

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
April 11, 2011

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2011 Special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2011 meeting with an addition. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger and Mr. Schaefer who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2011 minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane, Mr. Kochenburger, and Mr. Schaefer who all abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed Fiscal Year 2011/12 Budget

Mayor Paterson called the public hearing to order and asked the Clerk to read the call.

Brian Anderson, Ridge Road, reported there is an obnoxious student party house in the Lynwood Road area. Mr. Anderson submitted a letter from a neighbor outlining the events of last Saturday night. He asked the Council to include sufficient money in the budget for police protection, education and the volunteer fire fighters. (Letter attached)

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked the Council to look for efficiencies in the budget and questioned the arrangements the Town has with a number of agencies regarding provided services. (Letter attached)

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, questioned the estimated price of the new ambulance commenting that on the internet he saw ambulances for less money. He inquired as to what is done with the old ambulance.

The public hearing closed at 7:55 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Jane Ann Bobbitt, Atwoodville Road, asked the Council to consider any means possible to bring Assisted Living for Mansfield forward. Ms. Bobbitt urged the Council to assist any organization who might be interested in a project in the south end of Town where water and sewer exist. (Statement attached)

Sharry Goldman, Browns Road, stated that there is an urgent need in Town for an Assisted Living Project. Ms. Goldman outlined six pressing concerns. (Statement attached)

Matt Proser, Sycamore Drive, entered a letter to the editor into the record outlining the need for an Assistant Living Project. (Letter to the Editor attached)

Ron Baker, Storrs Road, thanked the Council members for their service to the Town.

Bruce Goldman, Browns Road, spoke in support of the comments of others who are requesting reevaluating where we are in the Assisted Living Project. Mr. Goldman believes the project does not have to be near the Town Center or University.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, added her support to the statements made by others regarding the Assisted Living Project. Ms. Wassmundt also questioned the calculations for the proposed raise for the Town Manager. (Statement attached)

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, questioned the Council's enforcement of the Town Council Rules of Procedures regarding the time limit for public comment.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ryan reminded members of the Pantherpalooza to be held on May 14, 2011 and invited all to join in the fun.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager updated the Council on plans to mitigate the impact of student partying for the next few weekends. Staff has been meeting with the State Police, Representatives of the University and area landlords. Apartment managers have sent out letters outlining behavior expectations including registering all guest; the University administration and Student Government have agreed that no guest will be allowed on Spring Weekend and Mansfield's Emergency Management Committee will be meeting to finalize plans.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Compensation for Town Manager

Mr. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to increase the Town Manager's annual salary by 1.5% retroactive to July 1, 2010 and by an additional 1.5% retroactive to January 1, 2011, for an aggregate increase of 2.25% for fiscal year 2010/11. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Appointment of Auditor to Conduct Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2010/11

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan reported that the Committee endorsed this appointment and moved, effective April 11, 2010, to appoint Blum Shapiro and Company, PC to conduct the financial audit for Fiscal Year 2010/2011. Motion passed unanimously.

Council members agreed to complete the other items of business prior to discussing the budget.

5. Proposed Fiscal Year 2011/12 Budget

Director of Finance Cherie Trahan and Town Manager Matt Hart discussed the Town's revenues and updated the Council regarding their recent meeting with a staff member of the State Office of Fiscal Analysis. Ms. Trahan explained the complexity of the Pilot and Pequot formulas.

Flag – Staff will provide the statutory language describing the formulas.

Flag - Staff will review and clarify the wording regarding "Postage on Overdue Books."

Flag – Estimated Tax Warrant and Levy for Region 19 will be updated to reflect current budget totals.

IX. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Quarterly Reports will be added to the next agenda for discussion.

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Keane requested an update on the Ethics Board's request to meet with the Personnel Committee to discuss the Ethics Ordinance. Toni Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, responded that once a draft amending the code has been developed the Committee will share the draft with the Board of Ethics prior to bring it to the Council.

Council members asked questions regarding the coordination of the physical design of the parking garage being discussed by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership's Planning and Design Committee and the parking management plan which is being developed by the Town's Parking and Steering Committee. The Town Manager will arrange a meeting of the two entities.

Ms. Keane questioned why the Council was not privy to the remarks of a member of the Board of Education as presented to the Sustainability Committee at their February meeting.

The Town Manager will provide more information regarding the relocation cost for the restaurant which is not relocating in the Storrs Center project and will provide the Council with a copy of the proposed changes to the 2004 development agreement between the Partnership and Storrs Center Alliance.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Bill Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee reported the Committee reviewed the comments of the auditors regarding the fund balance amounts and that the Director of Finance will revise the current policy to reflect the agreed upon changes. Some additional suggestions of the auditors will also be addressed.

Chair of the Community Quality of Life Committee Toni Moran reported the Committee met with Fire Chief Dave Dagon to discuss how best to respond to Spring Weekend festivities and decided to table the ordinance regarding large gatherings.

XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

6. Communications Advisory Committee re: Recent Communications L. Hultgren re: Demolition of the former UConn Publications Building
7. J. Kodzis re: Firearms Training
8. G. Padick re: Request to extend Water Supply Plan comment period State of Connecticut re: HEARTSafe Community
9. CCM re: CCM Day on the Hill
10. CIRMA re: Members' Equity Distribution
11. Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials re: House Bill 5782
12. Brecht Associates, Inc. – Market Study Executive Summary for the Town of Mansfield

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Those items identified at previous meetings will be scheduled.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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