

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
November 28, 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. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2011 meeting. Ms. Lindsey asked that her remarks be moved to an earlier section of the minutes to reflect when they were made at the meeting. The motion, as amended, passed with all in favor, except Ms. Keane who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Revisions to Ethics Ordinance
The Town Clerk read the Notice.

Mike Sikoski, Windham, stated the draft Ethics Ordinance is very different from the one offered by the Ethics Committee and reserved the rest of his time.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, stated her objections to the draft Ethics Ordinance and requested an open forum. Statements attached.

Patricia Suprenant, Gurleyville Road, expressed her concerns with Section 25.7 of the proposed Ethics Ordinance. Statement attached.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, suggested the Council discard the draft Ethics Ordinance and begin again.

Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, offered a number of suggestions in regards to the proposed ordinance. Statement attached.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, offered additional questions to be considered by the Council. Statement attached.

Tony Lent, Daleville Road, strongly recommended the Council schedule a public forum on the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, requested a public forum and suggested the draft Ethics Ordinance be reviewed for clarity of language.

Larry Lombard, Pleasant Valley Road, stated that he believes enough issues have been raised to revisit the draft as currently presented.

Mike Sikoski, Windham, remarked that there was not any support for the draft Ethics Ordinance in the comments made. He asked the Council to review the Glastonbury Ethics Ordinance and to revisit some of the items in the original Ethics Board's draft.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Richard Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, asked if the information regarding the investigation by a labor group of alleged Storrs Center workplace violations was known by some Town officials prior to the election.

Pat Suprenant, Gurleyville Road, questioned the language in the Town's Anti-Harassment Policy. Statement attached.

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, asked who makes Town policy and questioned if activity can be legislated.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, requested information regarding the use of consultants. Statement attached.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, supports freedom of speech and asked for an analysis of the time spent by the Town Attorney. He is in favor of reducing taxes.

Mike Sikoski, Windham, suggested the Town make information regarding a recent rash of burglaries available to the public.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report, Mr. Hart requested Council members review the information provided by the State Police and requested feedback on the information provided. Mr. Hart also reported on an accident at the Storrs Green job site and stated that a suspect in the recent rash of burglaries has been identified by the Police.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Keane moved to add Item 7a, Discussion of Town Council Office Hours, to the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Paulhus the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Keane requested an update on the previous uses of the Eagleville Preserve and its current status as a water source. The Town Manager will provide an update.

Ms. Lindsey requested the print media, formerly provided in the packet, be sent electronically every two weeks. The Town Manager will provide the information.

Mr. Paulhus attended the Mansfield First Kickoff meeting and the Mansfield Community Center Annual Review.

Ms. Lindsey requested a Storrs Center Construction update be provided as part of the Manager's report. The Town Manager will provide this information.

Mr. Kochenburger suggested that information regarding crimes of regional impact be provided on the Towns' website. The Town Manager will review the options and report back to the Council.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Revisions to Ethics Ordinance

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, stated the State Ethics Model Code was used for the draft Ethic Ordinance currently being considered and that ornate detailed codes are not necessarily appropriate for small towns. The Ethics Board's draft Ordinance was reviewed by the Personnel Committee and many of the ideas have been incorporated in the current draft. Other provisions were discussed by the Committee and discarded. Ms. Moran suggested the definition of employee includes consultants who work for the Town.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded that the Town Council refer the proposed Ethics Ordinance (draft dated October 28, 2011) to the Personnel Committee for an opportunity to consider comments from this evening's public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Amendments to Town of Mansfield Personnel Rules

Council members discussed the Anti-Harassment Policy appended to the Personnel Rules. Ms. Keane moved to refer the draft Personnel Rules back to the Personnel Committee for additional review and to table action on the amendments until the review is completed. Seconded by Mr. Paulhus the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Town Attorney Retainer Agreement

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the following resolution:
RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section C305 of the Mansfield Charter, to appoint Attorneys O'Brien and Johnson as Town Attorney, for a term commencing on December 8, 2011 and ending on December 5, 2013, and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed Retainer Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Attorneys O'Brien and Johnson.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. MRRA, In-yard Single Family Collection Fee Increase

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to recess as the Town Council and convene as the Mansfield Resource Recovery Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded, to approve the In-yard Single Family collection Fees as recommended by the staff and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, which fees shall be effective January 1, 2012 after publication in the January billing messages sent to all collection customers.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn as the Mansfield Resource Recovery Authority and reconvene as the Mansfield Town Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Conn DOT Engineering Review Agreement – Storrs Road Improvement Project

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution:
RESOLVED, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, is hereby authorized to sign the agreement entitled: "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for Storrs Road Improvements utilizing Federal Funds under the High Priority Projects Program".

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Proclamation in Recognition of Storm Recovery Operations

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective November 28, 2011, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Recognition of Storm Recovery Operations.

Motion passed unanimously.

7a. Office Hours

Council members discussed the timing of office hours prior to the second Town Council meeting of each month. By consensus it was agreed that beginning January 12, 2012 Council members would hold office hours beginning at 7:00 p.m. Each political party will be responsible for providing one representative.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to add item 7b, Cancellation of the December 27, 2011 Meeting, to the agenda.

Motion passed unanimously.

7b. Cancellation of the December 27, 2011 Town Council Meeting

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to cancel the December 27, 2011 meeting of the Town Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

X.REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Committee on Committees will meet on December 9, 2011 at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Shapiro, past Chair of the Committee on Committees, moved the following recommendations:

Re-appointment of Kathleen Ward to the Housing Authority, term ending November 1, 2016,

Re-appointment of Jennifer Tanner and Jane Blanshard to the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, term ending June 30, 2014,

Appointment of Fred Goetz to the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, term ending June 30, 2014.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

The Committee on Committees also enthusiastically supports the reactivation of the Economic Development Commission. The Town Manager is the appointing authority for the Commission but has offered to review his appointments with the Committee.

XI.PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

8. R. Nadeau re: Storrs Center

9. R. Simon re: Thank you

10.E. Vitullo re: Thank you

11.Communications Advisory Committee re: Annual Town Meeting

12.R. Miller re: PURA Docket Number 11-09-14

13.Press Release: Local First Mansfield

14.Invitation to President Herbst Reception

15.Interstate Reliability Project Open House

16 Metro Hartford Alliance re: Membership

17.AT&T re: Constituency Relations

18.Dave Dagon re: EMS call at MCC – Cardiac Arrest

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

The Communications Advisory Committee's suggestions regarding the Annual Town Meeting will be an agenda item during the budget process.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

November 28, 2011