

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

April 12, 2010

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: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2010 regular meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Schaefer who abstained. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2010 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Schaefer who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2010 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING FY 2010/11 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mayor Paterson called the public hearing to order and read the call of the meeting.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, expressed concern with petty spending and questioned credit card spending. (Statement attached)

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, asked the Council to consider five points of concern. (Statement attached)

Harry Birkenruth, Ball Hill Road, expressed his support for the Council's spending and commitment to the Downtown Partnership. (Statement attached)

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked the Council to reduce the budget by \$900,000.

Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, spoke in support of the budget and the Town. (Statement attached)

Kristen Schwab, Willowbrook Road, commented that the Town needs to be positioned to meet the challenges of the future and one of the ways to accomplish this is continued support for the Downtown Partnership.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, urged the Council to control the little expenses noting that the Council represents the people of Mansfield. He stated the Council rules the employees and the citizens rule the Council.

Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, congratulated the Town Manager and the Council in their efforts to keep the budget steady. She urged the Council to

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prioritize the upcoming projects and considers the Four Corners Project to be the most urgent. Ms. Pellegrine stated the Storrs Downtown Project was a good idea in a good economy but it is not the time to continue to pursue a dream when the rest of the Town needs assistance.

Steve Bacon, Wormwood Hill Road, expressed his support of the budget, commenting the Council has done well to craft a balanced budget given the constraints that exist and should be commended for looking at the revenue side of the budget. He urged the Council to continue to support the Downtown Partnership and, as a more long term project, the Four Corners Project.

The public hearing was closed at 8:15 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, expressed his concern and disappointment regarding the editing of the March 22nd Town Council meeting. He questioned whether it was a coincidence that his comments were not broadcasted.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, commented on his concerns regarding the parking garage.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, asked that the Downtown Project be put to a vote and questioned why an ambulance was parked outside the door at Walgreens last week.

Elizabeth Kane, Storrs Road, stated that she was proud of the services the Town offers and urged the Council to prioritize its projects. She counseled the Council not to repeat the redevelopment mistakes of New London.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, stated that she is not opposed to the Downtown Project and asked the Council to make prudent decisions. Ms. Wassmundt noted that at the last Community Quality of Life Committee meeting it was stated that there are about 25 problem rentals in Town.

By consensus the Council agreed to move Item 5, Recognition of Girls 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Teams, as the next item on the agenda.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

Town Manager Matthew Hart announced that after a careful review of the facilities and options the Probate Court will be housed in Tolland. Mr. Hart reported that he would like to discuss citizen/staff relations at an upcoming Council meeting, as recent actions are starting to negatively affect front line employees. The Town Manager distributed a communication from Fire chief Dave Dagon regarding food purchasing using Town issued credit cards. (Communication attached)

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ryan reported the Open Space Preservation Committee has asked the Finance Committee to consider adding one million dollars for open space to the budget and as a referenda question in the fall. This item will be added to the April 15th agenda.

Mayor Paterson noted that a local group, Bill Keane and the Misdemeanor Outlaws, will be appearing at the Main Street Café this Saturday night at 10:00 p.m.

After reviewing the agreement with the Town Attorney, Mr. Kochenburger commented that the agreement is a flat fee agreement which means that standard advice and counsel is not billed back to the Town. The only additional charge would be in the event of a trial or arbitration. Mr. Kochenburger noted the agreement saves money and allows employees to talk to the Town Attorney without worrying about incurring fees.

Mr. Ryan stated that he and the Director of Finance reviewed an email from a citizen which reported exorbitant appraisal costs. Director of Finance Cherie Trahan will present a report but the initial review shows that the Town's cost is less than that of Tolland and about the same as Coventry's.

Ms. Moran noted that contrary to a statement made during public comment, the Community Quality of Life Committee was aware of the number of problem rental residences in Town.

Mr. Haddad stated that comments made earlier by a citizen regarding employees expecting a 3.5% raise failed to take into consideration that last year Town employees generously agreed not to receive any increase in pay.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

Mayor Paterson reported that deputy Chief Chip Jordan recently met with UConn nursing students and over 90 students have agreed to volunteer on Spring Weekend.

Town Manager Matt Hart reviewed a number of steps that will be taken, including parking restrictions and additional DWI spot checks, to enhance law enforcement efforts during Spring Weekend. Mr. Hart also announced this year there will be a unified command post at the UConn police department which will include all primary agencies.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

No Report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Presentation: Design Improvements for the Town of Mansfield Website

Director of Information Technology Jamie Russell presented a preview of the Town's soon to be introduced website. A working copy of the site is available on line. The new site has been designed to be easy to use and appealing, and is an important way to communicate with residents.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to add pending claims (C.G.S § 1-200(6) (b) and personnel (C.G.S § 1-200(6) (a) to the executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Proclamation Commemorating Earth Day 2010

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective April 12, 2010, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation Commemorating Earth Day 2010. (Proclamation attached)
Motion passed unanimously

5. Recognition of Girls 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Teams

Mayor Paterson welcomed the members of the Mansfield Middle School and Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department Girls 7th and 8th grade basketball teams congratulating them on their 2009/10 seasons.

Jay O'Keefe, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, reported not only did the girls have a combined record of 36 wins and no losses; they were also excellent representatives of the community through their hard work, dedication and positive displays of sportsmanship.

Mayor Paterson presented certificates to the team members and to their coach Betsy Parker, who has given countless volunteer hours to the program.

6. Proposed Resolution: Northeastern Connecticut Economic Partnership

Ms. Moran moved that the Town Council endorse the attached resolution regarding the Northeastern Connecticut Economic Partnership. (Resolution attached)

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Fee Schedule for the Riverside Burying Ground

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms Lindsey seconded, effective April 12, 2010, to approve fees for the cremation burial and scattering area adjacent to the Riverside Burying Ground on Gurleyville Road. The fee for a cremation burial shall be \$300 and the fee for a scattering authorization shall be \$175. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Historic Documents Preservation Grant

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved: That Matthew W. Hart, Mansfield Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract

with a the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to recess as the Mansfield Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. WPCA. FY 2009/10 Windham Sewer Budget

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane seconded, effective April 12, 2010, to adopt the FY 2009/10 Windham Sewer Budget as prepared by town staff and endorsed by the Finance Committee

Motion passed unanimously.

10. WPCA, FY 2009/10 UConn Sewer Budget

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded, effective April 12, 2010, to adopt the FY 2009/10 UConn Sewer Budget as prepared by town staff and endorsed by the Finance Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran reported the Community Quality of Life Committee has reviewed the proposed changes to the Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property and members were pleased with the results. Ms. Moran commented that changes to the definition of family will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission as a regulation change allowing existing rental properties to be grandfathered into the regulations. The idea of a student registry has been tabled by the Committee

Ms. Moran offered the following recommendations for appointments as approved by the Committee on Committees:

Darren Cook to the Recreation Advisory Committee
Dennis Roberts to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Committee on Committees, reported that the Committee, after a lengthy review, has agreed not to recommend any changes to the existing policy regarding advisory committees' communications with outside agencies.

Mr. Haddad, Chair of the Personnel Committee, stated the Committee continues to work on the Ethics Ordinance and will present the draft to the Council for their review.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. D. Edens re: Thoughts on Proposed Changes in Zoning Regulations
12. M. Fraenkel re: Gas leaf blowersD. Dagon re: Response to question at the Town Council meeting on 3-22-10
13. M. Hart re: Appointments to Mansfield Youth Counsel Advisory Committee
14. P. McGlamery re: Communication Advisory Committee
15. C. Vincente re: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Award
16. Connecticut Siting Council re: Docket No. 400
17. CCM re: FOIA Request for Salary & Other Information on Municipal Employees
18. Chronicle "District 19 budget up for public hearing on Tuesday" – 03-22-10
19. Chronicle "Mansfield unveils early 2010-11 budget plan" – 03-23-10
20. Chronicle "Ashford takes biggest hit with D19 budget" – 03-24-10
21. Chronicle "Building committee eyes two new school options" – 04-01-10
22. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04-01-10
23. Chronicle "Land buy connects local trails" – 04-03-10
24. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04-07-10
25. Hartford Courant "Mansfield, Willington to preserve 531 acres..." – 03-30-10
26. Mansfield Today "Mansfield Town Council presented with..." – 03-24-10
27. Mansfield Today "2010 Census: Mayor Ernie vs. Mayor Betsy" – 04-01-10

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

No comments

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to recess the meeting and move into executive session.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (d)

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus
Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Planning Gregory Padick

Pending claims and litigation, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (b)

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus
Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren

Personnel, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (a)

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus
Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Kochenburger moved and
Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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