

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
July 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, Shapiro
Excused: Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2011 meeting with corrections. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger and Mr. Ryan who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. An Ordinance to Prevent Neighborhood Nuisances

Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien and Director of Building and Housing Inspection Mike Ninteanu reviewed the history of the proposed ordinance and noted its passage will send a message to the community that the Town is serious about addressing bad behavior in our neighborhoods.

Cynara Stites, Hanks Hill Road, thanked the Council for proposing the ordinance. As a neighbor to a problem rental unit, Ms. Stites is hopeful enforcement of the ordinance will bring peace to herself and her neighbors.

Judith Kucharski, Highland Road, commented that she is grateful for the Council's efforts and hopeful that enacting the proposed ordinance will be beneficial for all residents. Ms. Kucharski noted that noise and other disruptive behaviors are not strictly a student issue.

Jim Knox, Birch Road, expressed support for the ordinance and thanked Ms. Moran and the Community Quality of Life Committee for their work. Mr. Knox stated that for the last 20 or so years certain neighborhoods in Town have been under assault by rabble rousers and he is glad to see regulatory action enacted to curb some of this behavior.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, stated that while he is appreciative of the efforts to deal with student behavior he feels the proposed ordinance is misguided and he does not want it to affect him.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, is in agreement with the intent of the proposed ordinance but questioned why it is necessary as most of the items listed are already illegal under existing statutes.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, spoke in opposition to the proposal as there is no provision for equitable enforcement. Statement attached.

Cynara Stites, Hanks Hill Road, responded to comments regarding enforcement of the ordinance stating that the State Police have the ability to judge the magnitude of a given nuisance.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, raised a number of concerns. Statement attached.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, discussed his concerns with the proposed Ethics Ordinance. Statement attached.

July 11, 2011

By consensus the Council agreed to move Item 4, Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge Presentation, as the next item of business.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report Town Manager Matt Hart noted Masonicare has purchased the property on Maple Road and a meeting with EDR is in the process of being scheduled for the second meeting in August. The Town Manager thanked all who attended the ground breaking for the Storrs Center Project and wished Mayor Paterson a very happy birthday.

In response to a question regarding the potential impact on the Town if the Bergin Correctional Facility is closed, Mr. Hart commented that while local job losses may negatively impact the community as long as the property is state owned and designated for use as a correctional facility there should be no significant short term impact.

Mr. Ryan requested a response to the petition submitted regarding other assisted living developers and possible sites be added to a future Council agenda.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson acknowledged the death of Matt Hurlock and extended the Council's condolences to the family. Mr. Hurlock was an EOSmith graduate and lived and coached in Coventry.

Mayor Paterson read a letter of congratulations from the National League of Cities regarding the Storrs Center ground breaking event.

Ms. Moran clarified that the proposed nuisance ordinance applies to all residents of Mansfield and even though many of the items listed are already illegal the ordinance provides a mechanism for quick and predictable enforcement. The proposed fines are the maximum allowed by law.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. An Ordinance to Prevent Neighborhood Nuisances

Mr. Shapiro moved to suspend the Town Council Rules of Procedures and proceed immediately to consideration of the Ordinance to Prevent Neighborhood Nuisances.

Seconded by Mr. Ryan the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adopt the Ordinance to Prevent Neighborhood Nuisances as presented at the July 11, 2011 meeting of the Council. Said ordinance shall become effective 21 days after publication in newspaper having a circulation in the Town.

Motion passed unanimously.

Council members acknowledged the efforts of the Community Quality of Life Committee and thanked the Town Attorney and the Director of Housing and Building Inspection for developing an ordinance which is enforceable.

3. Community/Campus Relations.

The Town Manager and staff are in the process of reviewing the draft police study with many of the stakeholders. Feedback from these meetings will be presented to the Council in early fall. An after action review of Spring Weekend 2011 will be conducted at the end of the month the results of which will be submitted to the Council for review.

Preparations are underway for the fall semester with meetings with the largest rental land owners being planned and community visitations being organized by the Community Campus Partnership.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Neighborhood to Neighborhood Energy Challenge Presentation

Madeline Priest, Clean Energy Organizer, described the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge Program, their work in the Town of Mansfield and the rewards programs

available. A workshop will be held on September 14, 2011 in the Community Center. More information on the program is available at www.ctenergychallenge.com

5. Acceptance of Extension of Monticello Lane

Ms. Lindsey moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective July 11, 2011, to accept the extension of Monticello Lane as part of the Town's road system. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Revisions to Ethics Ordinance

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reviewed the history of the proposed changes to the Ethics Ordinance and discussed the provisions of §25-6 C.4 regarding employees of the University of Connecticut. Attorney Dennis O'Brien summarized the definition of "political activity" added to the draft. The Personnel Committee agreed to review this addition at their next meeting. Members discussed the necessity of referring the proposed ordinance to the Ordinance Development and Review Committee. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective July 11, 2011, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on September 12, 2011 to solicit public comment regarding proposed revisions to the Ethics Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Central Corridor Rail Coalition Resolution

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS, undue reliance upon particular modes of passenger transportation and the neglect of others leads to inefficiencies, delays and wasteful allocation of resources; and

WHEREAS, a modern national passenger train system is an essential element of a truly balanced transportation plan; and

WHEREAS, the low level or absence of passenger train service in certain areas of New England (including Mansfield) has resulted in an unbalanced transportation system in those areas, contributing to traffic congestion, air pollution, wasteful expenditures and growth control problems; and

WHEREAS, this municipality is gravely concerned with the disruption to this community caused by the traffic congestion, air pollution, wasteful expenditures and growth control problems; and

WHEREAS, the Mansfield Town Council believes that comprehensive Intermodal transportation planning is necessary to resolve the aforesaid problems and that involvement at the local, state and regional levels is necessary to the preparation and implementation of such planning; and

WHEREAS, the Mansfield Town Council believes that passenger train service is a necessary part of any comprehensive Intermodal transportation system:

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield in the State of Connecticut that:

1. It is and shall continue to be the policy of the Town of Mansfield to support the commencement and/or/expansion of passenger train service in and to Mansfield and other areas of Connecticut and the Northeast region.
2. The Town of Mansfield supports the efforts of The Central Corridor Rail Coalition/Palmer Rail Coalition to achieve the commencement and/or expansion of passenger rail service to the aforesaid areas.

July 11, 2011

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No reports

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

8. A. Smith re: Boy Scout bottle redemption and can drive site at Mansfield recycling/waste center

9. L. Hultgren re: 2011 Force Account Work Schedule

10. Connecticut State Library re: Historic Documents Preservation Grant

11. State of Connecticut Department of Transportation re: State Matching Grant Program Application – Town Manager Matt Hart will report on this item at the next meeting.

12. CCM: New Energy Efficiency Legislation Affecting Municipalities

13. Connecticut Water re: University of Connecticut Water System

14. COST re: 2011 Legislative Session

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Ryan requested a discussion of the petition submitted to the Council regarding assisted living options be added to the next agenda.

Ms. Keane requested an opportunity to discuss the content of the Ethics Ordinance be added to the next agenda.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

July 11, 2011