

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

March 26, 2012

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson 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, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Excused: Lindsey

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2012 Special meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2012 Special meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2012 meeting. Ms. Keane asked that the back up material provided by Ms. Lindsey be included in the minutes. Motion passed as amended with all in favor except Mayor Paterson and Mr. Ryan who both abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Small Cities (Community Development Block Grant)

Director of Planning and Economic Development Linda Painter described the current program and the staff's recommendation to apply for a \$300,000 CDBG grant to be used for residential rehabilitation.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, spoke in favor of pursuing the grant and suggested a possible candidate for the program.

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, spoke in support of the grant for housing and questioned whether such a grant could be used for a sidewalk along North Eagleville Road.

The hearing was closed at 8:03 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, requested the questions submitted by residents be answered.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, stated he was encouraged by the proposed increase in fund balance and the decrease in bonding as presented in the Town Manager's budget. Mr. Freudmann suggested Region 19 be encouraged to present a zero increase budget.

Victor Civie, representing Citizens United, requested the Town invoke legal representation at the Siting Council. Mr. Civie also expressed concerns regarding the possible effects the overhead power lines might have on the students at the Mt. Hope Montessori School. (Statement attached, statement and submitted materials to be included as a communication in the 4/9/12 Town Council packet)

Alison Hilding, Southwood Road, presented a list of questions regarding the "renovate like new" possible status for the school building project. (Statement attached, statement and submitted materials to be included as a communication in the 4/9/12 Town Council packet)

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written comments the Town Manager offered the following comments:

The Sustainability Committee has requested an opportunity to meet with the Town Council to discuss siting criteria for the school building project.

Well and septic testing is underway at both the Vinton and Goodwin School sites.

Region 19 is actively considering a level funding option.

The CL& P Interstate Reliability Project will be scheduled for discussion at a Council meeting prior to the April 24, 2012 public hearing.

Staff will address the questions raised by citizens regarding the school building project.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Mayor Paterson attended the opening session of the Climate Impact, Mitigation and Adaptation: A Reflection on Our Future. The Mayor reported the presentation was very good and well attended.

Mr. Kochenburger acknowledged the achievements of the E.O.Smith girls basketball team who once again made it to the final game.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Small Cities (Community Development Block Grant)

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolution Adopting Program Income Plan and Program Income Reuse Plan

WHEREAS, Program Income is defined in federal regulation at 24 CFR 570.489 (e), which specifies that program income is the gross income received by the jurisdiction that has been directly generated from Community Development Block Grant Program funds; and

WHEREAS, Examples of program income include: payments of principal and interest on housing rehabilitation loans made using Community Development Block Grant funds; interest earned on program income pending its disposition, and interest earned on funds that have been placed in a revolving loan account; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Mansfield will generate income from its current and proposed Housing Rehabilitation Program activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council that the following Reuse Plan Governing Program Income from CDBG-Assisted Activities is hereby approved and further authorizes Town Manager Matthew Hart to sign such document.

The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolution Approving Small Cities Grant Application for Housing Rehabilitation Funds

WHEREAS, federal monies are available under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C § 5301, et. seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Mansfield make an application to the State for \$300,000 in order to undertake and carryout a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL:

That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the CGS,

That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by The Town of Mansfield in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 is hereby approved and that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, to carry out approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Mansfield.

The resolution was approved by all.

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By consensus the Council agreed to support the staff's recommendation which states if the Town is successful in their bid to acquire CDBG funds these funds would be used for revolving loans for moderate and low income housing rehabilitation. The Town will continue the existing program.

3. Community Water/Wastewater Issues

Town Manager Matt Hart and Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren reported on the most recent University of Connecticut Water Wastewater Policy Advisory Committee meeting. Efforts continue in the search for additional water for the Town and in support of the joint UConn/Town EIE process. A report will be presented in late April. Five hundred thousand to one million gallons per day will be needed.

4. Storrs Center Update

The Town Manager reported the Storrs Center website has recently been updated. A letter has been sent to Erland Construction requesting they utilize best practices regarding the filing of information with the CT Labor Board; they notify both the Downtown Partnership and the Town if any further stop work orders are issued; and that they check with all their subcontractors to insure all required paperwork is in order.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

5. UConn Hazardous Waste Facility

Reporting on the recent University Town Relations Committee meeting, the Town Manager stated UConn is conducting a study to look at potential sites for the hazardous waste facility and he urged the Committee to establish a steering committee to assist with the process.

Mayor Paterson reported the President's Office has hired an environmental consultant. Council members asked staff to try to establish if any improvements have been made to the existing hazardous waste facility or if the materials currently stored there have changed since this issue was last reviewed.

6. Blanket Authority Resolution between the State of Connecticut, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Town of Mansfield for State Homeland Security Grant Funds

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Mansfield may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection including the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Matthew W. Hart as Town Manager of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Mansfield and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. License Request: Common Fields at Bassetts Bridge Road

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane seconded, to refer Mr. Healey's proposed license request to use a portion of the Common Fields at Bassetts Bridge Road, to the Agriculture Committee, the Open Space Preservation Committee, the Parks Advisory Committee and the Planning and Zoning Commission, and to schedule a Public Hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on May 14, 2012 to receive public comment regarding the proposed license.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer requested the Town remove an old tire near the bench in the Common Fields.

8. Classification – Administrative Analyst Position

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee moved, effective March 26, 2012 to create the classification of Administrative Analyst and set the pay grade for the position at grade 12, salary range of \$22.17/hr - \$28.21/hr, of the town administrators pay plan.

Ms. Moran stated the Personnel Committee reviewed the classification and pay grade for this position and determined, in a two to one vote, to recommend its implementation to the Council. Ms. Moran stated the complexity and varied duties justify the classification. Ms. Keane, the dissenting vote on the Personnel Committee, expressed her belief that the job description is what should be expected of an administrative assistant and approval of this motion might open the door for requests to change the classification of other existing positions.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane and Mr. Paulhus who voted in opposition.

9. Naming of Public Streets and Buildings in Storrs Center

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Keane seconded, to refer review of the proposed names of public streets and public buildings in Storrs Center to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Commission's review and input to the Town Council.

Council members discussed their concerns with the process noting this is a rare opportunity. Councilor Schaefer withdrew his motion.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded the Town Council authorize the Mayor to appoint an ad hoc committee to receive public input and recommend names to the Council for the Storrs Center streets and structures as outlined in the March 26, 2012 memo.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Paterson asked any one interested in serving on the committee to contact her.

10. Utility Easement on Dog Lane Connector and Northern Portion of the Village Street

Mr. Schaefer and Ms. Moran moved, to refer the proposed utility easement on the North sections of the new Village Street in Storrs Center to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hultgren will delete all references to street and structure names on the map.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to recess as the Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion passed unanimously.

11. WPCA – Benefit Assessment: Extension of Town Sewers to serve the College Mart Plaza

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded, to schedule a public hearing for 7:45 pm at the Town Council's regular meeting on April 9, 2012, to solicit public comment regarding the benefit assessment for the extension of Town sewers to serve the College Mart Plaza.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to reconvene as the Mansfield Town Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No reports offered.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

12.M. Hart re: Central Corridor Project TIGER IV Application

13.L. Painter re: Proposed Revisions to Zoning Regulations

14.Stanton re: Ceremonial Holiday Celebrations – Staff will add this as an agenda item at the appropriate scheduling time.

15.Trahan re: School Building Project – Option A Concerns

16.Town of Mansfield 2010-2011 Annual Report

17.Connecticut Department of Transportation Notice of Public Hearing in Mansfield-Storrs - Connecticut Public Transportation Commission

18.CIRMA re: Members' Equity Distribution

19.Press Release: Storrs Center Alliance Expands Dining Options with Three Latest Leases

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

No items added

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(A).

Motion passed by all.

XIII.EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart

XIV.ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting.