

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
October 24, 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. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2011 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Kochenburger who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2011 Special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Kochenburger who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, voiced his objections to the Ethics Ordinance, proposed wage increases for nonunion personnel and Mansfield Community Center fees.

Lynn Stoddard, Ravine Road resident and Chair of the Sustainability Committee, urged, on behalf of the Committee, that the Council support the Mansfield Hollow Hydro Project.

Don Hoyle, Bassetts Bridge Road resident and member of the Sustainability Committee, expressed support for the Mansfield Hydro Project stating it would be an example of how the community could use its own resources for energy production.

Holly Matthews, Storrs Heights Road, voiced support for the Mansfield Hydro Project commenting it is time to move forward in both an innovative and historical manner.

Omar Kouatly, Fern Road, updated Council members on the deteriorating condition of the Venter property and asked that the Town continue to move forward towards a resolution.

Julia Sherman, Pinewoods Lane resident and member of the Sustainability Committee, asked members to listen to the Shifrin's plan which will make it possible to be able to buy power locally. She also urged support for the use of hydrogen cells.

IV. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his remarks regarding the Venter Property in the Town Manager's Report, Mr. Hart suggested the subject be added to a future Council agenda.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Lindsey requested information on police activity be added to the Town Manager's Report. Mr. Hart will provide the information either as an attachment or as a separate departmental report.

Mr. Paulhus thanked the League of Women Voters for hosting Candidates' Night.

Ms. Moran attended her first EOSmith Management meeting for contract negotiations.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Ethics Ordinance

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, moved effective October 24, 2011, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on November 28, 2011, to solicit public comment regarding proposed revisions to the Ethics Ordinance.

The Personnel Committee incorporated most of the suggestions offered by members at the last meeting. Additionally, the language in Section 25-7 C was expanded to include all State employees.

Members discussed the substitution of the word "de minimis" in place of "trivial" in Section 25-4 and the mandatory review of the Code. The use of Town property by employees as currently exist in contracts and practices cannot be changed by ordinance but will be addressed during collective bargaining negotiations.

Mr. Shapiro will forward some minor technical changes to Ms. Moran prior to the next Personnel Committee meeting on Friday.

Ms. Keane moved to table the motion. Seconded by Ms. Lindsey the motion failed.

The motion as presented passed with all in favor with the exception of Ms. Keane, Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Paulhus.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

2. Mansfield Hollow Hydro Project

Mr. Shifrin, owner of the Kirby Mill, described the progress made in the mill since he and his wife acquired the property in 1997. The Shifrins have received all necessary permits and are beginning construction on a hydro energy project which will produce Class 1 renewable energy. They would like to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement with the Town and estimate they will be able to provide 50% of Mansfield's municipal energy needs. Town Manager Matt Hart is in the process of consulting with some experts in the field and will bring the issue back to the Council. Mr. Shifrin offered to host a tour of the facility for Council members.

3. Proclamation in Honor of the 50th Anniversary of Mount Hope Montessori School

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded, effective October 24, 2011, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation recognizing Mount Hope Montessori School.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Agreement between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Administrators' Association

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to ratify the contract between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Administrators' Association which is effective on July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to execute the proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant application, which purpose is to support the provisions of fire protection and emergency services within the Town of Mansfield.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Application for Smart Growth Technical Services

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded, effective October 22, 2011, to authorize the Town Manager to submit two applications for Smart Growth Technical Assistance to Smart Growth America and to authorize the mayor to submit letters describing the commitment of local leaders to implement the resulting initiatives and projects.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

7. Mansfield Community Center Fees

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the Community Center Fee Recommendations for the operating year beginning November 1, 2011 and ending October 31, 2012, as presented by staff in its draft fee recommendations dated October 24, 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Fiscal Year 2011/12 Wage and Benefits Adjustment for Nonunion Personnel
Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, moved to authorize the Town Manager to: 1) increase the pay rates in the Town Administrators Pay Plan by 1.5 percent retroactive to July 1, 2011 and by another 1.5 percent effective January 1, 2012; and 2) to make the additional changes to the health insurance benefits, longevity, and tuition reimbursement for nonunion employees as presented in this memorandum dated October 24, 2011.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. Amendments to Town of Mansfield Personnel Rules

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported on the Committee's efforts to codify some of the changes that have been put into practice over the last few years. These rules affect only non-union personnel.

Mr. Shapiro will provide language for the Committee indicating the skipping of second step of the Grievance Procedure if the employee filing the complaint reports directly to the Town Manager. The Personnel Committee will be meeting on October 28, 2011 and will report any changes to the Council.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

To be discussed at the next meeting

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No reports

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

10. R. Freeman re: Thank You
11. A. Guttay re: Thank You
12. L. Painter re: Route 44 Closure
13. C. van Zelm/K. Paterson re: Thank You
14. Invitation: CL&P Open House
15. Invitation: E. O. Smith Athletic Facilities
16. Explanatory Text, November 8, 2011 Referendum
17. CCM re: 2012 Legislative Program
18. NLC re: Congress of Cities

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Review of the Charter will be a future agenda item

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to enter into Executive Session to discuss the sale or purchase of real property in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(D) and to include Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter and Parks Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman. As in previous sessions, Mr. Shapiro will recuse himself from all discussion concerning one of the properties. He will however participate in the discussion of the other property.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or Purchase of Real Property in accordance with CGS§ 1-200(6) (D)

October 24, 2011

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro (for one issue)
Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter and Parks Coordinator Jennifer Kaufman

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council reconvened in regular session
Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

October 24, 2011