

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
April 27, 2009

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schaefer who abstained. Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2009 and the April 16, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except for Mr. Nesbitt who abstained from voting on approval of the minutes of the April 20, 2009 meeting.

Mayor Paterson thanked Deputy Mayor Haddad for serving as Acting Mayor during her absence.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Amendment to Mansfield Housing Code, Private Sewage Disposal System Maintenance

The Town Clerk read the legal notice and Mike Nintean, Director of Building and Housing, outlined the proposed change to the ordinance.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, expressed his support for the change and asked the Town Council to also review the requirements for water testing.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, spoke to his concerns about the viability and desirability of a parking garage. Statement submitted.

Tom Birkenholz, South Eagleville Road, thanked the Council for their support of the Downtown Project, noting how important it is for the Town to plan for the needs of tomorrow. He expressed confidence that the Town will be able to handle any challenges that are ahead.

Barry Schrier, South Eagleville Road, offered his congratulations to Mayor Paterson for receiving the Gerald N. Weller Award from the University. Mr. Schrier also spoke in favor of the Downtown Project commenting that the Council's creative foresight will have long-term gains.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, questioned why, when asked, the resident state trooper was not aware of a home invasion that occurred in his neighborhood.

Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, shared her concerns and a suggestion with the Council regarding Spring Weekend. Ms. Pellegrine's concern is the large number of man hours and cost incurred by the Town and area towns as a result of the event and her suggestion is that UConn require outside students be registered before staying in the dorms. She also suggested that these visitors sign a statement agreeing to abide by UConn's rules of behavior and that they receive identifying wrist bands.

Mayor Paterson invited Ms. Pellegrine to a meeting of the Town/University Committee to offer her suggestions. Ms. Pellegrine also relayed her husband Richard's suggestion that package stores put out jars to ask for donations to financially support Spring Weekend.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, suggested that if students from other schools are arrested during Spring Weekend, UConn should contact their school and report the infraction.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, expressed his objection to DUI checkpoints on Routes 44 and 195 on Spring Weekend and commented that all the work of the Council and UConn did nothing to change the event. Mr. Hossack also expressed disappointment that none of his suggestions on the budget were adopted by the Council.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Report submitted

- VI. OLD BUSINESS

- 2. Amendment to Mansfield Housing Code, Private Sewage Disposal System Maintenance

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adopt a proposed change to the Housing Code of the Town of Mansfield, section 506.3, to increase the span of time from the immediately preceding two years to the immediately preceding four years, during which any on-site sewage disposal system must have been cleaned and serviced, as demonstrated by the report of a licensed pumper/hauler submitted to the Housing code Official, before a rental certification may be issued pursuant to Chapter 9 of the Housing Code. Said amendment shall be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Community/Campus Relations

Director of Emergency Management, John Jackman and Council members offered their preliminary assessments and observations of Spring Weekend.

4. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Mr. Nesbitt, chair of the Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee, announced the next meeting of the group would be on May 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the updated fiscal analysis and possible inclusion of additional abutters. A community wide meeting will be held on June 2, 2009.

#### 5. Ordinance for Obtaining Goods and Services

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on May 11, 2009, to solicit public comment regarding An Ordinance for Obtaining Goods and Services.

Council member discussed the proposed ordinance and offered the following suggestions:

- Section 4. A. 6 – eliminate "...for cause" after "...vendor"
- Establish a minimum purchasing amount which would trigger Town Manager involvement
- Section 4.B – add "...with the approval of the Town Manager" after "The Purchasing Agent..."
- Section 4.D – eliminate "provided that..." begin a new sentence "The Finance Committee shall..."
- Section 4.I – provide a threshold for retaining professional services that would include Town Manager approval.
- Section 4. I – include a reasonable guideline to require current billing for professional services.
- Section 4. C – require that the purchase of environmentally sound products and services be the standard while allowing exceptions only in extenuating circumstances.
- An additional document outlining the process codified in the ordinance may need to be developed.

Ms. Koehn will distribute suggested language for Section 4.C to all Council members. Other Town Council members with additional suggestions will do the same.

Motion to set the public hearing passed unanimously.

Mr. Nesbitt left at 9:30 p.m.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### 6. Preparation for Town Meeting

Town Council members discussed the May 12, 2009 Annual Town Meeting and made the following decisions:

- Childcare will be offered from 6:30 to 9:30.
- In order to facilitate voter verification all publicity regarding the meeting will encourage residents to come early.
- In addition to the usual notification venues the Town Manager will check to see if the schools and day care send out notices and will request the

event be posted on the E.O. Smith website

- A 6:30 informal public discussion on the budget will be offered.
- Mayor Paterson will ask Carol Pellegrine if she is willing to be nominated as chair of the meeting.
- The Town Attorney will serve as parliamentarian.
- The Human Services Department will provide a sign language interpreter.
- In the documents handed out at the meeting include a question as to whether the information provided is helpful.
- The updated Citizens' Guide to the Budget and the budget in brief will be provided.
- Ric Hossack has agreed to tape the meeting.
- The Town Clerk will check with other towns to see how they verify voters.

#### 7. Appointment of Municipal Representative to Mansfield Downtown Partnership

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to appoint Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad to the Board of Directors for the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, for a term commencing on July 1, 2009 and expiring on June 30, 2012.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 8. Additions to Town Council Policy Index

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

RESOLVED: effective April 27, 2009 to add the following documents to the Town Council Index Policy: Guidelines for Negotiations of Agreements between the Town of Mansfield and Storrs Center Development Entities (August 11, 2009 and Resolution Affirming Commitment to Open and Transparent Government (April 13, 2009).

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to table Item 9, Regionalism, and Item 10, WINCOG Regional Economic Development Plan, until the next meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 9. Regionalism

Tabled

#### 10. WINCOG Regional Economic Development Plan

Tabled

### VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Paulhus questioned the process described in the minutes regarding the use of executive sessions by the Board of Ethics. Mr. Hart reported that information and training regarding the proper use of executive sessions has been provided to the Board.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Clouette, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the Committee is working on a recommendation for auditors for the Town.

Mr. Clouette, reporting for the Committee on Committees, offered the following recommendations:

Recommend an alternate be added to the list of those authorized to serve as members of the Communication Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee on Person with Disabilities – Wade Gibbs

Communication Advisory Committee – Richard Pellegrine

Agricultural Committee – Kathleen Paterson and Larry Lombard

Sustainability Committee – Lynn Stoddard (Environmental Protection), William Lennon (Economic Viability), Sara Milius (Social Justice)

Also appointed: Matthew Hart, Town Manager, Bonnie Ryan, Planning and Zoning, Katherine Paulhus, Mansfield Board of Education, Richard Miller, UConn, Leigh Duffy, Town Council

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette also noted that the Committee is working on the reorganization of the appeals boards.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. M. Morano re: Proposed fire staff cuts

12. W. Bigl re: AARP Tax Aide 2009

13. M. Hart re: Proposed FY 2009/10 Budget

14. PZC re: Tree removal, 34 Farrell Road

15. PZC re: Proposed Bill 5862

16. Town of Mansfield Fiscal Year 2007-08 Annual Report

17. State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security re: Emergency Management Performance Grant

18. U. S. Census Bureau re: 2010 Census

19. MetroHartford Alliance re: Next Regional Economic Development Forum

20. CCM re: State Budget Proposals

21. CCM re: Major Mandates Relief Proposals Before the 2009 General Assembly

22. CCM re: A Blueprint for Service Continuity and Property Tax Relief in Uncertain Economic Times

23. CCM Housing Bulletin

24. Moody's Investors Service re: Rating Update – Mansfield

25. University of Connecticut Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs re: 2009 Gerald N. Weller Award

26. Chronicle "Editorial: We offer these threads, needles" – 04/20/09

27. Chronicle "Fire shift cut stirs debate" – 04/14/09

28. Chronicle "Land trust feted for its efforts" – 04/21/09

- 29. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 04/16/09
- 30. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04/21/09
- 31. Chronicle "Mansfield budget rounding into form" – 04/18/09
- 32. Chronicle "Mansfield set to unveil clean buses" – 04/09/09
- 33. Chronicle "Spring Weekend gets oversight committee" – 04/20/09
- 34. Mansfield Today "LWV to host update on Storrs Center project..." – 04/20/09
- 35. Mansfield Today "Mansfield has some 'green' school buses" – 04/15/09
- 36. Mansfield Today "Town and university to try new way to..." – 04/20/09
- 37. Mansfield Today "Would cutting fire staff endanger the community?" – 04/14/09

## XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, questioned the progress of negotiations with the unions in Town and asked to be updated on the outcomes.

## XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Koehn requested the issue of separating the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetland Agency be discussed at a future meeting. Deputy Mayor Haddad reported that the bill regarding possible legislation requiring the separation of Planning and Zoning Commissions and Inland Wetland Agencies was no longer under active consideration in the legislature.

Members requested that the issue of determining how advisory committees are functioning be discussed at future meeting.

## XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk