

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
June 24, 2013

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: Freudmann, Keane, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro  
Excused: Kochenburger, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2013 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mayor Paterson who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2013 special meeting. Mr. Ryan noted the special Town Council meeting was scheduled for June 19, 2013. The motion, as amended, passed with all in favor except Mayor Paterson who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Amendments to Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Ordinance

The Town Clerk read the legal notice. Director of Building and Housing Mike Nintean reviewed the proposed changes and noted the amendments were designed to clarify and reinforce some of the issues that have been identified.  
No public comments were offered.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked for an accounting of the cost of repairs to ambulance 507. Mr. Hossack commented that the Town Council violated the public trust by not reducing the budget further.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, questioned whether it requires a vote of the Council to give the Town Manager the authority to negotiate. (Statement attached) Ms. Wassmundt also asked why Public Work employees are working on Saturdays.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, commented that he finds it disturbing that the Zoning Regulations do not have a classification for labs. Mr. Smith also requested clarification regarding whether First Amendment rights are limited to the Town Square.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

The Town Manager will distribute his report to Council members and the public tomorrow as he was unable to print them due to the storm just prior to the meeting.

Mr. Hart commented on the budget, the changes to the Human Services Department, the John Jackman Tour de Mansfield and the 2013 Women Inspiring Conservation Award presented to Jennifer Kaufman.

In response to citizen questions the Town Manager offered the following comments:

- Repairs to ambulance 507 were mostly covered by the Town's liability insurance. Those costs not covered will be provided.
- The Town Manager does have the ability to negotiate tentative agreements subject to Council approval. The Town Council is updated throughout the process.
- The question of regulations for certain types of labs is under the purview of the Planning and Zoning Commission, but staff has identified this deficiency.
- The Town's citizens have the full enjoyment of First Amendments Rights in all public areas.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments offered.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Amendment to Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Ordinance

Ms. Moran moved to suspend the rules and vote on the Amendments to Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Paulhus the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to accept the proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Ordinance, which amendments shall be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who voted no.

3. Storrs Center Update

At a future meeting the Town Manager will present a force accounting for the Storrs Center Project.

4. Community Water/Wastewater Issues

The EIE for the water supply project will be presented to the UConn Board of Trustees in August. Town staff and counsel are reviewing the three options and various governance alternatives and should have a report for Council review in August.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Amendment to Motor Vehicle Traffic and Parking Regulations

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to table this item until the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Transportation Center Operations Plan

Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren outlined operation plans for the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center. Additional input will be solicited from the MDP Board, the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Parking Steering Committee. MDP Director Cynthia van Zelm reviewed the Downtown Partnership's role in the operation of the facility.

The issue of family restrooms and the use of work study students in the Center will be explored. Information regarding the structuring of the budget for the Center will be provided.

7. Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective June 24, 2013, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge, demonstrating the Town of Mansfield's participation in the Clean Energy Communities Program.

Recycling coordinator Ginny Walton explained the proposed pledge and updated members on the conservation steps already undertaken and those planned for the future. The motion passed with Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Shapiro in favor and Freudmann, Keane and Paulhus in opposition.

8. Proclamation Designating the Month of July as National Parks and Recreation Month in the Town of Mansfield

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded, effective June 24, 2013, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached proclamation designating the Month of July as National Parks and Recreation Month.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Connecticut Light and Power Interstate Reliability Project – Draft Development and Management Plan

Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter reviewed the proposed staff comments regarding the draft Development and Management Plan provided by Northeast Utilities, for Council consideration. Council members thanked Ms. Painter for her work.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective June 24, 2013, to authorize the Mayor and Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission to submit formal comments to Northeast Utilities on the draft Development and Management Plan for the Interstate Reliability Project as described in the memo from Matthew Hart dated June 24, 2013 and revised based on Council discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to add Item 10a, Cancellation of the Town Council July 8, 2013 meeting, to the agenda.

The motion passed unanimously.

By consensus the Council agreed to address Item 10a prior to Item 10.

10a. Cancellation of the Town Council July 8, 2013 meeting

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to cancel the July 8, 2013 Town Council meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Independence Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee

By consensus the Council agreed to forego the Independence Day Ceremonial Presentation as the first Council meeting in July has been cancelled.

IX. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Following discussion regarding the standard template and inclusion of supplemental materials, it was agreed the Zoning Enforcement Agent's information will be merged into the Quarterly Reports.

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported due to the cancellation of the July 8, 2013 meeting the next Committee meeting will be held later in the month.

Mr. Shapiro, on behalf of the Committee on Committees offered the following recommendations:

Solid Waste Advisory Committee reappointments: Andrea Ames (term expiring 9/01/2014), Robert Coughlin (term expiring 9/01/2015), Dennis Roberts (term expiring 9/01/2015), Sarah Milius (term expiring 9/01/2016), and Jane Knox (term expiring 9/01/2015)

Cemetery Committee reappointments for terms ending 1/01/2016: Jeanne Mogayzel, Rudy Favretti, Mark Mogayzel, and Jane Reinhardt.

The motion to approve passed unanimously.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

11. Anonymous re: polling places

12.C. Dainton re: Senior Police Academy

13.V. Walton re: State Electronics Challenge 2012 Environmental Sustainability Report

14. Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection re: 2012 Local Emergency Operations Plan
  15. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: Notice of Public Hearing
  16. CCM re: HB 6706 Budget Implementer Bill
  17. Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation re: Increase in Rates and Charges
  18. Connecticut Light and Power re: 2013 Statewide Severe Weather Exercise
  19. Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments re: Regionalism
- Mr. Hart distributed a copy of a letter to Ms. Kathleen Sutherland Administrator, Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation regarding the use of the Town's wheelchair accessible van.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

A discussion of the possible consolidation of Connecticut Councils of Government will be added to a future agenda as information becomes available (Item 19).

Mr. Ryan requested a presentation describing the changes made to Storrs Road, i.e. the width, accessibility for emergency vehicles, etc. be provided at a future meeting.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to convene in executive session to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or litigation in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(B) and to include Town Manager Matt Hart and Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren.

The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro

Also included Town Manager Matt Hart and Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk