

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
September 9, 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, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2013 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of August 12, 2013 meeting. Ms. Moran noted the date in section six should read September 9, 2013. The minutes, as amended, passed with all in favor except Ms. Moran who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road and a Republican candidate for Town Council, provided details on the upcoming public hearing and on-site walk regarding the proposed extension of North Hillside Road. Ms. Wassmundt also commented on the proposed contract with Connecticut Water Works and the pear trees in Storrs Center. (Statement attached)

Tulay Luciano, Warrenville Road, asked a number of questions regarding the impact of the NextGen and Tech Park projects on Mansfield. (Statement attached)

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike and a Republican candidate for Town Council, asked the Council to slow down any decision on water and agreed with Ms. Wassmundt that a referendum should be held to see how residents feel about the water issue. Mr. Hossack also spoke against a shared Town/UConn Research Fellow at the intermodal center.

Emile Poirier, Valley View Drive, relayed some concerns shared by the residents of Rolling Hills Mobile Home Park regarding the impact the extension of North Hillside Road will have on their quality of life. (Statement attached)

Peter Millman, Dog Lane, thanked the Council for their support for Storrs Center noting the project has increased the quality of life and will reduce taxes for residents. Mr. Millman noted the project has incorporated many “green” features and is excited about the intermodal center and the opportunities the shared research associate will provide.

Art Smith, Mulberry Road, asked the Council to carefully review the communications from the advisory committees regarding the water supply options. Mr. Smith asked whether the beneficiaries of the consent decree, as a result of the possible polluting of well water by UConn, will still have standing with regards access to information when UConn stops being a water company. Mr. Smith spoke to the background of the Yankee Institute.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report Town Manager Matt Hart commented on the following:

- The Windham Council of Governments (WINCOG) is still reviewing its options concerning the planned consolidation of COG’s across the state.

- The Ad hoc Committee on Responsible Contractors has planned a meeting for September 18, 2013 and has invited principals from area technical schools to attend.
- Council of Small Town (COST) membership will be discussed at an October meeting.
- Staff will review the characteristics of the pear trees planted in the Storrs Center project.
- UConn has committed to fulfilling its responsibilities to the Mansfield residents to whom they currently provide water as part of the consent decree. The Town Manager will look at the “standing” issue raised in public comment.

#### V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Moran noted the Council has yet to endorse the Connecticut Water Company proposal and will be reviewing the comments offered by the advisory committees.

Mr. Ryan noted that as the Town Council representative, he has been attending the Mansfield Board of Education contract negotiation meetings.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. Community Water and Wastewater Issues/Water Supply Project

Connecticut Water Company President Eric Thornburg and Vice President of Customer and Regulatory Affairs Maureen Westbrook introduced themselves and highlighted some of the key points of the proposed water supply project.

Council members discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Town and CWC in the proposed project, the fact that CWC has been managing the UConn water operation since 2005/2006, the regulatory agencies which control water company operations, and the need for a timely decision.

The Town Manager noted the next step would be, utilizing the comments of the advisory committees, the development of a non-binding letter of intent to be reviewed by the Council. Mr. Hart outlined some of the financing options available for the Four Corners project.

##### 2. Community/Campus Relations/Next Generation Connecticut Initiatives

UConn Vice Provost Sally Reis and University Master Planner and Architect Laura Cruickshank provided an update on the background, goals and impacts of the Next Generation Connecticut initiatives. Ms. Reis noted none of these initiatives will go forward if the UConn operating budget is reduced. Ms. Cruickshank reported the University is planning to construct 2 or 3 large dorms by 2016. In response to comments from the public regarding a study undertaken to identify the impacts on the Town, UConn representatives stated they took a look and a number of factors including water, parking, transportation and housing. They are interested in working with the Town.

The Council discussed the impact of additional students on the Town and its neighborhoods.

The Town/University Relations Committee will be meeting on September 10, 2013.

A report on student activities over the last few weekends, including information on which landlords have been cooperative, will be presented at the next Council meeting.

##### 3. Transportation Center Operations Plan

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded effective September 9, 2013 to: 1) approve the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center Operations Plan and Budget as prepared by staff; and 2) to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Mansfield and the University of Connecticut for the Storrs Center Intermodal Center Living Laboratory.

Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren and Mansfield Downtown Partnership Director Cynthia vanZelm reviewed the plan and the changes made in response to advisory committee comments. Civil Engineering Professor Nick Lownes described the plan and enthusiasm surrounding the proposed Storrs Center Intermodal Center Living Laboratory.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane and Mr. Freudmann who voted nay.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### 4. Town Square Design and Funding Plan

Town Manager Matt Hart outlined the funding plan for the town square. Staff reviewed the proposed design plan, which is designed to be flexible. The Partnership will hold a public hearing on the application on September 17, 2013 after which the Director of Planning and Development will make her recommendation as to whether or not the application meets the criteria of the Storrs Center Special Design District Regulations and Design Guidelines.

Council members discussed the design, some urging the inclusion of more green spaces.

Mr. Paulhus left the meeting at 10:26 p.m.

### 5. Notice of Grant Award – Main Street Investment Fund Program

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, authorizes approval of the Main Street Investment Fund Program Notice of Grant Award for the Storrs Center Downtown Enhancement Plan, and identifies, Matthew Hart, Town Manager, as an individual authorized to sign the Notice of Grant Award and administer the project. Such Notice of Grant Award is attached to and made part of this record. The motion passed unanimously.

### 6. MRRA, Single Family Refuse Rate Adjustment for Automated Collection

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to recess as the Town Council and convene as the Mansfield Resource Recovery Authority.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, to amend Sections A196-12(F)&(G) of the Mansfield Solid Waste Regulations, which amendments will be effective October 1, 2013.

Recycling Coordinator Virginia Walton explained the switch to an automated collection system and the 5% increase in single family rates.

The motion passed with all in favor.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

### 7. North Eagleville Road Walkway Easements

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolutions: RESOLVED, effective September 9, 2013, the Town Council hereby refers the acquisition of easements on North Eagleville Road for the construction of a public walkway between Hunting Lodge Road and Northwood Road to the Planning and Zoning Commission as required under Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24;

Be it further resolved, that as authorized under Connecticut General Statutes Sections 48-6 and 8-129, the affected property owners be notified and a public hearing be held at 7:30 PM at the Town Council's September 23, 2013 meeting concerning the acquisition of said easements by eminent domain.

The motion passed with all in favor.

8. Proclamations

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective September 9, 2013, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached proclamations:

- Proclamation in Recognition of F. W. Mayo and Sons, LLC
  - Proclamation Designating September as Senior Center Month
  - Proclamation Designating September as Leukemia, Lymphoma, & Myeloma Awareness Month
- Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Schaefer noted the Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee met last week and its report is in the packet.

Mr. Ryan reported the Finance Committee met and will present the Financial Statements and Year End Transfers at the next Council meeting.

Ms. Moran commented the Personnel Committee will be meeting to discuss the Town Manager's evaluation.

Mr. Kochenburger announced the Committee on Committees will be meeting on Friday September 13, 2013.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

9. K. Rawn

10. P. Nystrom/A. Bergen re: Central Corridor Passenger Rail Coalition

11. Mansfield Minute – September 2013

12. Mansfield Senior Center Computer Classes

13. Planning and Zoning Commission re: Pleasant Valley Resident/Agriculture and Pleasant Valley Commercial/Agriculture Regulations

14. VNA East September 2013 Health Screening and Clinics

15. Yankee Institute for Public Policy re: Transparency Audit – The Town Manager commended staff for their efforts. Council members noted the efforts of the Town Clerk and Information Technology Departments.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

No items offered.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Keane seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

SEPTEMBER 9, 2013