

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
February 11, 2008

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of January 28, 2008 special meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2008 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. Additionally, the Mayor asked that the victims of the city hall shooting in Kirkwood, Missouri be remembered. As members of the National League of Cities Mayor Paterson has worked on a number of committees with Kirkwood's Mayor Michael Swoboda. Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to amend the moment of silence to reflect the tragedy of which the Mayor spoke. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Schaefer suggested notice of the action be forwarded to both the National League of Cities and the city of Kirkwood. Mayor Paterson will do so.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mike Siskoski, 35 Wildwood Road, thanked the staff for the timely issuance of the agenda and drew attention to an article from the Chronicle that was missing from the Town Council packet. (Statement and article attached)

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Mansfield Community Art Display Policy and the Art Display Policy for Mansfield Town Buildings (Other than Schools)

Mayor Paterson called the public hearing to order and the Town Clerk read the legal notice. No comments were offered and the hearing was closed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. Mansfield Community Center Art Display Policy and the Art Display Policy for Mansfield Town Buildings (Other than Schools)

Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien has reviewed the proposed ordinance and complimented the Arts Advisory Committee on their work. Attorney O'Brien noted the proposed ordinance allocates all decisions to the Committee without input from the Council or Town Manager and the second section of the policy opens all other town buildings to the display of art after discussion with the Mansfield Arts Advisory Committee. He suggested the following language be added to Section B.1. of the ordinance: Nothing in this policy may be construed to mean that any town building is available for use as a public forum for the display of art until an express determination making such designation is made by the Town Manager.

Council members discussed options for those artists who are denied, what should happen if the Committee cannot come to an agreement, the need for an appeal or review process and whether once permission is given for art in a particular building it could later be revoked. Arts Advisory Committee members Jay Ames and Scott Lehman were available to answer Council members' questions. Those committee members present were in agreement with the following changes to the proposed ordinance:

1. The inclusion of a process by which an applicant could appeal a negative decision to the Town Manager.
2. The inclusion of the language above suggested by the Town Attorney.
3. The addition of "and grounds" to the Community Center section of the proposal
4. Additional language stating decisions will be by a majority vote of those Arts Advisory Committee members present at a meeting.

The Town Manager will include these changes and the revised ordinance will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded a motion to express the Council's heartfelt thanks to the Mansfield Arts Advisory Committee for the development of an outstanding public policy ordinance.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded a motion to move Item 7, Presentation of Storrs Center Video, as the next agenda item.

Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. An Ordinance Providing a Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings

Council members discussed the proposed ordinance and some members questioned its effectiveness in the preservation of farmland. The need to develop a comprehensive program to identify land and support farmers who produce locally grown food was discussed as was the positive effect of open space on the revenue/expenditure ratio of the Town. The Town Attorney expressed his opinion on the ability to limit benefits by use of a means test noting while it was probably not envisioned by the legislature it is not impossible to do. By consensus the Council agreed to delay a decision until staff has had an opportunity to review the Coventry dairy farm legislation, the ordinance's effect on the tax base and what types of operations might be included in the definition of farming.

#### 4. Community/Campus Relations

Discussions have begun regarding the preparation for Spring Weekend and other large parties. The Town and University will continue to encourage landlords' participation.

#### 5. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager explained the different starting points shown in the previously distributed graphs regarding UConn water use noting the projected average day demand reflects the usage for the entire year where as the projected peak monthly demand reflects the highest point during that month.

#### 6. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill

Ms. Koehn requested that the changes in the UConn Landfill Project Quarterly Progress Reports be highlighted. The Town Manager will look into the possibility.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### 7. Presentation of Storrs Center Video

Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, presented a video showing the history of the project and some of the benefits to the community.

#### 8. Appointment to Mansfield Downtown Partnership

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, to appoint Town Manager Matthew Hart to the Board of Directors for the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, for a term commencing on July 1, 2008 and expiring on June 30, 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 9. FY 2007/2008 Budget Transfers

Reporting for the Finance Committee, Mr. Clouette commented the proposed transfers amend the budget to conform to reality.

M. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded, effective February 11, 2008, to approve the attached Budget Transfers for FY 2007/2008, as presented by the Director of Finance in his correspondence dated February 7, 2008.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 10. Appointment of Auditor to Conduct Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2007/2008

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective February 11, 2008, to

appoint the firm of Kostin, Ruffkess and Company to conduct the financial audit for Fiscal Year 2007/2008.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 11. Proposed Budget Review Calendar for Fiscal Year 2008/2009

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, effective February 11, 2008, to adopt the Budget Review Calendar for Fiscal Year 2008/09, as amended. The agenda for the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will be switched and a new date for the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be determined.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Manager requested that if Council members have proposals for the budget they bring them to the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 12. An Ordinance Continuing and Establishing Various Administrative Departments by Ordinance

Members discussed whether the placement of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services as a separate department was appropriate or whether it should be included under the Department of Public Safety. The Town Manager asked that the Fire Chief have an opportunity to comment and will discuss the issue with him. Ms. Koehn requested in Section 9, Department of Human Services, the term "clinical" in C.4 be rephrased in a more general manner. Mr. Nesbitt requested performance measurements/program assessments be added as part of each section of the ordinance. Members discussed whether an ordinance establishing departments is the appropriate place for such a program. The Town Manager agreed the development and implementation of program evaluation and performance measurements has merit. He suggested that the development and implementation of any sort of sophisticated performance measurements is a substantial project and asked Council members to consider that fact in light of the priorities being established by the Strategic Plan. If the Council were interested in the establishment of program assessments he would like an opportunity to consult with staff and will report back to the Council. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded that the Town Council request the Town Manager come back with the issue of the Fire and Emergency Services resolved and that the issue of including performance and program evaluation not be include in the new ordinance but that it continue to be studied and brought forward as a separate issue.

Motion passed unanimously.

Additionally members requested the Town Manager and the Town Attorney examine the propriety of the inclusion of the Mansfield Public Schools and Regional School District 19 in a town ordinance

### VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

- Review for next meeting.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- No comments

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Mr. Clouette reported the Downtown Partnership Board met last week. The Finance and Executive Committee presented a report outlining possible modifications to the developer agreement.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Councilors Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus and Schaefer attended the ribbon-cutting event celebrating the installation of three solar panels at Region 19. Ms. Koehn reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> panels are on the way. Members thanked the Clean Energy Team for their work.

Mr. Paulhus reported that the Winter Fun Fest, held at the Community Center in cooperation with the Downtown Partnership was a success.

- Ms. Koehn reported she would be a panel member at the February 27<sup>th</sup> public hearing sponsored by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Both she and the Mayor were participants in some of the earlier endeavors for equal pay at the University and are looking forward to hearing what the important issues are today.

XII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Attached

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

XIV. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 13. Chronicle, "Farm Tax Break Vote Postponed" – 1/29/08155

14. Chronicle, "Tree Contractor Saves Scaredy Cat After Very Long Week" – 1/29/08

15. Chronicle, "Progress in Mansfield Hits a Few Bumps in the Road" – 1/3/08

16. Chronicle, "Reader's Forum" – 12/28/07

17. Chronicle, "Speaker Set to Visit with Smith Parents" – 1/25/08

18. CCM re: 2008 General Assembly Session

19. CCM's 2008 State Legislative Program

20. CCM re: CCM's Initial Response to the Governor's Proposed Budget as it Affects Towns and Cities

21. CCM re: ConnDOT Studies Adequacy of Bus Service: Buses for 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Forum Scheduled

22. CCM re: Draft Proposed Electronic Waste Recycling Regulations
23. CCM re: Second Year of the Budget: FY 09
24. CCM re: Second Year of the Biennial Budget
25. Connecticut Light and Power re: Transmission Briefing II
26. Daily Campus, "Storrs Center Looking for Stores" – 12/7/07
27. Daily Campus, "Storrs Center: Putting the Town Back in 'College Town'" – 1/25/08
28. Local Property Taxes and Connecticut's State Government
29. Metro Hartford Alliance Annual Celebration 2008
30. Hartford Courant, "Students Receive Positive Spark" – 1/31/08
31. D. Nappier re: An Open Letter to Investors and Connecticut Citizens Regarding Citigroup Decision
32. Navigator, "Storrs Center – Building a New Downtown" – Winter 2008
33. New York Times, "Building Costs Deal Heavy Blow To Local Budgets" – 1/26/08
34. NLC Congressional City Conference
35. Organic Land Care Workshop
36. Permanent Commission of the Status of Women re: Public Hearing Topic – Getting to a Better Tomorrow: Economic and Financial Security
37. M. Jodi Rell re: Municipal Finance Advisory Commission Appointment
38. Reminder News, "New Banners Line Walkway to Mansfield's Future Downtown" – 1/11/08
39. State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development re: Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals List
40. State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection re: final FY08 & FY09 Priority List for the Clean Water Fund – Availability on DEP Website

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 P.M.

Motion passed unanimously

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk