

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

March 12, 2012

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus, Schaefer, Shapiro

Excused: Paterson, Ryan

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2102 Special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2012 regular meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mike Sikoski, Windham, requested clarification on the Town's alcohol policy and asked for an explanation of the Public Works holiday party at which he said alcohol was raffled. Omar Kouatly, Fern Road, urged the Council to take some action on the abandoned bus garage on Fern Road and submitted a proposal to dismantle and remove the structure. (Statement attached)

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, spoke to the budget, soil testing at the schools and the State Minimum Budget Requirement. (Statement attached)

Patricia Suprenant, Gurleyville Road, posed questions to the Council regarding the school building project and urged delay of the referendum vote. (Statement attached)

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, reiterated his request to add UConn's Hazmat facility to the agenda.

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, questioned the statements made by architect Rick Lawrence at the last meeting with regards to the definition of renovation, the figures used and the twenty year span needed to complete the project. Ms. Hilding asked for written responses to her previous communications and questioned whether staff or Council members were in attendance at the March 6, 2012 meeting referenced by Councilor Ryan.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked for information on the status of the lawsuit with Windham regarding the sewer system and believes the Town is interested in using one of the school sites for another use.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager addressed the following public comments:

The Public Works holiday party included a Yankee swap and some of the items were alcoholic beverages. No alcohol was opened or consumed at the party. The facilities policy does not prohibit the possession of alcohol. Staff will provide an update on the options regarding the abandoned bus garage on Fern Road at the April meeting. The mail piece distributed to citizens regarding the school building project does incorrectly characterize the repairs as renovations. The intent of Mr. Lawrence's memo was to clarify the difference between repairs and renovations. This memo was not seen by staff until the day of the meeting at which time the Manager encouraged the memo to be informational. The Windham sewer lawsuit was settled sometime ago.

Mr. Hart suggested the Council add an executive session to the agenda in order to discuss possible remedies to resolve the overrun on the garage.

Mr. Schaefer asked for an update on the statements made by David Morse regarding illegal worker at the Storrs Center project. The Town Manager reported nothing has been heard from the DOL or the Department of Homeland Security, but if no violations are substantiated no notice will be given.

March 12, 2012

Mr. Kochenburger suggested a letter be sent to Erland Construction asking them to double check with their subcontractors to insure all required paperwork is in order.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Moran stated there was no illegal meeting on March 6, 2012. Mr. Ryan misspoke when referring to the March 5, 2012 public hearing.

Ms. Lindsey, on behalf of herself, Ms. Keane and Mr. Paulhus, responded to the memo presented by Rick Lawrence addressing each of the issues identified as inaccurate and submitted information in support of their presentation at the March 5, 2012 public hearing. (Statement attached)

Ms. Keane commented the inaccurate use of the word "renovation" in the direct mail piece shows incompetency and questioned why staff has not scheduled the four agreed upon holiday remembrances.

Mr. Kochenburger stated the Council, not staff, is in charge of planning and scheduling the holiday remembrances.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to add Item 1a, Memorial Day Planning, to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran commented Mr. Lawrence was responding to the legal definition of renovation noting the looser definition has been being used.

Mr. Kochenburger remarked the majority of the statements in Mr. Lawrence's letter are a description of what "renovation" means in terms of state reimbursement amounts.

Ms. Keane asked if feasibility studies for each of the schools have been done. Town Manager Matt Hart reported any studies done by the School Building Committee should be available on the website.

Ms. Lindsey requested UConn's Hazmat facility be put on a Council agenda.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

Town Manager Matt Hart reported UConn's Hazard Waste Facility will be on the Town/University Committee agenda. Also on the agenda will be a review of the steps taken last year which helped mitigate the off campus spring activities. Many of these restrictions will be in effect again this year. In response to questions regarding the Hazmat facility the Town Manager reported that, it is his understanding, safety improvements have been made and the nature of the stored material has changed. Mr. Hart will ask UConn for details.

1a. Memorial Day Remembrance

Mr. Shapiro, Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Kochenburger volunteered to plan the pre-Council meeting event for Memorial Day.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Sustainability Committee Progress Report

Lynn Stoddard, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, summarized the activities and actions of the Committee.

3. WPCA, FY 2011/12 Windham Sewer Budget

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to recess as the Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded, effective March 12, 2012, to adopt the FY 2011/12 Windham Sewer budget as prepared by Town staff.

Accounting Manager Keri Rowley reviewed the budget and explained the process to be used to increase the fund balance and address the debts incurred.

Motion to approve the budget passed unanimously.

4. WPCA, FY 2011/12 UConn Water and Sewer Budget

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded effective March 12, 2012, to adopt the FY 2011/12 UConn Water/Sewer Budget as prepared by Town staff.

Mr. Shapiro recused himself from discussion and voting on this motion because of his service on the boards of some of the customers.
The motion to approve passed by all those voting.
Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to reconvene as the Mansfield Town Council. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Town Easement – Storrs Road Guying Easement

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution:
RESOLVED, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, be, and hereby is authorized to sign the easement entitled:

The Southern New England Telephone Company d/b/a AT&T Connecticut Utility Pole Guy and Anchor Easement, which easement will convey for utility pole guying purposes approximately 1093 square feet of land in 3 locations along the west side of Storrs Road (Route 195) in the vicinity of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Committee on Committees, offered the following recommendations:

The reappointment of Saul Nesselroth to the Board of Ethics for a term ending 6/30/14,
The appointment of Anke Finger to the Arts Advisory Committee for a term ending 3/1/2013,

The appointment of Michael Soares to the Open Space Preservation Committee for a term ending 12/31/2014.

The motion to approve the recommendations passed.

Mr. Schaefer reported the Farm Ordinance Ad hoc Committee has met and discussed two of the three items. He will report back.

Mr. Shapiro reported the Parking Ordinance Ad hoc Committee has met and has charged the Director of Public Works and the Town Attorney with developing language.

IX. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

6. M. Hart re:appointment to Mansfield Library Advisory Board
7. State of Connecticut Siting Council re: Docket No 424
8. CCM – Governor Malloy’s Education Reform Tour
9. CCM – Legislative Update
- 10.CCM – Mandates Report
11. CCM – Save the Dated: CCM Day on the Hill

X. FUTURE AGENDA

UConn’s Hazardous Waste Facility will be added to a future agenda.

Ms. Lindsey requested an update on Storrs Center be added as a Standing Agenda Item.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to add an Executive Session to the agenda to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(B).

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(B) and to include the Town Manager, Director of Public Works and the Town Attorney.

Motion passed unanimously.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (B).

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus, Schaefer, Shapiro

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren and the Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk