

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
October 13, 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: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Lindsey, Nesbitt, Paulhus

Excused: Paterson, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2009 meetings as corrected. Motion passed. Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2009 Special meeting as presented. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Denise Keane, Atwoodville Road, commented that after listening to a couple of presentations by SGT Kodzis regarding the Resident State Trooper Program and the enforcement of Town Ordinances she has some concerns about the low number of citations issued and the reasons given for that number. Ms. Keane referenced a photo she found on the internet of a State Trooper playing a drinking game with students in Mansfield. (Statement attached)

Ms. Denise Burchsted, Warrenville Road and Executive Director of the Naubesatuck Watershed Council, expressed her interest in joining the Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee, as when she was initially invited she did not understand the scope of water issues that were to be addressed. She believes that bringing water to a location opens up not only that location, but also the whole pathway, to development. She also expressed environmental sustainability concerns that arise when water from one watershed to taken to supply another watershed.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Report attached. Additionally the Town Manager reported that a Request for Qualifications has been issued to conduct a study on present and future policing needs. In response to a question regarding

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the aforementioned photo, the Town Manager noted that he was aware of the photo and that the pictured trooper was not a Mansfield resident trooper or a member of Troop C at the time of the incident.

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to move Item 2 Four Corners Sewer Study Advisory Committee and Item 6 Presentation: Communication Advisory Committee as the next items of business. Motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

Ms. Koehn, Chair of the Committee on Community Quality of Life, moved to modify the composition of the Committee to include two members of the Town Council, one UConn representative and four citizens at-large, for a total of seven members. Seconded by Mr. Paulhus the motion passed unanimously. The eliminated positions are currently vacant.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Mr. Nesbitt reviewed the memo updating the Town Council on the staff's and the Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee's work to date. Mr. Nesbitt noted that the three components of the charge are environmental, maintaining the quality of life and economic development. Committee member Ken Rawn commented the Committee discussed water only in the context of Four Corners. Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following changes to the enabling resolution:

RESOLUTION TO CLARIFY THE ISSUE CHARGE TO THE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE FOR THE FOUR CORNERS SEWER PLANNING  
PROJECT

Whereas, the primary concern of the Town Council in adopting the resolution to establish the Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee was the public health problem in the Four Corners area, specially those problems involving the Department of Environmental Protection;

Whereas, the Committee for the four Corners Sewer Planning Project is specifically limited to Four Corners Sewer area;

Whereas, the provision of water to any part or section of the Town of Mansfield is a town wide concern with a the potential to impact more than the businesses and residents located in the Four Corners Area;

Whereas, the Town of Mansfield economic development plans are considered within the context of Town wide planning and within the constructs of smart growth principles, avoiding the negatives affects of sprawl and the Town Plan of Conservation and Development, Planning and Zoning Commission regulations regarding use and design;

Whereas, more communities are realizing that one of the driving forces behind a sprawl pattern of development is the availability of public sewer and water service and these often costly extensions have been made without considering what consequences they will have on growth, and whether they will generate sprawl.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

A nine-member Four Corners Sewer Study Advisory Committee is established for the term of the Four Corners sewer project (or until it is replaced by a permanent committee or commission by the Council) and is authorized to perform the following charge:

1. The Chairperson shall report activities monthly in person or in writing to the Town Council, the Water Pollution Control Authority, the Planning and Zoning Commission, Sustainability Committee, Conservation Commission, Downtown Partnership staff about sewer or any other planning efforts for the Four Corners area;
2. Coordinate with the Town Council's Finance Committee on any recommendation for the Town's financial participation in the sewer project;
3. Assist with information sharing and public input for the project amongst sewer service area property owners, other interested parties and the Mansfield community;
4. Within the context of Town wide planning and within the construct of smart growth principles, avoiding sprawl, overall town water planning, may discuss ideas regarding possible economic development of the Four Corners area with the Town Council, The Water Pollution Control Authority, the Planning and Zoning Commission, Sustainability Committee, Conservation Commission and the Downtown Partnership;
5. Assist with information sharing and public input for the project amongst sewer service area property owners, other interested parties and the Mansfield community.

Change membership composition as follows:

Two members of the Town Council  
One representative from the Planning and Zoning Commission  
The Town Manager

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One representative from the University of Connecticut  
One representative from the Mansfield Downtown Partnership  
Three citizens (preferably at least one from the Mansfield business community, one representing physical environmental issues, and one representing smart growth principles).

Members discussed the role, priorities and possible consequences of the Advisory Committee's work to date. The issues of the need for complete information, alternatives and the role of other elected and appointed boards and commission were also discussed.

Mr. Nesbitt moved to table the discussion. Seconded by Mr. Paulhus the motion failed with Lindsey, Nesbitt and Paulhus in favor and Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn opposed.

The original motion passed in a show of hands with Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn in favor and Lindsey, Nesbitt and Paulhus opposed.

### 3. November 2009 Bond Referendum

Mr. Nesbitt requested information regarding whether or not the 15% voter turnout requirement for referendum approval contained in the Charter is applicable to those projects that could be approved at Town Meeting or is a simple majority is sufficient. The Town Attorney is reviewing the question.

### 4. Volunteer Driver Program

Mr. Grunwald, Director of Human Services, updated the Town Council on the information he has gathered regarding volunteer driving programs and asked the Council for direction. Mr. Grunwald commented that Coventry has such a program and have hired a part time employee to coordinate the scheduling of passengers and the training and recruitment of volunteer drivers. By consensus the Council agreed that Mr. Grunwald would explore regionalization possibilities including the possibility of joining with Coventry and report back.

### 5. Enforcement of Town Ordinances

Town Council members discussed the information provided in SGT Kodzis presentation regarding the State Trooper program and the enforcement of Town ordinances. A number of questions were raised by members including: the definition of "calls for service"; an explanation of those cases that are referred to UConn; whether the

state law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by minors or the local ordinance is used and why; why a breach of peace infraction is used instead of the noise ordinance; a listing of specific crimes committed by student (UConn and Eastern) and those committed by non-students; and a comparison of current ordinance enforcement statistic compared to last year and the last five years. The Town Manager will review the question with SGT Kodzis and report back to the Council. By consensus the Town Council expressed a desire to hear from other staff members who enforce ordinances.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### 6. Presentation: Communications Advisory Committee

Communication Advisory Committee members Leila Fecho (Chair), Aline Booth and Patrick McGlamery presented a report outlining the Committee's work to date and summarizing the preliminary findings of the survey conducted at the May 2009 Town Meeting for Budget Consideration.

The report (attached) reviewed the vision, mission and goals statements the Committee has developed as well as an update on the progress since the Committee's inception. Those present discussed the possibility of passing an ordinance that would allow the pros and cons to be enumerated prior to a referendum, but by consensus, decided the concept would need to be carefully considered.

Council and Committee members discussed the results of the survey and possible ways to encourage younger citizens to engage in the process. Town Council members thanked the Committee for all their work.

Ms. Fecho asked that the Committee on Committees consider some younger candidates to fill the current Committee openings.

Ms. Koehn asked for an accounting of the number of Q-Notify subscribers.

### 7. Child and Adult Care Food Program

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

Resolved, effective October 13, 2009, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to submit the attached application to the Connecticut Department of Education's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), to help fund the food service operation at

the Mansfield Discovery Depot, and to execute any related grant documents.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Nesbitt.

8. ARRA Overlay Project

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to schedule a public information session for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on October 26, 2009, regarding the ARRA overlay Project for the southernmost portion of Mansfield City Road.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Referencing the minutes of the School Building Committee, Mr. Nesbitt requested that the level of public interest in a one- school option be ascertained prior to spending money to look at a specific site. Council members discussed the role of the Council with regards to this Committee, which is formed under state statutes. The Town Manager stated that all options are still on the table and the School Building Committee will have another joint meeting with the Council and the Board of Education to review their findings.

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

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Duffy, Chair of the Committee on Committees, recommended that Alex Marcellino be appointed to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

None

PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

9. Committee on Committees re: Volunteer Recognition

10. Communications Advisory Committee re: Committee Appointments

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- 11.C. Vincente re: Pool Use Analysis Follow-up - Ms. Koehn expressed her continued concerns regarding the analysis.
- 12.Skate Park – Estimated Operating Budget
- 13.State of CT Office of Policy and Management re: STEAP
- 14.CCM re: FY 2009-10 Adopted State Budget Impact on Mansfield – Mr. Haddad expressed his appreciation to State Representative Denise Merrill for her good service to the Town.
- 15.Eastern CT Workforce Investment Council of Chief Elected Officials Meeting
- 16.Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center re: Federal Arts Project
- 17.Chronicle “Letter to the editor” – 09/28/09
- 18.Chronicle “Mansfield ups fees for center” – 10/01/09
- 19.Chronicle “No extra money for Mansfield” – 10/05/09
- 20.Chronicle “Parking illegally about to get expensive” – 09/29/09
- 21.Chronicle “Report: UConn keeps local police busy” – 10/02/09
- 22.Hartford Courant “Mansfield is only municipality that stands...” – 10/01/09

X. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, commented on her disappointment with the Mansfield Community Center pool usage analysis and objected to the proposed vetting process for volunteers for the Ethics Board. Ms. Wassmundt question Mr. Clouette’s right to speak regarding the Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee as he had previously recused himself from voting and commented that she feels the information presented to the Council about issues is often inadequate.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked for “give and take” during Council meetings and questioned the timely inclusion of minutes in the packets. He also objected to the actions of the Council regarding the Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, called the Four Corner project the only viable economic project in Town. He stated that the Town needs to engage in a debate regarding future growth.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Clouette asked that an update on the energy savings program be presented at a future meeting.

Ms. Koehn would like the Committee on Committees review their requirements for a letter of interest prior to appointment.

Mayor Paterson and Deputy Mayor Haddad offered information regarding an ordinance to be proposed that would guide the Council in ensuring that the principal purpose of the Open Space Fund be maintained. (statement attached)

Mr. Nesbitt and Ms. Lindsey requested a review of the Standard Operating Procedure undertaken when there is a performance issue with a contracted employee.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to recess the meeting and move into Executive Session regarding Personnel in accordance with CGS§1-200(6), 1-214(b)(5)(b)

Motion passed unanimously.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Lindsey, Nesbitt

Personnel in accordance with CGS§1-200(6), 1-214(b)(5)(b)

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in public session. Ms. Duffy moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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