

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
March 9, 2009

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad 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, Haddad, Nesbitt, Paulhus, Schaefer
Excused: Duffy, Koehn, Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting with corrections. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Blair who abstained. Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Special meeting on February 28, 2009 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mike Siskosi, Wildwood Road, again questioned the process for the appropriation of funds for land purchases in excess of ½% of the Town budget. He quoted CGS§ 7-364 regarding the use of municipal reserve funds. Mr. Siskosi also asked if the Council approved the Freedom of Information fee schedule quoting Section 303b of the Town Charter.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked a number of questions concerning finance and payroll. (Statement attached).

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

In addition to the attached report, Town Manager Matt Hart also announced a Region 19 budget hearing on March 24th at 7:00 p.m. and the formation of a State Stimulus Work Group organized by the Governor. He reported that staff has submitted a number of local projects for inclusion in the list of projects ready for funding. Mr. Hart also asked Council members to review the Town Attorney's opinion on the question of a conflict of interest regarding the Finance Director's work for Region 19. Director of Finance Jeff Smith presented a communication from William Lindsay C.I.P.F.A., the Town's bond consultant, regarding the rationale for the interest rate assumptions on the Region #19 track improvements.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager reported that the Committee on Community Quality of Life has decided on a regular meeting date, the first Thursday of every month, and is in the process of reviewing proposed amendments to the Housing Code.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager announced the University Water and Waste Water Advisory Committee will be meeting on March 19th at 5:30 p.m. in the Bishop Center. Mr. Nesbitt briefed the Council on the upcoming March 24th meeting of the Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee to which all area property owners have been invited. He also noted that the Public Works Department has begun preliminary design studies on the project so if federal funds become available the Town will be in a better position to apply for those funds.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

3. Proclamation in Honor of Girl Scout Week

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded, effective March 9, 2009, to authorize Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad to issue the attached proclamation in Honor of Girl Scout Week.

Resolution attached

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

4. WINCOG Regional Economic Development Program

Representatives from AKRF, the firm retained by the Windham Council of Governments (WINCOG), to prepare the regional economic development plan presented an overview of their work to date and asked the Council to think about what particular project the Town would like them to focus on.

Council members asked the representatives to comment on how the Town could best enhance our opportunities and use existing assets, and the value of working with other groups outside of the WINCOG region. In response to the questions the representatives stated that the fact that there are potential opportunities for locating incubator companies in Town and the fact that Mansfield is a very liveable place bodes well for the Town. AKRF representatives also agreed that the Town should work with area groups that have similar needs and opportunities.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded a motion to recess as the Town Council and reconvene as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion passed by all present.

5. WPCA, FY 2008/09 UConn Sewer Budget

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded effective March 9, 2009, to adopt

the FY 2008/09 UConn Sewer Budget, as prepared by town staff and endorsed by the Finance Committee.

Motion passed by those present.

6. WPCA, FY 2008/09 Windham Sewer Budget

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded, effective March 9, 2009, to adopt the FY 2008/09 Windham Sewer Budget, as prepared by town staff and endorsed by the Finance Committee.

Motion passed by those present.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn as the Water Pollution Control Authority and reconvene as the Town Council

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Preliminary Regionalization Study Committee

The Town Manager briefly discussed the history of the formation of an ad hoc study committee, facilitated by Region 19, regarding the feasibility of a K-12 regional school district. In addition to the Superintendent and the Chair of the Board of Education who have volunteered to serve on the committee the Town Manager asked Council members if they wished to appoint additional municipal members. By consensus the Council agreed to discuss the issue further once the meeting dates and times have been determined. In the meantime the Town Manager will attend the meetings, as will Councilor Paulhus when possible. The Town Manager will e-mail members alerting them of the meeting dates.

8. Parks and Recreation Co-sponsorship Policy Revision

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective March 9, 2009 to adopt the Co-Sponsorship Policy dated February 13, 2009, as endorsed by the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Council members discussed the wording and intention of the changes to the policy. The following changes were recommended:

Section 3 (c) add "...of the co-sponsoring organization"

Section 4 include the statement that these obligations refer only to the shared programs,

Section 6 (c) change "Possible loans..." to "May be eligible for loans ..."

Section 6 inclusion of a separate statement identifying the use of fields and facilities as support and service,

Section 6 change all references to the Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department and the Recreation Advisory Committee to the Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department with the recommendations or advice of the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Ms. Blair moved to table the motion until the next meeting which would give the Recreation Advisory Committee time to review the suggested changes. Seconded by Mr. Clouette the motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schaefer who voted in the negative.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Clouette acting for Leigh Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Committees made the following recommendations:

Historic District Commission: Isabelle Atwood, Anita Bacon as regular members, John Nardi and Hamilton Holt as alternates

Mansfield Advocates for Children: Jessica Higham

Agricultural Committee: Alan Cyr, Charles Galgowski, Vicky Wetherell , William Palmer

Arts Advisory Committee: Thomas Bruhn

Beautification Committee: Carol Enright and Richard Norgaard

Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities: Jane Blanshard, Jennifer Tanner, Joan Seliger Sidney

Motion to approve recommendations passed.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Nesbitt reported on his attendance at a meeting of the Metro North Alliance, which is a group of 35 towns in the greater Hartford area. He suggested that the organization be invited to make a presentation to the Council to explain their focus. By consensus the Council agreed to accept this idea as a future agenda item.

Ms. Blair recently experienced the Mansfield Community Center staff's ability to remain cool and calm during hectic times. Ms. Blair complimented Curt Vincente and his department.

Mr. Paulhus requested that copies of the Item 18, Frequently Asked Questions About Storrs Center, be distributed to the Library and the Town Clerk's office. Staff will do so.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

9. Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Green Buildings

10. CCM Federal Issues Bulletin – Federal Stimulus Package Summary

11. CCM Legislative Update – CCM Lobbying Leads to Restoration of Special Education Funding, Saves Some Local Bridge Dollars

12. Chronicle “Digging in to the hot stuff” – 02/27/09

13. Chronicle "Editorial: We offer these threads, needles" – 02/16/09
14. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 02/18/09
15. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 03/05/09
16. Chronicle "Mansfield grand list barely grows" – 02/24/09
17. Chronicle "Town officials prepare for loss in PILOT funds" – 02/23/09
18. Frequently Asked Questions About Storrs Center
19. M. Hart/R. Miller re: Funding of Local Health Departments
20. L. Hultgren re: 2009 DOT Master Transportation Plan
21. Mansfield Today "Council looking for more information before deciding on fees for rescue services" – 02-16-09
22. Mansfield Today "New signs on Route 195 posted to attract potential tenants for Storrs Center development" – 02/16/09
23. G. Nesbitt re: Proposed Mansfield 4-Corners Service District
24. E. Paterson/M. Hart re: UConn Bio-energy Initiative: "Creating Sustainable Energy Resources to Meet the Need of Connecticut and the Region"
25. Planning and Zoning Commission re: March 2, 2009 Public Hearing on proposed driveway construction and associated work at 9 Farrell Road
26. Reminder News "Folks come out for winter fun" – 02/13/09
27. C. Vincente re: Pool Use Analysis/Information Request

-

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

-

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, requested that specific information like the cost of the payroll increase, the cost of the finance department vs. income for services, and cost of the Community Center and the Parks and Recreation Department be presented at the Town Meeting. She also asked the Town to be honest in their search for a Finance Director.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, asked that the Town Meeting start on time, the childcare be extended to the end of the meeting and that the presentations be limited to a few minutes.

Town Manager Matt Hart reminded members that the Rules of Procedures adopted by the Council do address the remarks of the public and encouraged them to be mindful of the restrictions set forth in the rules.

-

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

-

Indicated above

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to recess the meeting and go into executive session to discuss Strategy or Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining as provide for in CGS§1-200(2).

Motion passed unanimously

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Strategy and Negotiations with respect to Collective Bargaining

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Nesbitt, Paulhus Schaefer

Also Present: Town Manager Matt Hart and Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk