

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
November 24, 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: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer
Excused: Haddad

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the minutes of November 6, 2008 Special meeting, the November 10, 2008 Regular and Special meetings and the November 17, 2008 Regular Town Council meeting. Motion passed with Mr. Schaefer and Mayor Paterson abstaining from voting on minutes for meetings for which they were excused. Ms. Koehn was not present for this vote.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Nancy Flynn, 23 Philip Drive, representing the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, announced that this year is the Church's 200th anniversary and that the community is planning to begin a number of restoration and preservation projects on the historic structure. Ms. Flynn asked the Council if they would be willing to write a letter for the congregation in support of their efforts to obtain grants to help with the projects. Statement attached.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, responded to comments made at the last Council meeting regarding her remarks and Rule 5 of the Town Council Rules of Procedure. Statement attached.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Matt Hart presented a newly formatted Town Manager's Report and asked for Council feedback. Report attached.

Ms. Koehn requested the Town Manager's report include all questions emailed by Council members to the Town Manager and his subsequent answers.

Mr. Hart suggested a December work session regarding the phasing of the Storrs Center project as outlined at this evening's Special meeting. Ms. Chaine will coordinate the best time for the meeting.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to add the First Baptist Church's request for a letter of support as item 8a on tonight's agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. CL&P Interstate Reliability Project

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective November 24, 2008, to

authorize the Mayor, with staff assistance, to finalize and submit to CL&P and the Connecticut Siting Council, Mansfield's comments and recommendations on the proposed Interstate Reliability Project and proposed new transmission lines through eastern Connecticut. Mansfield's comments shall be based on a draft letter prepared by staff and discussion at the Town Council's November 24th meeting.

Ms. Koehn requested more language regarding underground power lines be included in the letter, along with the photograph submitted by Quentin Kessel and that the alternate routes be discussed more thoroughly in the body of the letter. Mr. Clouette requested the statute regarding underground power lines be quoted in the letter. Staff will include these suggestions.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Community/Campus Relations

Mayor Paterson complimented the staff on the final Spring Weekend report noting that it was comprehensive and captured the work and effort involved. Mr. Nesbitt noted the UConn Board of Trustees seems to be looking at serious changes to the annual event and asked that staff and the Committee on Community Quality of Life remain focused on that effort.

The Town Manager reported that last week UConn conducted an open house regarding the proposed compost facility, which was very informative. He also noted the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Community Quality of Life was convened last week. The Committee began to map out a course of action.

3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The University Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee will meet Thursday December 18th at 5:30 in the Bishop's Center. The Town Manager will forward the agenda to Council members as soon as it is received.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

4. GASB 45 Presentation by Milliman

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to table this issue.
Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette moved to make Item 8 A, the letter of support for the First Baptist Church, the next item of business.
Motion passed unanimously.

5. Election Day 2008

The Registrars of Voters Andrea Epling and Beverly Miela, along with Moderators Carol Pellegrine and Howard Raphaelson, and Poll Registrar Kim Bova Kaminsky were on hand to discuss the November Presidential Election. Election officials discussed the parking and room inadequacies

of the District 3 polling location, Buchanan Auditorium. The Registrars of Voters will contact the Board of Education to explore the possibility of closing the schools on Election Day or using the day as an in-service day for staff. Election officials and Council members discussed the lines at District 1 and agreed that flexibility in the polling place is very important. The difficulties in using the IVS system were also discussed. The Registrars urged Council members to help them recruit poll workers for future elections. Mayor Paterson thanked all involved for their work.

6. Open Space Preservation - Luce

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, to refer the request from Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust to share in the financing of the purchase of the 5.9-acres Luce property to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on December 8, 2008, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed joint purchase of the Luce property.

Jennifer Kaufman, Parks Coordinator, described all 3 parcels under consideration as passive recreation areas with little maintenance required. At the public hearings Ms. Kaufman will provide more specific information and estimates of required work and maintenance. Staff will verify that open space acquisition money can be used for maintenance activities.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Open Space Preservation – Dorwart

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to refer the proposed purchase of the 55.2 Dorwart property to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on December 8, 2008, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed purchase of the Dorwart property.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Open Space Preservation – Moss Sanctuary

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to refer the proposed purchase of the 135-acre Albert E. Moss Forest, Wildflower, and Wildlife Sanctuary to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on December 8, 2008, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed purchase of the Moss Sanctuary.

Motion passed unanimously.

8a. Letter of Support for the First Baptist Church

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded that the Town Council, through the Mayor, express its support and appreciation for the First Baptist Church's ongoing efforts to maintain its meeting house in an historically appropriate manner and to sight the contribution that building makes to the Spring Hill Historic District.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Duffy, chair of the Committee on Committees, moved the reappointment of Gretchen Hall to the Housing Authority Board.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Koehn reported that the first meeting of the Committee on Community Quality of life was held at which members prioritized issues and articulated what will be worked on.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Paulhus attended the Veteran's Day Lunch at the Senior Center and complimented the Town Manager on his presentation.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

9. Chronicle, "D19 School Board Delays Action on Smith Track Plan" – 11/6/08

10. Chronicle, "Editorial: We Offer These Threads, Needles" – 11/10/08

11. Chronicle, "Letter to the Editor" – 11/6/08 127

12. Chronicle, "Letter to the Editor" – 11/14/08

13. Chronicle, "Mansfield Unhappy with CL&P Line Project" – 11/11/08

14. Chronicle, "Storrs Center Gets Key Permits, Hires National Real Estate Marketing Firm" – 11/12/08

15. Chronicle, "Storrs Center May Yield \$2.6M in Taxes" – 11/13/08

16. Chronicle, "Town Eyes \$74M for New School, Repairs" – 11/18/08

17. B. Feldman re: Four Corners Sewer Study Advisory Committee

18. Mansfield Community Center 2008 Annual Review (hard copy)

19. Mansfield Today, "New Police Contract on Town Council Agenda" – 11/09/08

20. Mansfield Today, "Strength In Numbers" – 11/10/08

21. Public Safety Committee Annual Report for 2008

22. Robinson & Cole re: Docket No. 367

23. B. Silva re: District/Municipal Budget Information Sharing Meeting

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XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, urged Council members to resolve to lower taxes next year.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Ms. Koehn requested the issue of an increase in the Registrars of Voter' pay be referred to the Personnel Committee.

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XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk