

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
February 14, 2011

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran 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: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro
Excused: Paterson, Schaefer

Deputy Mayor Moran requested a moment of silence be observed for two members of the community who recently passed away. Gary Zimmer, known for his positive attitude and sense of fairness, served on the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission and was a member of the University/Town Relations Committee. Ray Elliot was a long time member of the maintenance staff at the Mansfield Middle School. The Deputy Mayor noted what an important role the maintenance staff plays in the life of students.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2011 Special meeting as presented. The motion was approved with all in favor except Mr. Shapiro who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed Open Space Acquisition – Penner Property, White Oak Drive/Jonathan Lane/Fieldstone Drive

Jim Morrow, Chair of the Open Space Preservation Committee, and Jennifer Kaufman, Parks Coordinator and staff to the Committee, described the parcel under consideration and reported that the purchase is supported by the Plan of Conservation and Development, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Open Space Preservation Committee.

Roger Roberge Jr., owner of 66 White Oak Road, questioned which endangered species live on the land under consideration. Mr. Roberge also requested the affordable housing covenant on 66 White Road be removed, and if not, asked the Town to purchase the property. Statement attached.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, is in support of the purchase but asked that the accessibility to the fragile habitat be limited.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, offered his five minutes to Mr. Roberge for additional comments.

Jim Morrow, Chair of the Open Space Preservation Committee, commented the DEP does not allow the specific types of endangered species in any given area to be released and noted there are several Town owned properties in fragile areas which currently limit public access.

Town Manager Matt Hart reported the affordable housing covenant on 66 White Oak Road is a Planning and Zoning Commission issue which has been discussed. Mr. Hart will report back to the Council with the details of the situation.

Deputy Mayor Moran closed the public hearing.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

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Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, offered her impressions of the Council's budget session held on February 12, 2011 and asked for an analysis of the one million gallons a day projected water usage which might be required for area projects.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, expressed his disagreement with letters in the packet thanking the Public Works Department for their efforts. He commented on a complaint received by Council members regarding a confrontation between a citizen and a Town snow plow driver. Mr. Sikoski stated that he was the person who called the DEP regarding the salt storage situation at the town garage.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, asked the Council to look at the budget from a multi year perspective and to start to plan for some of the upcoming expenses.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

The Town Manager reported that he has spoken to the Director of Public Works about the incident between the snow plow driver and a citizen and will report back to the Council. Mr. Hart will be testifying at the Capitol tomorrow in support of a bill submitted by Representative Haddad which will clarify the ability of accredited police departments in a given area to enforce Town ordinances. Mr. Hart suggested a discussion of Masonicare's projected water requirements and the Town's long term support of the project be added to the next Council agenda.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Kochenburger commented on the Town's recent recognition as a healthy workplace noting the accomplishments of the Town in this area have resulted in direct savings to the Town. The benefits derived from the Community Center are both social and physical.

Mr. Shapiro asked if the proposed bill regarding accredited police departments has the support of the UConn Police Department. Mr. Hart will update the Council regarding the meeting between the University and Representative Haddad.

Mr. Paulhus thanked Boy Scout Troop 56 for serving as the color guard at the Presidents' Day event prior to the meeting. Council members requested a letter of thanks from the Council be sent.

Mr. Ryan reported the Region 19 production of Hairspray was amazing.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to move Item 5, Presentation: Sustainability Committee, as the next item of business.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Proposed Open Space Acquisition – Penner Property, White Oak Drive/Jonathan Lane/Fieldstone Drive

Ms. Keane moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded, effective February 14, 2011, to authorize the Town to bid to purchase the Penner property located between White Oak Drive, Jonathan Lane and Fieldstone Drive, at the tax sale scheduled for April 13, 2011 or as it may be rescheduled, in an amount not to exceed the total tax delinquencies plus auction expenses and attorney's fees, and after the redemption period expires, to acquire it as open space and cancel its tax claims against the property as provided by law. Motion passed unanimously.

3. UConn Landfill, Long-Term Monitoring Program

The report has been reviewed by the Director of Health who found no issues of concern.

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4. Town Easement – Storrs Road Improvements - Revision

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, be, and hereby is authorized to sign the easement entitled "EASEMENT (Storrs Center – Town of Mansfield)," which easement will convey for highway purposes approximately 9,088 square feet of land along the west side of Storrs Road in the vicinity of the Audrey P. Beck Building to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, together with a right to install a sedimentation control system and a right to grade.
The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Presentation: Sustainability Committee

Lyn Stoddard, Chair of the Sustainability Committee and Virginia Walton, staff to the Committee, reported on the activities the Committee has undertaken during their first year and a half and outlined the priorities they have identified for the future.

6. Grant Application – Wheelchair Accessible Van for Elderly/Disabled

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective February 14, 2011, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart to submit a grant application to the State Department of Transportation to purchase a wheel chair-accessible van for elderly/disabled transportation.
Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Keane will forward some grant opportunities to assist with the matching fund requirements to Director of Human Services Kevin Grunwald.

7. Hunting Lodge Bikeway/Salt Shed Authorization

Ms. Lindsey moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, in accordance with Sections 406 and 407 of the Town Charter, the Town Council hereby reapproves the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$105,250 For Construction Of The Hunting Lodge Road Bikeway/Walkway, And Authorizing The Issue Of Bonds, Notes And Temporary Notes In The Same Amount To Finance The Appropriation" as originally adopted by the Town Council at meeting held August 24, 2009 and approved by the voters of the Town at referendum held November 3, 2009.
Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, in accordance with Sections 406 and 407 of the Town Charter, the Town Council hereby reapproves the resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$263,130 For Construction Of A Salt Storage Shed To Be Located At The Mansfield Public Works Department Complex, And Authorizing The Issue Of Bonds, Notes And Temporary Notes In The Same Amount To Finance The Appropriation" as originally adopted by the Town Council at meeting held August 24, 2009 and approved by the voters of the Town at referendum held November 3, 2009.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. Amendment to Fee Waiver Ordinance – Senior Center Programs

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective February 14, 2011, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on February 28, 2011, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendment to the Fee Waivers Ordinance, which amendment would add senior center fees as a fee that may be waived pursuant to the provisions of the ordinance.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 2001 CSEA – Professional-Technical Employees

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Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective February 14, 2011, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Local 2001, CSEA – Professional & Technical Employees, which agreement shall enter into effect on July 1, 2010 and expire on June 30, 2013.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Lindsey, member of the Parking Steering Committee, reported that a draft cooperative agreement among the private and public owners of parking areas surrounding the Storrs Center Project is being discussed. The agreement would address enforcement of parking regulations.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

10. A. Blair re: Public Works Department
11. C. Eaton re: Public Works Department
12. T. Haggerty re: A Statement of Position Regarding Spring Weekend
13. Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities re: South Eagleville Road walkway
14. Agriculture Committee re: Agriculture Committee Initiatives Report
15. Inland Wetland Agency re: Mansfield's IWA Approval
16. Planning and Zoning Commission re: Mansfield's PZC Approval
17. A. Bloom re: Subdivision Regulations
18. G. Padick re: Zoning Permit Applicant, Storrs Center Phases 1A and 1B
19. Top Ten Taxpayers, October 1, 2010 Grand List
20. State of CT, Department of Economic and Community Development re: Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals List
21. State of CT, Office of the Probate Court Administrator re: Probate Court Facilities Report
22. CCM re: CCM-member dues for FY 2011-12
23. CCM re: Education Funding Recommendations Sent to State Board of Education
24. CCM Hails Governor for Commitment to ECS Funding
25. The Connecticut Forum – “The End of Civility?”
26. Connecticut Republic re: Notice of lawful and peaceful assembly
27. The Business Council of Fairfield County Launches Award for Healthy Workplaces
28. Chronicle “PZC OKs center permit” – 01/20/11
29. Chronicle “Letters to the editor” – 01/21/11
30. Chronicle “Longtime planner to retire” – 01/21/11
31. Chronicle “UConn Spring Weekend report: Stop the insanity” – 01/21/11
32. Chronicle “Letter to the Editor” – 01/24/11
33. Chronicle “Mansfield mulls report for Four Corners water” – 01/24/11

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34. Chronicle "We offer these threads, needles" – 01/24/11
35. Chronicle "Mansfield Four Corners: Two towns may collaborate for water source" – 01/25/11
36. Chronicle "Deadline coming for Masonicare" – 01/26/11
37. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 01/26/11
38. Chronicle "School decision deadline looms" – 01/27/11
39. Chronicle "Students: Spring Weekend moratorium will be difficult" – 01/29/11
40. Chronicle "Storrs project is up for hearing" – 01/31/11
41. Chronicle "We offer these threads, needles" – 01/31/1141
42. Chronicle "Storrs Center hearing postponed" – 02/01/11
43. Chronicle "Shapiro replaces Haddad on town council" – 02/03/11
44. Chronicle "Several dozen turn out for Storrs Center PZC hearing" – 02/04/11
45. Chronicle "Storrs Center easements granted" – 02/04/11
46. Chronicle "Town of Mansfield is a safe place to work" – 02/07/11
47. Chronicle "Mansfield is ready to celebrate wintertime" – 02/08/113
48. Chronicle "Pool water drained by accident" – 02/09/11
49. Chronicle "Storrs Center close to key approval" – 02/09/117
50. Hartford Courant "UConn Task Force Recommends 'Voluntary Moratorium' On Spring Weekend" – 01/20/11
51. Nation's Cities Weekly "Downtown New London Reaches for New Heights with Help from NLC's America Downtown Program" – 01/17/11

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Kochenburger requested the school options be referred to by their descriptions (one-school, two school, etc.)

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Given the absence of two Councilors, the Council agreed to postpone the scheduled executive session until March 14, 2011.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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