

November 22, 2010

To: Mansfield Town Council
From: Betty Wassmundt

RE: Committee on Committees meeting held on Nov. 15th 2010.

I received no META mail notice of this meeting. I request a very specific explanation as to why.

The topics for this meeting were possibly controversial and would be known to be of interest to certain members of the public, myself included, therefore I request written proof from the Town Manager that this meeting actually was properly noticed.

I request that, starting immediately, all meetings of the Town Council, Town Council committees and Planning & Zoning Commission be noticed on the front page of the town website on the day they are to occur.

RE: Board of Ethics.

There is an opening on this Board. I request that this opening be advertised so that it's open and available to all interested parties to apply.

In the interest of "Open, Transparent Government", I request that all committee vacancies be listed on the front page of the town website beginning immediately.

RE: Pay Raises.

I urge you to vote NO to any additional pay raises for town employees. How can you justify giving pay raises in this economic climate? The public is going to have to bail out the State and the Federal Government. Mansfield employees already are well paid and have outstanding benefits. We have twice as many employees as does Coventry and Coventry functions perfectly well. Our democratic governor-elect recognizes the need to control the cost of government. You need to cut the cost of Mansfield's government.

Mansfield is controlled by the Democratic party but you're not the traditional democratic party; you're the party of, by and for the public employee. Just take a look at who you are – all public employees – but one of you. It's time public employees realize what a good deal they have and stop being so greedy. It's the private sector that creates the wealth that supports you all. The private sector is struggling to survive and can not afford the increasing cost of the public employee. This cost is not sustainable, to use your buzz word. Vote No to pay raises, all pay raises.

RE: Leyland Alliance contract.

Education Realty Trust has announced that it signed an agreement with the University of Connecticut in September. I read that you will make available the secretive Leyland alliance contract soon. Please provide the contract between EDR and Uconn and between Leyland Alliance aka Storrs Center Alliance and Uconn. It is critical to have these contracts prior to assessing the proposed contract with Mansfield and Leyland alliance. The public needs this information and I would like to know that you know it. Thank you.

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: November 22, 2010
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Departmental/Division News

- *Human Services*
 - *Volunteer Driver Program* – After many months of planning and development the Volunteer Driver Program is now up and running. This new program is available to all residents of Mansfield age 60 and older, and rides are provided both locally and out-of-town to a variety of destinations. While there is no charge for rides, donations are accepted to help to support program expenses. At this time priority will be given to individuals who need rides to medical appointments locally, but we will expand this as more drivers become available. We currently have twelve drivers who have been cleared to participate, and we will continue to be looking for more. Volunteers may drive their own vehicle, or may use one of the Town's cars for this program. If you use your own car, mileage reimbursement will be offered. If you are interested in volunteering your time as a driver, or if you need a ride, please call Gianna at 429-0262, X 12. At this time we expect that we will need at least 48 hours notice for any trips, so please leave a message on the voicemail and Gianna will get back to you to finalize plans for your trip. Thank you for supporting this important new program!
 - *Senior Center Veteran's Day Celebration* – The Senior Center hosted their annual Veteran's Day Celebration on November 10th. The event was attended by more than 120 individuals including Mayor Paterson and Council members Moran, Lindsey, Paulhus and Schaeffer. We wish to extend our great appreciation for the donations from Angellino's Restaurant, Willington Pizza and several individual donors that helped to make this year's program a success.
- *Parks and Recreation*
 - *Mansfield Marlins* - The Mansfield Marlins (the Community Center swim team) had a meet on Tuesday, November 16th. Everyone was very excited and had a great time. This program is very popular with over 70 participants in each of two sections (based on swim experience).
 - *Open House* - We had a very successful Family Open House on November 14th. People came and tried classes, got information and some even joined the Center. We estimate that there were about 200 people here throughout the afternoon.
 - *Winter Brochure* - The Parks and Recreation Winter brochure will be mailed out Thanksgiving weekend. Registration for members for aquatics and fitness programs begins on November 29th. Registration for residents for other programs begins on December 4th, and non-member, non-resident registration begins on December 9th.
- Town Manager's Office
 - *Facebook Page* – The Town of Mansfield now has a [Facebook](#) page! We hope our presence on Facebook will increase awareness of local issues and public participation among all, particularly the growing younger demographic that commonly looks to social networking sites as a source of information. Check it out and "like" our page!

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Storrs Center*
 - The Town has retained the Rocky Hill office of Desman Associates to provide planning, design, and engineering services for the Storrs Center parking garage. Funding for the garage has been obtained through a state grant. The availability of efficient and economical parking is

critical to the Storrs Center project and the parking facility will be one of the first structures built to accommodate the visitors and residents in Phase 1 of Storrs Center. The garage will be built in coordination with an intermodal center that will focus on providing alternative means of transportation to Storrs Center including local, University of Connecticut, and regional bus service. The parking garage and Phase 1A are scheduled to open in the summer of 2012. Phase 1A includes 125 rental apartments and 30,000 square feet of commercial space on the north side of Dog Lane. Desman Associates will provide architectural, engineering, and construction administration services for the parking structure and its interface with adjacent and adjoining project components including transit-related facilities for bus passengers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and car sharing. Desman Associates is a leading national specialist in transportation improvements and the planning, design, and construction administration of parking facilities. Since its inception in 1973, the company has provided public, private, and institutional clients in the United States and abroad with planning, design, and restoration services for over 5,500 parking projects. Desman currently has eight offices throughout the country including Connecticut and Boston, which comprise the New England division.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, November 23, 2010, 10:30AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, November 23, 2010, 10:30AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, November 23, 2010, 2:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, December 1, 2010, 1:15PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, December 1, 2010, 5:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Town Council Meeting, December 1, 2010, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, December 2, 2010, 4:00PM, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office
- Ethics Board, December 2, 2010, 4:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Community Quality of Life Committee, December 2, 2010, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, December 6, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, December 7, 2010, 7:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, December 8, 2010, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, December 9, 2010, 4:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Board of Education, December 9, 2010, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, December 13, 2010, 5:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, December 13, 2010, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the Town Calendar or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*

Again, I believe the Pledge of Allegiance is rote:

Because no-one understands all the terms it involves,
Because its origins should be highly suspect (Francis Bellamy was, horrid of horrids, a socialist!*)

To some it may seem as an inspiration, despite not knowing all that it contains. But we have seen, in other matters, when we do not know something, something unexpected can happen. In this case, there are a few of us who, not knowing anything about us, assume we are not as patriotic as they are.

But to repeat a Pledge they do not fully understand, is not patriotism. It is a fake patriotism. Mere words cannot make a patriot. Especially in these climes, when the words were written by a socialist!

I mean! Land o' Goshen!

Carl Schaefer

Nov. 17 or so/10

*He was also the brother of Edward Bellamy, who wrote "Looking Backwards" (1888): A novel based on a man who slept until 2000, and all that happened there. I read it years ago (not in 1888), and it's good. It was a best seller.