

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
November 14, 2011

Town Clerk Mary Stanton 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: Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro
Excused: Keane

II. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

1. Election of Mayor

The Town Clerk requested nominations for the position of Mayor. Elizabeth Paterson and Christopher Paulhus were nominated. Ms. Paterson was elected and assumed the Chair.

2. Election of Deputy Mayor

Mayor Paterson requested nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor. Antonia Moran was nominated and elected Deputy Mayor.

3. Town Council Rules of Procedures

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to approve the Town Council Rules of Procedures as approved by the Personnel Committee with the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that under the authority of Section C302 of the Town Charter, the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield does hereby establish its Rules of Procedure as follows: These rules are in effect for the term of office of the Council and shall be adopted at the organizational meeting. Procedural matters not covered by the Town Charter or these Rules of Procedure will be determined by the Mayor, or by the Deputy Mayor in the absence of the Mayor, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Council will develop plans to staff office hours.

4. Meeting of the Town Council

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to approve the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section C302 of the Town Charter, the Town Council shall meet regularly on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building. The schedule of meetings for 2012, as provided by the Town Clerk, is hereby approved.

RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section C302 of the Town Charter the Town Council shall provide methods for the calling of special meetings. Special meetings of the Town Council may be called by the Mayor, or on the written request of at least three members of the Council, filed with the offices of the Town Manager and Town Clerk not less than 36 hours (excluding Saturday, Sunday, legal holidays and any day on which the Office of the Town Clerk is officially closed) in advance of such meeting, which request must specify the date and time and business to be transacted, and copies of this notice shall be served by mail or personally upon each Council member and the Town Manager or left at their usual place of abode at least 24 hours prior thereto.

RESOLVED: Emergency Special Meetings may be called by the Mayor or the Town Manager in case of an emergency with at least two hours notice given to Council members, without complying with the posting of notice requirement, but a copy of the minutes of every such Emergency Special Meeting shall be filed with the Town Clerk not later than 72 hours following the holding of such meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, C.G.S. §Section 1-225 (d).

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The resolutions passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded, effective November 14, 2011, to adopt the Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2012, as presented by the Town Clerk. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to add Item 4a, the appointment of the Town Attorney, to the Organizational Business. The motion to add the item to the agenda passed unanimously.

4a. Appointment of the Town Attorney

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to continue the services of Attorneys O'Brien and Johnson for a two year period. Contract details will be negotiated. Motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2011 Special meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2011 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, requested the Council dispense with the 5 minute speaking limitation for the public hearing on the Ethics Ordinance and that the administration provide more detailed information on the budget.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his submitted report Town Manager Matt Hart announced the December 5, 2011 reception for UConn President Susan Herbst. The reception will be held at the Community Center at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to add item 10a, labor issues as reported in the press, to the agenda and to make it the next item of discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Lindsey asked why members of the Council were not informed prior to the issue becoming public. The Town Manager reported that he had been asked not to discuss the allegations as they are part of an ongoing review.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson announced the following appointments to the Council's Standing Committees:

Personnel – Antonia Moran (Chair), Paul Shapiro and Denise Keane

Finance - Bill Ryan (Chair), Carl Schaefer and Meredith Lindsey

Committee on Committees - Peter Kochenburger (Chair), Paul Shapiro and Christopher Paulhus.

Mr. Paulhus reported he, the Mayor and Town Manager attended the Veterans' Day Program at the Senior Center. He especially appreciated the stories told by Veterans and thanked Kevin Grunwald and his staff for the event.

Ms. Moran, in response to a remark made in public comments, stated that the Town Manager has not yet had his review and therefore there has not been any change in his compensation this year.

In response to a request to eliminate the five minute public speaking limit for the public hearing on the Ethics Ordinance, Mr. Kochenburger reminded those present that there are a variety of ways to communicate with Council members.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

5. Revisions to Ethics Ordinance

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, moved to submit for public comment at the November 28, 2011 public hearing, the proposed revisions to the Ethics Ordinance, as recommended by the Personnel Committee in its draft dated October 28, 2011.

Members discussed the pro and cons of adding the word "written" to Section 25-7 G. Ms. Lindsey moved to insert "written" prior to " ...Town policy or contract..." The motion was seconded by Mr. Kochenburger and discussion ensued. Ms. Moran moved to call the question. Seconded by Mr. Schaefer, the motion to end discussion passed. The motion to amend failed with a tie vote.

The original motion passed unanimously.

6. Amendments to Town of Mansfield Personnel Rules

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, moved effective November 14, 2011, to adopt the Personnel Rules as presented by staff and endorsed by the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Shapiro commented Exhibit A was noted but not included.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to table the motion as Exhibit A, Sexual Harassment Policy, was referred to in the document but not included in the packet.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

7. Storm Alfred Recovery Operations

Staff reviewed the recovery operations for Storm Alfred. Council members thanked all those who contributed including staff, volunteers, UConn dining services, Region 19, C.E.R.T. teams and area businesses.

8. 40th Anniversary of Council-Manager Form of Government
Informational

9. Quarterly Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2011

Bill Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee moved, effective November 14, 2011, to accept the Financial Statements Dated September 30, 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Livability Solutions Technical Assistance Application

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective November 14, 2011, to authorize the Town Manager to submit an application for Smart Growth Technical Assistance to Livability Solutions and to authorize the Mayor to submit a letter describing the commitment of local leaders to implement the resulting initiatives and projects.

Motion passed unanimously.

10a. Storrs Green Labor Issue as Reported in the Press

The Town Manager introduced Howard Kaufman of Leyland Alliance and Eric Green of Erland Construction to provide information on recently published allegations concerning undocumented workers at the Storrs Center Project. Mr. Kaufman reported that he recently became aware of the issue following the release of a statement by the Labor Council and described his understanding of the situation which is still being clarified. The Connecticut Department of Labor has visited the work site and is requesting additional information from subcontractor Allstate Interiors. Mr. Green described the process used by Erland Construction to insure all employed workers are legally employed and stated he is working with Mr. Kaufman to see if additional safeguards might be added.

IX. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No comments

XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. S. Shifrin re: Kirby Mill and MechaSys

12. Proclamation in Honor of Mansfield's Veterans

13. E. Paterson/M. Hart re: New England Gateway TIGER III

14. M. Hart re: Agreement between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Administrators' Association

15. M. Hart re: Town Council Representative for Teacher Negotiations

16 .L. Painter re: Proposed Inland Wetlands Regulation Revisions

17. State Comptroller's Office re: Appointment to Nonstate Public Health Advisory Committee

18 .Department of Correction re: Capacity and Inmate Population

19. Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Restoration of Passenger Rail Service & Enhancement/Improvement of Freight Rail Service on New England Central Rail Line

20. Connecticut Town & City - Municipal Ethics Dilemma – October 2011

21. Connecticut Town & City - Public/Private Initiative Creates New Town Center in Mansfield – October 2011

22. S. Herbst re: Appointment to Town/University Relations Committee

23. .Resolution of the Windham Region Council of Governments in Support of Watershed-Based Planning

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Ryan requested a discussion of the Charter provision which requires a 15% favorable vote for bonding approval be added to a future agenda.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (A). Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (A).

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded a motion to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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