

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
January 12, 2009

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2008 and the December 8, 2008 Special meetings as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2008 regular meeting as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, questioned the process used to determine the value of the Potter Trust property and suggested the issue be sent back to staff for further analysis.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, reiterated his opposition to a garage being built as part of the Storrs Center Project. Statement attached.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, noted that he sees a contradiction in the FOI policy and the Rescue Service fee proposal. He feels copies should be \$.06 per page and that rescue service fees should not be implemented as the Town already pays the employees and maintains the equipment.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Report attached.

The public components of the Downtown Partnership continue to be a major focus of the Town Manager. The Town Manager has asked the developers for additional operational costs and projections for the first garage and is exploring options for the second garage. The Senior Center Project will be discussed at the next Council meeting and the School Building Committee will meet to discuss all options. In response to Mansfield's comments regarding the CL&P Reliability Project, WNCOG has called a meeting to hear from CL&P. Greg Padick has talked to other affected towns in eastern Connecticut and reported that within these towns no strong objections to the project were voiced.

The Town Manager's office will distribute signage announcing the Region 19 Referendum on the track project consistent with what was done for the Town Budget Resolution.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager reported the Community Quality of Life Committee discussed the housing ordinances at the last meeting and will discuss zoning enforcement issues at the next.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issue

The Town Manager reported that the University Water and Wastewater Policy Committee endorsed a sewer connection with Ponde Place. The Four Corner Sewer Study Advisory Committee is working on a public presentation for late January or early February.

3. Mansfield 202: A Unified Vision

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

A Resolution ESTABLISHING A TOWN COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE:

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield is a signatory to the Mayor's Initiative on Climate Change and has undertaken other initiatives to preserve the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Visioning Conference, Mansfield 2020-A Unified Vision, defined sustainability as meeting the needs of current and future generations through the integration of environmental protection, conservation, community organization and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Visioning Conference, Mansfield 2020-A Unified Vision, set a goal of reducing carbon emissions attributed to the municipal sectors of the Mansfield by 20 percent by 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Visioning Conference, Mansfield 2020-A Unified Vision, identified sustainability as a fundamental governing principle; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield has made a commitment to sustainable economic development;

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield is engaged in many quality of life issues in the community;

WHEREAS, the Town anticipates the development of other goals to address aspects of sustainable development in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Mansfield that a permanent TOWN COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE be established.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TOWN COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE be composed of: two Council members; the Town Manager; a representative each from the K-8, R-19, University of Connecticut and PZC; three representatives from various commissions and

advisory committees having responsibility in the area of sustainability; and that three citizens be chosen to represent environmental protection, economic vitality, and social justice within the context of sustainability. The Chairperson shall be appointed by Council. The Town Manager will appoint one or more staff as rotating, non-voting liaisons to the Committee. The term of office for voting members shall be four years, except that the Chairperson shall serve at the discretion of Council and staff shall serve at the discretion of the Town Manager. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TOWN COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE be charged with maintaining a general overview of the sustainability of the Town, to specifically include the following responsibilities:

- Provide guidance and proposals to the Town Council regarding sustainability principles to be adopted by the Town Council or to be administratively implemented;
- Monitor implementation of principles and policies as adopted by the Town Council and administrative programs, and report to the Town Council annually;
- Coordinate and collaborate with Town boards and commissions, organizations, regional and state agencies to advance sustainability principles, plans, and policies established; and
- Seek information from other organizations to aid in the development of strategies, programs and initiatives that will further the sustainability goals established by the Council by policy or budgetary support of administrative programs.

Council members discussed the composition of the committee and whether or not the addition of the advisory committee members would be beneficial.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to table the motion. The motion failed with Blair, Clouette, Duffy and Paulhus in favor and Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson and Schaefer opposed.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded a motion to change the composition to include either two Council members or a Council member and an ex-Council member. Motion passed with all in favor except Mayor Paterson who abstained. Ms. Duffy agreed to serve on the committee

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to change the composition by removing the three representatives from various commissions and advisory committees having responsibility in the area of sustainability. Motion passed with all in favor except Schaefer and Paterson who abstained.

The motion, as amended, passed unanimously and now reads:

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VI. NEW BUSINESS

4. Proclamation in Honor of Wear Red Day for Women

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, effective January 12, 2009, to designate February 6, 2009 as National Wear Red Day for Women in the Town of Mansfield and to authorize the Mayor to issue the proclamation as presented by town staff.

Motion passed with all in favor except for Mr. Schaefer who abstained

Proclamation attached.

5. Social Service Block Grant FY 2009-10

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective January 12, 2009, to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to submit an application to the US Department of Health and Human Services for a Social Services Block Grant.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Merger Deed for Middle School/ Spring Hill Road Ball Field Property

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective January 12, 2009, to authorize the Town Manager to finalize and to execute the deed combining the Mansfield Middle School property with the Mansfield School Ball Fields property.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Supplemental Agreement with ConnDot for Birch Road Bikeway Construction Funding

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

Resolved on January 12, 2009, that Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, be, and hereby is authorized to sign the agreement entitled: 'First Supplemental Agreement to the Original Agreement Dated November 18, 2002 between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield for the Construction, Inspection and Maintenance of the Birch Road Bikeway utilizing Federal Funds under the Enhancement Component of the Surface Transportation Program' and a certification indicating the Council adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under the Connecticut General Statutes.

Resolved on January 12, 2009, that the Town of Mansfield hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes section 4a-60(a)(1) and section 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Potter Trust Property

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded to refer the proposed acceptance and subsequent conveyance of the .7 acre Potter property (Map 34 Block 110 Lot 9) to 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 its next regular meeting on January 26, 2009 to solicit public comment regarding the proposed acceptance and subsequent conveyance of this property.

Mr. Clouette and Ms. Blair agreed, as a friendly amendment, to change the word "its" in the motion to "the Town Council's".

Ms. Koehn asked the Town Manager to check to see if other neighbors have been approached and asked for additional appraisals on the property.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to call the question. The motion passed with all in favor excepting Ms. Koehn. The amended motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Koehn.

9. Freedom of Information Policy and Fee Schedule

Council members discussed whether the proposed FOI policy should be a Town Council policy or an administrative policy.

Ms Koehn moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded that the Town Council consider a resolution in support of open and transparent government and within the resolution the Council consider information about government ethics, actions, budgets and spending to be included on the website and consider the fee structure.

The motion failed with Clouette, Duffy, Koehn and Nesbitt in favor and Blair, Haddad, Paterson, Paulhus and Schaefer opposed.

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded that the FOI policy be referred to the Personnel Committee for consideration and then to the Town Council for approval.

The motion failed with Duffy, Koehn, Nesbitt in favor and Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Paterson, Paulhus and Schaefer opposed.

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Mr. Clouette seconded that the Town Manager be instructed to add guidelines outlining nondisclosed FOI items to the administrative FOI Policy.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Rescue Services Billing Proposal

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded to schedule a public hearing for 7:45 PM on January 26, 2009, to solicit public comment regarding a proposed fee schedule for rescue services.

Ms. Koehn requested the following information be prepared for the public hearing: a detailed description of departments who have instituted such fees including their experiences and cost, and additional information on staff cost for billing service including possible revenues

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

Motion passed by those present.

11. Salary Transfers for FY 2008/09

Mr. Schaefer moved effective January 12, 2009, to approve the Salary Transfers for FY 2008/09, as presented by the Director of Finance in his correspondence dated January 7, 2009.

Mr. Schaefer, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that in the current year a savings of \$150,000 dollars would be needed to balance the budget. Forty thousand dollars of the Town's portion (\$56,000) is realized by these salary transfers.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Finance Committee has discussed the proposed revisions to the purchasing rules and will continue their discussions at the next meeting.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to accept the budget calendar as presented to the Finance Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Resolve, the Town Council respectfully requests the Mansfield Board of Education reduce their current year budget by \$94,000. And further resolves that the Mansfield Town Manager relay this request to the Board.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No reports

X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

12. Advance, "Storrs Center Study Predicts Fiscal Benefits" – 12-01-08

13. CCM re: CCM Survey on Municipal Infrastructure Projects

14. CCM re: Federal Earned Income Credit
15. CCM re: Legislative Proposals Adopted to Date
16. CCM re: Legislative Proposals to Support as Opportunities Arise
17. CCM re: State Legislative Funding Proposals – Recommendations
18. CCM re: University-Municipal Partnership
19. Chronicle, “Budget Referendum, Downtown Top List” – 01-03-09
20. Chronicle, “Health District Honors Three Local Groups” – 12-24-08
21. Chronicle, “Letter to the Editor” – 12-13-08
22. Chronicle, “Mansfield Employees Help Local Families” – 12-26-08
23. Chronicle, “New Bus Stop” – 12-23-08 183
24. Communications Committee re: Broadcasting of Council Meetings
25. Communication Committee re: Mission Statement
26. Connecticut Water re: In Your Community Newsletter
27. D. Dagon re: EMS Duty Crew Experience August/December
28. Environmental Impact Evaluation for North Hillside Road
29. Hartford Courant, “Health Promotion Awards Given” – 12-14-08
30. Legal Notice re: Agreement - Region #19 BOE and E.O. Smith Teachers’ Association.
31. Mansfield Today, “\$3.95 Million Track and Field Project for E.O. Smith...” – 12-17-08
32. Mansfield Today, “Dr. Peters Make His Mark in the History of Civil Rights...” – 1-1-09
33. Mansfield Today, “Independent Firm Says Storrs Center...” – 11-26-08
34. Mansfield Today, “Mansfield Responds to Gov. Rell’s Call...” – 12-13-08
35. Mansfield Today, “Mansfield Volunteers Step Up to Help No Freeze Shelter” – 12-27-08
36. Mansfield Today, “More Than 40 Families “Adopted” by Town Workers...” – 12-22-08
37. Mansfield Today, “Verizon Wants to Bridge Gaps in Coverage...” – 12-15-08
38. M. Jodi Rell re: “Shovel-Ready” Projects
39. Proposal for a Verizon Telecommunications Tower in Southern Mansfield
40. Reminder News, “Storrs Center Progress Outlined” – 11-28-08
41. State of CT Dept. of Public Health re: Emergency Medical Services Equipment Grant State of CT Siting Council re: Ten Year Forecast of Electric Loads and Resources
42. G. Walton re: Status of Reducing Plastic Retail Checkout Bag Usage

XI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, expressed his disappointment in the FOI Policy, commenting that it is not the money that is the issue but the broader issue of transparency.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, expressed his objection to the FOI fees.

Alison Blair, 150 Coventry Road, commented on the incredible teamwork the Public Works Department exhibits while clearing the roads. Ms. Blair offered her thanks, especially to Lon Hultgren the Director.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, agreed with Mr. Hossack's point noting that their efforts make this a stronger Council.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

- By consensus the Council agreed to refer Mr. Nesbitt's comment regarding legal issues to the Finance Committee for discussion.

Comments attached.

By consensus the Council agreed to address Ms. Koehn's earlier motion (Item 9) regarding transparency in government at a future meeting.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Pending Claims and Litigation

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson and Schaefer

Also Present: Town Manager Matt Hart, Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola, Director of Finance Jeffrey Smith and Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren

Strategy and Negotiations with respect to Collective Bargaining

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson and Schaefer

Also Present: Town Manager Matt Hart, Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola, and Director of Finance Jeffrey Smith

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor Mary Stanton, Town Clerk