

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 19, 2007

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

Absent: Blair

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Charter Revision Commission Proposals

Mayor Paterson commented that tonight's meeting is the Town Council's opportunity to discuss the changes proposed by the Charter Revision Commission and to recommend changes to that proposal. The Council agreed to work through each section, as needed.

Section C302A

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Haddad seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission change Section C302 to read, " The members of the Council shall meet at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of November following their election..."

Motion passed unanimously.

Section C304

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission change Section C304 by eliminating Section B, which is addressed in a current ordinance.

Motion passed unanimously.

Section C307 and Section C308

By consensus the Town Council agreed to the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission change Section 307 and Section 308 by adding the words, "if available" after the references to the Town's website and the Town's cable TV channel.

Section C402

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Haddad seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission change Section C402 to read:

“Developing a budget proposal is the responsibility of the Town Manager, with guidance from the Town Council. Participating in the process, from the presentation of the Manager’s budget proposal to the final adoption of the budget, is the right and responsibility of the citizens of Mansfield...”

Motion passed unanimously.

Section C405

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Haddad seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission reinstate the right of property owners to vote in Town Meetings.

In a friendly amendment the following wording was suggested:

“...any person who is an elector of such town may vote and any citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more, who jointly or severally, is liable to the town for taxes assessed against him on an assessment of not less than one thousand dollars on the last completed grand list of such town may vote.”

Council members urged the Commission to review the wording and exemptions found in Section 7-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes,

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Koehn moved and Ms. Duffy seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission change Section C405A to read:

“This meeting shall consider the budget presented to it by the Town Council and may approve, lower or raise the amount of any such item.”

“...this Meeting shall also approve, lower or raise any line item.”

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Clouette seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission review the use of the term “line item” in Section A and reconcile its use with the language in Section C403C.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission change Section C405A to require that the budget approved at the Town Meeting automatically be subject to a referendum vote.

Motion failed with Ms. Koehn and Mr. Paulhus in favor and all others opposed.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Town council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission, should retain the provision for a petitioned referendum in the final report, change Section 405B(1) to read:

"The petition shall be in the form prescribed in Section C and signed by at least two hundred (200) of the qualified voters of the town as determined by the revised registry list last completed."

and Section 405B(4) to read:

" A majority of the electors voting vote against the budget."

and Section 405D to read:

(1) "If repeal of the budget succeeds, should the town budget portion be revised to be higher or lower?"

(2) "If repeal of the budget succeeds, should the school budget portion be revised to be higher or lower?"

Ms. Koehn requested that the motion be divided.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to approve the changes to Section 405B (1) as described above.

Motion passed with Ms. Paterson in opposition.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the changes to Section 405B(4) as described above.

Motion passed with Ms. Paterson in opposition.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the changes to Section 405(D) as described above.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision

Commission alter Section 402, Section 404 and Section 405 to state that the Town Council will adopt a budget schedule, eliminating specific dates, and that the Town Meeting shall take place no later than the second Tuesday in May.

Motion passed unanimously.

Section 502B(4)

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission change Section 502B(4) to read:

“Submit to the Town Council and make available to the public complete reports on the finances and on the administrative activities of the Town as of the end of each fiscal year.”

Motion passed unanimously.

Section C603

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Clouette seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission strike Section C603 in its entirety and change Section C304 to read:

“The Town Council shall adopt an ordinance setting standards of ethical behavior expected from elected officials, appointed officials and public employees and shall establish mechanisms for the enforcement of ethical standards.

Motion passed unanimously.

Section C701

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council recommend that the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission change Section C701A to read:

“The Town Council shall review the Charter at least every five (5) years to determine if a Charter Revision Commission shall be established.”

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded that the Town Council, on behalf of the citizens of Mansfield, express their appreciation to members of the Charter Revision Commission for all their hard work and bringing forth this document.

Motion passed unanimously.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to adjourn the special meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Motion so passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk