

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
September 12, 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, Schaefer, Shapiro
Excused: Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2011 Special meeting as presented. Motion passed by all. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2011 regular meeting. Ms. Lindsey requested it be noted that her change to the July 25, 2011 meeting was to include a statement that EDR agreed to forward copies of the amended brochure to Council members. Mr. Shapiro asked to have the minutes reflect that he abstained both from the discussion and the vote on the response to the petition regarding assisted living. Motion to approve as amended passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. An Ordinance Regarding the Administration of the Town Human Resources
Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked that the phrases “in accordance with merit principles” and “best practices” be explained. Ms. Wassmundt also questioned whether approval of the ordinance would mean an endorsement of the Personnel Policies and Rules of the Town.

Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, thinks the ordinance is too vague in its description of the criteria used for evaluations and in the identification of who does what.

Richard Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, stated his belief that all employees should have a job description and that except for union contract changes those descriptions should not be able to be altered.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Sheila Quinn Clark, resident of Mountain Road and Chair of the Library Advisory Board, noted that she understands that it is necessary for the Town to brainstorm different ideas. However, based on the testimony and research surrounding the proposed shared library director’s position, the Board supported a motion in opposition to the concept.

Rita Braswell, resident of Browns Road and former Mansfield Library Director, reviewed the proposed shared library director’s position and offered her comments on the proposal. (Statement attached)

Louise Bailey, resident of Lodi Drive and recently retired Mansfield Library Director, reported on a variety of public library director advertised positions which all required public library experience and questioned fiscal soundness of adding an additional layer of management.

Matt Proser, Sycamore Drive, questioned why given all the voiced opinions in opposition to the concept of a shared library director it is still being considered.

Bruce Goldman, Browns Road, spoke in support of the library services as they currently exist and questioned the decision to use tax abatement as opposed to bonding for the Storrs Center project if saving money is of concern to the Town.

Oman Kouatly, Fern Road, agreed with previous speakers regarding the value of the library. Mr. Kouatly requested an update on the abandoned bus garage in their neighborhood and urged the building be dismantled and removed. (Statement attached)

Jane Blanshard, Sycamore Drive, asked the Council to look at what Louise Bailey has added to the library during her tenure and asked them to reject the proposed shared services.

Kay Holt, Storrs Road, agreed with those commenting on the proposed changes to the library and asked the Council to keep the library as one of the great glories of Mansfield.

Ruth McLaughlin, Sycamore Drive, commented that she feels the proposed library changes have been veiled in silence as there has not been a nationwide search for a new librarian and the Friends of the Library have not been consulted.

Hal Abramson and Carol Abramson asked to yield their time to Ms. Braswell. Deputy Mayor Moran stated that past practice of the Council has been not to allow the yielding of time to others but that Council members may be contacted individually or written comments submitted for inclusion in the record.

Sharry Goldman, Browns Road, asked that prior to making a decision on combining the public and school library directorships data be provided outlining the available information.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked that a policy regarding the use of sign up sheets for public comments be established and that a review of Town-owned parcels be undertaken. Ms. Wassmundt asked what happens when a personnel policy is written after the fact.

Richard Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, stated that he heard that a State Trooper had been transferred from the Town because of his stringent enforcement of Town ordinances and questioned the value of having cookout with off campus students.

Mark LaPlaca, resident of Jonathan Lane and Chair of the Board of Education, speaking for himself, stated that although the many currently shared services between the Town and Board of Education are role models for how towns should work, he is not sure of the benefits that would be realized by implementing a shared library director. Mr. LaPlaca complimented the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools for looking at long term ways to work together for the benefit of the Town.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, spoke to the increase in the Town indebtedness and predicted a fiscal crisis by 2014.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

In addition to the distributed Town Manager's report, Mr. Hart stated that he has no knowledge of any State Trooper being reassigned as a result of his enforcement of Town ordinances; the school building projects will again be reviewed this fall; a Town Meeting will be held on September 26, 2011 at 6:30 to consider bonding for town vehicles and the Town Manager will be attending the ICMA conference in Milwaukee this weekend.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ryan attended the negotiations with the Boards of Education calling them very successful.

Ms. Keane asked that the new EDR brochure be emailed to members. The Town Manager will do so.

Ms. Lindsey requested a meeting with EDR's Community Manager be arranged, as promised.
Mr. Kochenburger complimented the staff on their response to Tropical Storm Irene.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. An Ordinance Regarding the Administration of the Town Human Resources 3. Community/Campus Relations
Members discussed the proposed ordinance. Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola reported that both job descriptions and an evaluation process have been in place for many years. Approval of the ordinance will be added to the next agenda.

3. Community/Campus Relations
Town Manager Matt Hart introduced Mansfield's new Resident State Trooper, Sergeant Richard Cournoyer. Sgt. Cournoyer detailed his over fourteen years of experience as a State Trooper and offered some preliminary observations and plans.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

4. WPCA, Sewer Extension to College Mart Plaza
Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to recess as the Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority. The motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded, effective September 12, 2011, to refer the proposed sewer extension to College Mart Plaza to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
The motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to reconvene as the Town Council.
The motion passed unanimously.

5. Tropical Storm Irene Recovery Operations
Town Manager Matt Hart and staff described the actions taken to deal with the effects of the tropical storm. A complete after action review will be presented at a later date including questions regarding the lack of communication with CL&P. The Town Manager will work with the Mayor to acknowledge the volunteer efforts of citizens and staff.
Council members complimented staff on their work.
Mr. Paulhus left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

6. HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant
Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective September 12, 2011, to authorize the Town Manager to submit the Community Challenge Planning Grant Application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development including a commitment letter for the local match on behalf of the Town.
Those voting in favor were Kochenburger, Moran, Ryan, Schaefer and Shapiro and those opposed were Keane and Lindsey.

7. State Department of Education – 2011/12 Minimum Budget Requirement
Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane seconded, effective September 12, 2011, to appropriate an additional \$15,990 to the FY 2011/12 Mansfield Board of Education budget, bringing the total appropriation to \$20,588,160.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. Financial Statements Dated June 30, 2011
Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee moved, effective September 12, 2011, to accept the Financial Statements Dated June 30, 2011.
Motion passed unanimously

9. Yearend Budget Transfers
Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee moved the following resolution:

Resolved, effective September 12, 2011, to adopt the Yearend Budget Transfers for FY 2010/11, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated September 7, 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan reported the Finance Committee has been discussing the budget process and will propose an earlier start to the process.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

10. A. Kotula re: Parcel A – The Town Manager will provide an update regarding the status of the offer to lease the Maple Road property to the Kotulas at the next meeting.

11. R. Pollack re: Shared Library Director

12. K. Taylor re: Domino's

13. D. Dagon re: Certificate of Recognition

14. Blumenthal, Courtney Press CL&P for Comprehensive Review in Wake of Hurricane Response

15. Gov. Malloy Announces FEMA Disaster Recovery Center Open Across State

16. Storrs Center Partners Committed to Connecticut

17. American Warrior re: WWII Heroes – The Council offered its congratulations to Mr. Hawkins.

18. Connecticut Passport Agency re: Passport Day in the USA 2011

19. Leukemia & Lymphoma Society re: 2011 Light the Night Walks

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Consideration of An Ordinance Regarding the Administration of the Town Human Resources will be added to the next agenda.

A meeting with EDR's Community Manager will be arranged for a future meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lindsey moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

September 12, 2011