

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
May 24, 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, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer
Excused: Kochenburger, Lindsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2010 Special meeting. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Haddad and Ms. Keane who abstained. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting as amended. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

Fiscal Year 2010 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant
Program Application

Larry Wagner of Wagner Associates and Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola described the proposed Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for the extension of the walkway along South Eagleville Road from the South Eagleville Road/Maple Road intersection to the South Eagleville Road/Separatist Road intersection.

Matt Proser, Sycamore Drive and President of the Glen Ridge Board of Directors, spoke in support of the sidewalk commenting there is no current avenue to get from Glen Ridge to the Community Center.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, disagrees that Glen Ridge does not have a dedicated sidewalk as there is a dirt road connecting that area to Maple Road. Mr. Freudmann feels there is much more traffic between Knollwood apartments and UConn.

Ida Millman, Sycamore Drive, would like to see a stop sign at the intersection of South Eagleville, Sycamore, and Separatist Roads and asked if the proposed sidewalk would be cut into the bank along the side of the road.

Nancy Cox, Lynwood Road, supports the sidewalk noting that she and her family often use the Separatist Road bike path which currently leads to

nowhere. Construction of this section would complete the path way to the Community Center and to the high school.

Bob Kremer, Administrator to Glen Ridge, expressed his gratefulness to the Town Manager and staff for pursuing this application. Mr. Kremer pointed out that many seniors no longer drive and consequently need a safe way to get to the downtown area.

Chuck Boster, Sycamore Drive, spoke in support of the proposed sidewalk. Mr. Boster commented that recently he saw two people in scooters driving along the side of the road.

Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, has no problem with sidewalks but questioned whether or not this is the best use of Town funds. She asked that the Council prioritize all planned projects. Ms. Pellegrine urged the Council to make the Four Corners water and sewer project the highest priority as conditions are deteriorating and sewer and water would provide an opportunity for economic development.

Mike Siskoski, Wildwood Road, is neutral on the issue of the sidewalk although he noted the sidewalk across the street is not being used.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, is also neutral on the sidewalk but asked Council members to consider their priorities prior to making a decision. Ms. Wassmundt questioned why the sightline coming out of Glen Ridge was not addressed by the developer.

Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, clarified some issues stating that the Town does have a priority list with only 4 or 5 top priority projects not funded. Mr. Hultgren reported the proposed crossover will be an enhanced walkway crossing.

Larry Armstrong, Sycamore Drive, described the hazard of exiting from the Glen Ridge drive. Mr. Armstrong noted that the current bike path is used extensively and an extension of that path would be beneficial to all, especially during the winter months.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, feels the project should be based on objective criteria, like a traffic study.

Ida Millman, Sycamore Drive, suggested that once the walk way is built pedestrian access to the road could be limited.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, asked the Town to modify the 20 year band and begin spraying to kill the poison ivy which is growing everywhere.

Jane Fried, Olsen Drive, discussed the relationship between the Town and the University and urged the Council to reconsider this relationship and to raise the conversation to something that approaches equity.

Charles Boster, Sycamore Drive, commented that there were no agenda available for the public. Mr. Boster expressed his interest in exploring more about the position of sustainability coordinator mentioned in the April 16, 2010 minutes of the Regionalism Ad Hoc Committee.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, expressed concern with a letter included in the Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration handout that he feels urged support for the budget. He stated that this is a misuse of Town funds.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, agreed with Mr. Sikoski's premise regarding advocating for the budget using Town Funds, urged the Council to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked that the Ethics Ordinance adequately reflects what the citizens want.

By consensus the Council moved Item 1, application for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for Sidewalk Project, as the next item of business.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

The Town Manager reported that the qualifications of 5 consulting firms have been reviewed by the Ad Hoc Regionalism Committee with regards to the proposed police study. The Town Manager will begin working on a more formal RFP.

Mr. Hart reported the search for the Senior Center Coordinator has been narrowed down to three finalists.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Keane commented that the last line in the budget letter, earlier referred to by Mr. Sikoski, did not show that three members voted against the budget. Ms. Keane also asked if arrangements have been made for

clinical supervision for the Senior Center Social Worker. The Town Manager will report back.

Mr. Schaefer queried as to the current status of President Hogan's Spring Weekend Task Force.

Mr. Paulhus reported that he and Mr. Kochenburger attended the little league opening ceremonies and that Mr. Kochenburger threw the opening pitch. Mr. Paulhus also urged Council members to participate in the Memorial Day Parade.

Mayor Paterson attended the White House celebration in honor of the UConn Women's basketball team commenting that it was a wonderful opportunity and experience.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Application for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for Sidewalk Project

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, federal monies are available under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C §5301, et. Seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Development Block Grant Program; and WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Mansfield make an application to the State for \$225,000 in order to undertake and carryout a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the C.G.S.
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Mansfield in an amount not to exceed \$225,000 is

hereby approved and that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, to carryout approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Mansfield.

The Director of Public Works will look at the existing cross walk to see if any enhanced crossing protections could be added to the project.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. PZC Referral: Draft Zoning Revisions Regarding Definitions of Family and Boarding House

Council member discussed the effects, intended and unintended, of this proposed revision on student housing and urged monitoring of the outcomes.

3. Community/Campus Relations

Town Manager Matt Hart attended the USDA presentation on the animal research facility proposed for the Depot Campus commenting that staff will continue to monitor its progress.

4. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Four Corner Sewer and Water Advisory Committee will be meeting on June 1, 1010 in room C at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

Motion passed unanimously

5. WPCA, Four Corners Water/Sewer Project Design

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

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON THE DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED FOUR CORNER AREA SEWER SYSTEM.

RESOLVED, That the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, acting in its capacity as the Town's Water Pollution Control Authority, hold a public hearing at the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, 4 South Eagleville Road, in the Town of Mansfield, on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 7:30 PM to consider the advisability of the design of the proposed Four Corners area sewer system, which public hearing the Town Council hereby authorized the Mayor to call.

Haddad, Keane, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan and Schaefer voted in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Haddad moved to adjourn as the Water Pollution Control Authority and reconvene as the Mansfield Town Council. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Revisions to Ethics Ordinance

Deputy Mayor Haddad, Chair of the Personnel Committee, thanked the Ethics Board for their work, commenting that the Ethics Board had offered substantial revisions to the original ordinance which were then built upon by the Personnel Committee in this latest draft.

Ms. Moran asked that an appeal process be indentified in the list of subjects to be discussed.

Members discussed the level of financial disclosure to be required of elected officials and staff.

Mr. Haddad asked members to read through the draft, noting the Committee's comments, and to contact him with any suggestions. The Personnel Committee will then forward the draft to the Town Attorney for review prior to submitting the draft to the Council as a whole.

7. North Eagleville Road Sidewalk Project

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective May 24, 2010, to schedule a public hearing for 7:45 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on June 14, 2010, to solicit public comment regarding the North Eagleville Road sidewalk project.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Dog Lane/Bundy Lane Parcel

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective May 24, 2010, to schedule a public hearing for 8:00 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on June 14, 2010, to solicit public comment regarding the proposal from the UConn Foundation to transfer ownership of the Dog Lane/Bundy Lane parcel to the Town of Mansfield.

Also, effective May 24, 2010, to refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and comment the proposal from the UConn Foundation to transfer ownership of the Dog Lane/Bundy Lane parcel to the Town of Mansfield.

Motions passed unanimously.

9. Reappointment of Council Member to Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Keane seconded to re-appoint Christopher Paulhus to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors for a term to begin July 1, 2010 and to end June 30, 2013.

Mr. Ryan clarified the motion by adding, "...for as long as he remains a member of the Town Council."

Accepted as a friendly amendment the motion was passed by all except Councilor Paulhus who abstained.

10. Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to authorize Town Manager Matthew Hart to execute the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant application which purpose is to support the provision of fire protection and emergency services within the Town of Mansfield.
Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Ryan and Ms. Lindsey attended the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting during which the senior transportation volunteer coordinator was discussed. The program should be up and running in July.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Committee on Committee's offered the following names for recommendations:

Patrick McGlamery reappointment to the Communication Advisory Committee,
Leila Fecho appointment as an alternate on the Communication Advisory Committee,
Kevin Grunwald reappointment to the Regional Community Council,
Tom Ward appointment to the Building Board of Appeals
Bill Briggs appointment as an alternate to the Housing Board of Appeals
David Spencer appointment as an alternated to the Housing Board of Appeals
Sarah Milius appointment to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Motion to approve the nominations passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran recommended Joan Buck be appointed to the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Moran thanked the members of the Committee for all their work. The Communication Advisory Committee is still in dire need of volunteers. If any one has any suggestions please contact a member of the Committee.

Deputy Mayor Haddad, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported the Committee is making excellent progress on all the issues with which they have been charged, including the ethics ordinance, rules of procedures, personnel policies and open and transparent government policies.

Mr. Paulhus complimented Ms. Pellegrine on her service as moderator for the Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration. The rest of the Council members concurred.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11.C. Jennings re: Walkway Extension

12.C. Melehy re: Walkway Extension

13.E. Robinson re: Walkway Extension

14. Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

15. Update and Discussion on the Impervious Cover TMDL Project

16. State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development re: PILOT Program FY 2009-2010

17. National League of Cities re: Membership Renewal

18. Chronicle "Mansfield taxes not likely to decrease" – 05-01-10
19. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 05-07-10
20. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 05-08-10
21. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 05/10/10
22. Chronicle "Meeting might not be budget's last stand" – 05/10/10
23. Chronicle "Council approves parking ordinance" – 05-11-10
24. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 05-11-10
25. Chronicle "Letters to the Editor" – 05-12-10
26. Chronicle "Mansfield OKs spending plan by wide margin" – 05-12-10
27. Chronicle "Mansfield festival garners award" – 05-13-10
28. Chronicle "Officials surprised over UC president's departure" – 05-13-10
29. Mansfield Today "Storrs Farmers Market at Town Hall May 8" – 05-08-10
30. Mansfield Today "Only 227 voters show up for Mansfield budget..." – 05-12-10

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, spoke in favor of having Councilors recite the Pledge of Allegiance, wondered as to the value of the Bundy Lane piece, and stated that the financial investments of Council members are of no interest to her.

Dave Freudmann, Eastwood Road, stated his objection to the Town acquiring the Bundy Lane property from the UConn Foundation.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

The School Building Project will be added to a future agenda.
Mr. Schaefer requested the University of Connecticut be invited to have a discussion regarding the current enrollment strategy.
Spring Weekend will be added to a future agenda.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

May 24, 2010