

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
December 10, 2007

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: Clouette, Duffy, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus
Absent: Blair, Haddad, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 meeting as corrected.
Motion passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Cynara Stites, Chair of the Northeast Chapter of the Civil Liberties Union, urged Council members to support a resolution proclaiming December 15, 2007 as Bill of Rights Day (resolution attached).

Beverly Sims, 61 Northwood Road, inquired whether at the UConn Water and Wastewater Policy Advisory Committee meeting the request for a UConn water connection to Ponde Place would be considered as a new request. Town Manger, Matt Hart, stated that he believes it will be a new system request.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, inquired as to the status of the Senior Citizen Center space study and asked, if it is complete, whether any money has been budgeted for the project. She asked the Council to consider the economic climate of the country before approving additional funding. Ms. Wassmundt shared comments she received from a municipal law attorney regarding questions on the Landlord Registration Ordinance and the Mansfield Housing Code (comments attached). Ms. Wassmundt questioned the actual amount of the Educational Cost Sharing Grant received by the Town. She also urged the Council to maintain the budget allocation for the police, fire department, and snow plowing because they are proper functions of government. She does not, however, feel that recreation expenditures are a proper function of government. Ms. Wassmundt requested a clear accounting of the entire recreation budget.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

Matt Hart reported that the Community/Campus Partnership met last Friday. The group discussed the white paper being developed on Spring Weekend and how to better advertise the successes of the Partnership. The Partnership is also planning a presentation to the Town Council. He also announced that the Office of Off Campus Housing would soon be holding an open house. Members discussed how best to enforce the existing ordinances and laws, and reviewed the successes and failures realized this school year.

The Town Manager announced the appointment of Gregory Padick, Director of Planning, to the site placement committee for the UConn compost facility.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The UConn Water and Wastewater Policy Advisory Committee has scheduled a meeting for Thursday December 13th at 5:30 p.m. at the Bishop's Center.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to add to the agenda a discussion and possible action regarding a request for clarification to the Freedom of Information Commission.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to add to the agenda the resolution regarding declaring December 15, 2007 as the Bill of Rights Day.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to add to the agenda a discussion of the anti-Semitic act that took place in front of the Town Hall.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Town Roads

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded, effective December 10, 2007, to authorize Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, subject to the conditions cited below, to accept as a Town road the extension of Monticello Lane as constructed in association with the Fellows Estate subdivision. Town acceptance shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Confirmation that the developer has installed trail intersection signs on Storrs Road and Monticello.
2. Execution by the Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, Mansfield Controller, and the developer of a one-year maintenance bond agreement that addresses all the regulatory requirements and approved conditions.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective December 10, 2007, to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart, subject to the conditions cited below, to accept as Town roads the extension of Jonathan Lane and Blake Lane as constructed in association with the Wild Rose Estates Section 2 subdivision.

Town acceptance shall be subject to the following conditions:
Execution by the Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, Mansfield Controller and the developer of one-year maintenance bond agreement that addresses all regulatory requirements and approval conditions and the completion of minor work detailed in staff reports.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective December 10, 2007, to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart, subject to the condition cited below, to accept as a Town road Beacon Hill Drive as constructed in association with the Beacon Hill Estates subdivision. Town acceptance shall be subject to:
Execution by the Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, Mansfield Controller and the developer of one-year maintenance bond agreement that addresses all regulatory requirements and approval conditions and the completion of minor work detailed in staff reports.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Regional Performance Incentive Program

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective December 10, 2007, to endorse the Windham Region Council of Governments' application to the Regional Performance Incentive Program referenced in Section 8 of Public Act 07-239 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) and to specifically authorize Mansfield's participation in the: 1) Windham Region GIS & Cadastral Data Center; 2) Regional Economic Development Program; and 3) Information Technologies Application Sharing and Development Program.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Proposed Amendments to FY 2007/2008 Budgets

In the absence of Mr. Schaefer, Mr. Clouette reported for the Finance Committee. He explained the adjustments presented and noted that the Committee approved the amendments. Mr. Nesbitt inquired as to the status of the consultant's work at the Community Center and the impact on this year's budget. Finance Director Jeff Smith commented that the consultant will update his report and hopefully will have some good ideas for increasing revenues and keeping expenses down. The Town Manager noted that some recommendations may come in and that the issue will be addressed more fully in the major projects update.

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

Resolved, effective December 10, 2007 to amend the Town of Mansfield FY 2007/2008 Budgets as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Cancellation of December 24, 2007 Town Council Meeting

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective December 10, 2007, to cancel the December 24, 2008 regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Major Projects and Initiatives Updates

Town Manager, Matt Hart, presented an update regarding major projects and initiatives. PowerPoint presentation attached.

The Town Manager will distribute a list of open space, as presented in the Plan of Conservation and Development, to the Council members.

8. Freedom of Information Request

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective December 10, 2007, to authorize the Town Clerk to request an advisory opinion from the Freedom of Information Commission as to how many members of the Town Council of different parties may meet via direct contact, phone or e-mail without requiring meeting notice.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus left at 10:30 p.m.

9. Bill of Rights Day

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the attached resolution declaring December 15, 2007 as Bill of Rights Day.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Defacing of Sign

Ms. Koehn moved and Ms. Duffy seconded that the Town Council hereby condemns the anti-Semitic act committed on a sign posted in front of the Mansfield Town Hall and directs the Town Manager to take whatever actions are available to identify those who committed this hateful act and bring them to justice.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

- Distributed and will be discussed next meeting.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mr. Clouette, speaking for the Finance Committee, stated the Committee has discussed the report on the Community Center with the finance staff and has

reviewed the checks and balances in place to insure that all budget items all reported in the budget.

Following a discussion regarding the methodology used to allocate space to the membership or the community, members agreed to take another look at the report (page 109) before the next meeting at which time there will be an additional opportunity for discussion.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

None

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Attached

Mayor Paterson requested an effort be made to reach out to citizens in their 20's and 30's and make sure they are invited to the open houses in the next stage of the Strategic Planning Process.

Ms. Koehn requested the issue of transportation for seniors, as raised in a letter received by members, be discussed at the next meeting. The Town Manager will do so.

Ms. Koehn suggested the Beautification Committee consider a "green award" given for the use of LED holiday lights.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Town Manager, Matt Hart, reviewed a number of items that are slated as future agenda items including the noise ordinance and tax exemptions for use of alternatives fuels. He also will provide a complete list of pending issues to the Council.

Mr. Nesbitt expressed interest in reviewing both the noise and the special police ordinance.

Members also expressed interest in exploring the idea of a consent agenda and having one meeting a month for discussion and one for business. The public participation section of the meeting was also discussed. Jeff Smith asked Council members to look at the communication (page 97) from Denise Nappier, State Treasurer, regarding the STIF fund in which the Town has investments. He suggested this might be an item members would like to discuss at a future meeting.

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. Advocate, "Legislators Want State to Plan for Oil Shortage"

12. R. Lee re: Mansfield's Finance Department

13. D. Nappier re: An Open Letter to Investors and Connecticut Citizens

14. State of Connecticut Department of Transportation re: State Project Number 0188-0730-AG

- 15. State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management re: Revised Estimates of State Formula Aid to Municipalities
- 16. C. Trahan re: Parks and Recreation Financial Statements
- 17. Washington Post, "The Carbon Footprint" 11/26/07

- Ms. Duffy moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to move into Executive Session.
Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Personnel – Manager’s Performance Review
Included – Matt Hart, Town Manager

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Duffy moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk