordinance Regulating Bikeways

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adopt An Ordinance Regulating Bikeways, as amended by staff in its draft dated March 27, 2006, and which ordinance shall become effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield. In a friendly amendment by Mr. Hawkins it was agreed that "equestrians" would be eliminated in Section 9.

Mr. Clouette inquired as to the type of signs planned for the bikeways. Mr. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, stated that the plans are for informational signs only at the major entrances to the paths. Ms. Blair asked whether or not the town has a leash law. Mr. Hawkins noted that by state requirement all dogs must be under control at all times.

Motion so passed.

3. Housing Code for the Town of Mansfield

Mr. Hart, Assistant Town Manager, reported that there are some Section 8 matters that are being investigated and that the staff is in the process of making some changes based on Council comments at the last meeting. A public hearing is set for April 24, 2006.

4. Storrs Center Relocation Assistance Plan

Mr. Paulhus moved, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, effective March 27, 2006, to authorize staff to transfer \$30,000 from the Storrs Center area improvements account to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership to fund relocation agreements between the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and area local business.

Motion so passed.

5. Fenton River Study

The Town Manager, Martin Berliner, provided the Council with a couple sections of the study including a question and answer section and the executive summary. The Town Manager has additional copies of the entire study if anyone wants to read it. OPM has all this material and he expects that in the next 60 to 90 days they will make a determination on the report.

6. Campus Community Relations

Mayor Paterson reported that she and Tom Szigethy appeared on the "Talk of the Town" show to discuss Spring Weekend. Hopefully the show will be available for broadcast on the town station and the UConn station. The Mayor also reported that she, the Town Manager and the Assistant Manager met with the Police Commissioner today and that plans are in place for three DUI stops and an increase in State Trooper patrols for that weekend. She related that there is an active group of students who are trying to stage alternative events of interest. The Town Manager reported that there will be an upgraded triage area and that Dave Dagon, Fire Chief, has requested a 12 person medical unit for the event. A joint news conference is planned and members reported additional assistance from Windham hospital, the UConn School of Nursing and the state.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

7. Budget Transfers for FY 2005/06

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, effective March 27, 2006, to approve the Budget Transfers for FY 2005/2006, as presented by the Director of Finance in his correspondence dated March 14, 2006.

Mr. Hawkins noted that the ability of our new Fire Chief, Dave Dagon, to schedule firefighters and to bring in \$150,000 grants has been very helpful.

Motion so passed.

8 . Fair Housing Policy and Proclamation

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded, resolved, effective March 27, 2006, that the Mansfield Town Council hereby endorses a fair housing policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase and obtain financing for adequate housing of their choice on a nondiscriminatory basis; and, be it further

resolved, that the Town Manager or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Mansfield. And, effective March 27, 2006 to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached proclamation designating the month of April as "Fair Housing Month" in Mansfield.

Motion so passed.

9. Completed

Mr. Haddad moved to recess as the Town Council and reconvene as the Water Pollution Control Authority. Seconded by Mr. Hawkins the motion passed

10. WPCA, Proposed FY 2005/2006 UConn Water/Sewer Budget

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective March 27, 2006, to adopt the proposed UConn Water/Sewer Budget for 2005/2006 as prepared by the Department of Finance.

Ms. Koehn questioned the feasibility of installing individual water meters in an effort to promote conservation. The Town Manager suggested that the staff would see if there are any studies which might contain relevant data.

Motion so passed.

11. WPCA, Proposed FY 2005/2006 Willimantic Sewer Budget

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective March 27, 2006, to adopt the proposed Willimantic Sewer Budget for 2005/2006 as presented by the Department of Finance.

Motion so passed

12. WPCA, Four Corners Sewer Study/Consulting Agreement

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective March 27, 2006, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Connecticut and Earth Tech, Inc. for study and report phase professional services.

Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, described the bidding and funding process for the study. He noted that a large part of the study involves delineating the service area. Mr. Clouette questioned whether or not we are diffusing the commercial development in town by putting sewers in the 4-Corners area. Mr. Hultgren explained that the new Plan of Development has set this area aside for limited development. Mr. Berliner commented that the town is developing design standards for this area of town, which will give us some say in how our "front door" looks. Mr. Hultgren reiterated that there will be a large public input

component of the study.

Motion so passed.

Mr. Haddad moved to recess as the WPCA and convene as the Mansfield Resource and Recovery Authority. Seconded by Mr. Clouette the motion passed.

13. MMRA, Rate Increase, Multi-family Collection

Mr. Hart noted that it would be appropriate to schedule a public hearing for the next meeting. Moved by Mr. Haddad, seconded by Mr. Clouette the motion passed.

Mr. Haddad moved to recess as the MRRA and to reconvene as the Town Council. Seconded by Mr. Hawkins the motion passed.

14. Independent/Assisted Living Project

The Town Manager reported that he is waiting for a response from UConn regarding possible land for the project.

15. Protection of Future Water Supplies and University of CT Water Advisory Board

The Town Manager is waiting for more information from UConn.

15a. Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Mr. Berliner reported that he just received a request for an extension to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Town of Mansfield. He feels that the September 1, 2006 deadline will be adequate.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to authorize by resolution the Town Manager, under his signature, to extend the Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion so passed.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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Ms. Redding moved the following recommendations from the Committee on Committees:

Solid Waste Advisory

Andrea Ames till 9/01/07

Anne Smith till 9/01/07

Dennis Roberts till 9/01/09

Maria Gogarten till 9/01/08

Jane Knox till 9/01/08

Commission on Aging

Susanna Thomas till 9/30/07
Mary Thatcher till 9/30/08
Sam Gordon till 9/30/08

Mansfield Advocates for Children Maria Dickson till 6/30/07

Arts Advisory Committee

Kim Bova till 3/01/07
Blanche Serban till 3/01/07

Motion so passed.

Mr. Clouette reported that most of the conversation at the last Town/Gown meeting revolved around Spring Weekend, but that when asked Mr. Callahan reported that although he had not given much thought to public participation on The Water Advisory Board he will do so.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Koehn reported on a luncheon in Stamford on April 19th honoring Mansfield's participation in the Clean Energy Project.

The Mayor commented on her meeting with Senator Don Williams and was pleased to have an opportunity to meet with him in a small group and discuss issues of interest including unfunded mandates, tolls and property taxes.

The Mayor reminded members that the Board of Education is meeting on Wednesday and suggested that members consider attending. She is meeting this Tuesday with Dean Saddlemire and Dr. Julie Bell Elkins regarding the proposal for an off campus housing office.

Ms. Paterson reported on her attendance at the National League of Cities Conference. The speakers were excellent especially regarding the federal deficit.

The Mayor also participated in Mayor's Day for Meals on Wheels, noting that she was quite impressed with the program.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- The Town Manager reminded Council members that there are two budget hearings next week.

He reported on HB5842, An Act Lowering Property Taxes Through State Assumption of Municipal Liabilities. This bill would have the state assume responsibility for municipal and school employee health plans and in turn the municipalities would cut their budget by the same amount, and it would also have the state take over the cost of special education.

At some time during the budget discussion, the Town Manager suggest the Council might want to look at the issue of support for the Housing Authority and open up a discussion with them.

The Manager reported on the receipt of a copy of the letter from the Town of Coventry to CONNDOT refusing the streetscape grant. Mansfield is next on the list to receive the \$1,000,000.

Barbara Buddington, WINCOG Director, has communicated a request for support from the town regarding a CONNDOT request to the Federal Government to study the feasibility of user fees on the highways.

The Council had 2 tours of the town last week. Anyone still wanting a tour let *the Manager* know.

UConn has agreed to participate in the free fare program.

XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 16. R. Miller re: Zinc and Copper in Surface Water
- 17. Nation's Cities Weekly, "University Caucus Examines Student Housing Issues"
- 18. The Daily Campus, "Housing Code Discussed"

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to go into Executive Session
Motion so passed

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding

Also Present: Berliner, Hart

Absent: Schaefer

Personnel Issues

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move out of Executive Session.
Motion so passed.

Ms. Redding moved to appoint Richard Long to the Mansfield Housing Authority term ending 10/21/09. Seconded by Ms. Blair.

In favor: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding

Opposed: Hawkins

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m.

Motion so passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk