

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
April 17, 2008

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2008/2009

Mayor Paterson called the public hearing to order at 6:15 p.m.

Town Manager Matt Hart distributed documents showing the revised General Fund, Capital Fund and Capital and Nonrecurring Fund budget totals. These new amount incorporate the reductions of the Boards of Education.

Mike Sikoski, 135 Wildwood Road, briefly reviewed some of his concerns with the budget including the housing inspection program, the public funding of the Community Center and the Downtown Partnership. He urged the Council to keep the \$25,000 in the budget for the Town Council Media Project. In response to a question, Mr. Sikoski commented that his wife used to attend programs supported by the Parks and Recreation Department, but since the advent of the Community Center the cost of the programs has become prohibitive.

Katherine Paulhus, 720 Middle Turnpike, commented that when the Parks and Recreation programs were based in the Town Hall they were much more affordable and varied. She suggested the cost of the current programs should be the same for residents of Town whether or not they are members of the Community Center. Ms. Paulhus stated that she would like to see some of the old programs reinstated.

Ms. Koehn requested an accounting of the distinction between a Community Center program and a Parks and Recreation program and how the distinction has shifted over time. She would also like a description of the pricing structure indicating when do members pay differently than non-member residents.

III. NEW BUSINESS

The following budget items were discussed:

1. Human Services

Flag – 130- Department of Mental Retardation

The name has been changed since the writing of the budget narrative and will read in the future, Department of Developmental Disability.

2. Resolution of the Town of Mansfield Requesting Release of State Bonds for the

### Storrs Center Parking Facilities.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield, in association with the University of Connecticut, the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, private property and business owners, and community residents, has been working for years to help plan the transformation of an existing commercial area on Storrs Road (Route 195) into a vibrant and economically successful mixed-use downtown that will be the heart of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Storrs Center Municipal Development Plan was approved unanimously by the Mansfield Town Council, the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission, the Windham Region Council of Governments, the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, and the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees in the fall of 2005;

WHEREAS, the Storrs Center project received all its local zoning and wetlands approvals in the summer and fall of 2007;

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2005, the Town of Mansfield, submitted an Urban Action Grant application to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for funding for a parking garage, Storrs Road, and relocation – essential public components of the Storrs Center project; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2007, Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell signed the state's two-year bonding bill which included up to \$10 million for parking facilities for the Storrs Center project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD;

That the Town of Mansfield continues to support the Storrs Center project;  
That the Town of Mansfield requests that the funding approved for the Storrs Center parking facilities in the November 2007 bonding package be released by the Connecticut Bond Commission.

Certified a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town of Mansfield at a meeting of its Town Council on April 17, 2008, and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

No final decisions have been made regarding the ownership, operation and maintenance of the garage. Council members discussed the options the Town will have even after the release of the bonding money.

Motion to pass the resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette asked that a discussion of rules for the Annual Town Meeting be added to Monday's agenda. He would like these to include a provision that would not allow a motion to close debate until everyone has had an opportunity to speak. Members also discussed the procedure for selecting a moderator. The moderator will be chosen by those present at the meeting.

Town Manager distributed information on the budget items to be reviewed and the Registrars of Voters budget. Also distributed was the information on the Parks and Recreation budget prior to the Community Center that was requested by a member of the public. Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, reported that there is an accounting mistake in the Capital Fund and that he will have the necessary corrections for Monday's meeting.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- David Freudmann, 22 Eastwood Road, commented that Robert Rules requires a 2/3 vote to close debate. He was concerned that at the last meeting this was not enforced.

Town Manager Matt Hart read a statement (Attached)

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to move into Executive Session. Motion passed with Ms. Koehn abstaining.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer  
Also present: Matt Hart, Town Manager Jeff Smith, Director of Finance  
Issue: Acquisition of Real Estate

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk