

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
December 11,2006

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2006 meeting.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops at home and abroad.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Sharry Goldman, 87 Browns Road, thanked the Council for making the assisted/independent living project a priority. She described the proposed approach as collaborative and well thought out.

V. PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

1. Connecticut Department of Transportation – Chaffeeville Road Project

Timothy Gaffey, DOT Project Manager, introduced the members of his team and briefly outlined the Chaffeeville/Clover Mill Road Project. The project was initiated to reduce the number of collisions by correcting a number of deficiencies such as inadequate sight lines. Mr. Gaffey gave a brief history of the project and stated that they were here tonight to hear from the town.

Susan Libatique, DOT Project Engineer, described the current situation and the proposed changes. These changes include lowering the crest vertical curve and regrading the slope embankment at the Chaffeeville intersection and providing bypass capabilities at both intersections.

Michael Marzi, DOT Representative of the Office of Rights Of Way, explained the process of acquiring the necessary easements and property stating that no families or business would be displaced.

Greg Padick, Mansfield Director of Planning, asked if the DOT was planning to include an area for a bike route along the affected area. Ms. Libatique said that if the town wished the shoulders could be widened a few more feet to make this possible. Mr. Padick stated that the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission is very supportive of the idea. Members also discussed the fate of the beacon light and possible input regarding the aesthetics of the project.

Meg Reich, Bassets Bridge Road, spoke in favor of the bikeway as did Karen Wyatt, Storrs Road, who is directly affected by this project. Keith Johnson, Mulberry Road, suggested that the town wait and see how things work before removing the beacon light.

Ms. Koehn put forth a motion to move Item 5 ahead of Item 4 on the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Clouette the motion passed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. Community/Campus Relations

Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, reported on a meeting he recently had with Sgt. Cox and Lt. Fox from Troop C regarding police staffing during the busy times of the year. In the last budget the Council provided funding for an additional officer later this year. The town will be hiring an additional state trooper to fill in until that position is staffed. The Manager also mentioned that the search for the Director of Off Campus Housing is progressing and that the Community/Campus Partnership is working on legislative proposals.

3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager reminded members of the meeting of the Advisory Committee this Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Bishop Center. He will forward the agenda to members.

4. Department of Information Technology

Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, and Cherie Trahan, Comptroller, presented information on the proposed Department of Information Technology. They outlined the current structure, the future needs and the proposed sharing of a Director among the Boards of Education and the Town. The plan will be presented to the Boards.

By consensus the Council agreed to support the concept going forward.

5. Assisted/Independent Living Project

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective December 11, 2006, to endorse the proposed developer selection process for the assisted/independent living project, and to authorize staff to proceed with the process as presented.

Motion so passed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

6. Nelson Brook Parcel Lease with State of Connecticut

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the following

resolution:

RESOLVED, that Matthew W. Hart, Mansfield Town Manager, be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Mansfield a Lease Agreement Modification regarding State of Connecticut owned property located in northwestern Mansfield, Connecticut. Said property is situated south of Middle Turnpike (Route 44) and North of Birch Road and is locally known as the Nelson Brook parcel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Matthew W. Hart be and is hereby authorized to execute any and all documentation necessary to consummate the transaction above contemplated.

Motion so passed.

7. Hunting Lodge Road Walkway/Bikeway

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to schedule a public information session regarding the Hunting Lodge Road Walkway/Bikeway for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on January 22, 2007.

Tim Veillette, Project Engineer, described the pathway to the Council commenting that the construction should provide for a safer environment for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Mr. Haddad requested that the intersection of Hunting Lodge and North Eagleville be made more pedestrian friendly, perhaps by narrowing the pavement area.

8. America the Beautiful Grant Program Downtown Partnership Streetscape

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective December 11, 2006, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to execute the attached personal service agreement for the America the Beautiful Grant Program Downtown Partnership Streetscape Extension and any related grant documents.

Motion so passed.

9. FY 2007/2008 Budget Process

In answer to a previously posed question the Town Manager presented a number of suggestions that would provide the Council and the community an opportunity for earlier input into the budget process. Policy should be reflected in the budget and therefore it is important that the Council have the opportunity to influence the budget earlier in the process. In future years this would occur in October before the Department Heads present their budgets, but for this cycle the Council will meet in January to agree on policies they would like to see included. Jeff Smith will make a presentation, similar to the one he presented to the Region 19 Board, outlining what goes into a good budget and how policy affects the budget. Additionally, the Town Manager suggested that workshops be held for the public explaining the budget process and how it works.

10. December 25, 2006 Regular Town Council Meeting

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective December 11, 2006, to cancel the December 25, 2006 regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council.

Motion so passed

11. \$200,000 Community Center Gymnasium Air Conditioning Project

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION REAPPROVING THE APPROPRIATION OF \$200,000 FOR INSTALLATION OF AIR CONDITIONING IN THE MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER GYMNASIUM, AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES AND TEMPORARY NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION.

RESOLVED, in accordance with section 406 and 407 of the Town Charter, the Town Council hereby reapproves the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$200,000 For Installation Of Air Conditioning In the Mansfield Community Center Gymnasium, And Authorizing The Issue Of Bonds, Notes, And Temporary Notes In The Same Amount To Finance The Appropriation" as originally adopted by the Town Council at a meeting held September 5, 2006 and approved by the voters of the Town at a referendum held November 7, 2006.

Motion so passed.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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Mr. Haddad reported that the Personnel Committee met and began to set goals for the Town Manager for the next year.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Mayor Paterson attended the National League of Cities Conference in Reno and will report on the event at the next meeting.

Mr. Hawkins complimented the Downtown Partnership on their work saying that with every meeting the plans are better and better. The Council agreed that the developers and the Board have listened to the community and kept the process open.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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Attached

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Mr. Clouette suggested that at a future meeting a discussion of future economic development issues be undertaken.

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

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- 12. Advance 'University Recognized for Katrina Relief Effort'
 - 13. Chronicle ' E. O. Smith Board Takes Home CABE Award'
 - 14. Hartford Courant 'A Responsible Party'
 - 15. Hartford Courant 'CCSU Tackles Rowdy Parties'
 - 16. Planning and Zoning Application Referral
 - 17. Press Release re: CCM Appointment
 - 18. Press Release re: 2006 Distinguished Service Award\

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to move into Executive Session
Motion so passed.

Issue: Litigation
Personnel

Present: Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus
Also Present: Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion so passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk