

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
January 13, 2014

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: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to approve the minutes of December 4, 2013 special meeting, as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Moran and Mr. Shapiro who abstained. Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2013 meeting, as presented. Motion passed with all in favor. Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2013 special meeting, as presented. Motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Ryan who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, urged the Council not to sign the Connecticut Water Company agreement and cautioned against the use of public private partnerships. (Statement attached).

Pat Suprenant, with the Mansfield Independent News and a resident, questioned if the Council has the power to commit the Town to a water supply and asked how assessments are to be determined.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, asked if there is a limit to the amount of water Connecticut Water Company can withdraw from local aquifers and expressed concern with a number of aspects of the proposed agreement.

Ron Baker, Storrs, Road, thanked the Town Council for their service to the community.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Hart reviewed a number of items in his report.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson congratulated Mr. Kochenburger on his election to the American Law Institute. The Mayor also noted the passing of longtime Mansfield resident and active volunteer Kathryn Jan Scottron and extended condolences to her family.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Water Supply Project/Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Connecticut Water Company

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

Resolved, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Water Supply Definitive Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Connecticut Water Company, dated January 13, 2014.

Representative of Connecticut Water Company and the Town's legal counsel for water issues were available to answer questions.

Council members discussed the proposed agreement including the role of PZC in connection approvals, the requirement that the completion date be realized prior to any requests for connection being accepted, possible impacts of an interbasin transfer and the fact that all of Connecticut Water Company's provided water will be brought in and not extracted from local aquifers.

January 13, 2014

The motion to approve the Water Supply Definitive Agreement passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to move Item 5, Meeting with State Legislators re 2014 Legislative Session and Related Issues, as the next item of business. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Deed Adjustment – Wilbur Cross Way at Supermarket Southeast Corner

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

RESOLVED, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, be, and hereby is authorized to sign the attached Quit Claim Deed to convey the property depicted as “Area To Be Conveyed to Storrs Center Alliance, LLC” in the map to be filed in the Mansfield Town Clerk’s Office entitled “Lot Line Modification Plan Storrs Center Storrs Road (Route 195), Charles Smith Way & Wilbur Cross Way Mansfield, Connecticut,” subject to the condition that the developer relocate the existing light pole to facilitate pedestrian access.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Community/Campus Relations

Mr. Hart reviewed the interactions between UConn and the Town with regards to the NextGen project. UConn has agreed to include Town staff in the planning process, to assist the Town in efforts to retain PILOT funding and to join in a partnership with the Town to assess the benefits and impacts of the project on Town services. By consensus the Council agreed to authorize Town staff to meet with their UConn counterparts to define the scope of an analysis and its potential cost. Council members suggested other towns affected by the project be included in the analysis. The Town Manager will report back to the Council.

4. Storrs Center Update

The Town Manager updated the Council regarding the most recently signed leases for Royce Circle.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Meeting with State Legislators re 2014 Legislative Session and Related Issues

State Senator Don Williams and Representative Gregory Haddad reported that, to date, the biennial budget is holding and cuts to municipal aid are not expected. The Representatives also spoke to the impact of UConn’s NextGen on the Town and of their financial support for an impact analysis. Council members and staff also discussed potential changes to the MERS program supported by CCM; the cost of fringe rates for state troopers; the Councils of Government consolidation and the fear the Windham area might lose its identity as a region; the Minimum Budget Requirement for educational spending and its detrimental impact on a municipality’s ability to save cost in non-educational areas and plans for a state water plan.

The Town Manager will summarize the discussed issues and forward the information to the representatives.

6. Resolution to Approve \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant for the Mansfield Town Square

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

RESOLVED, That the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut authorizes the submittal of the FY 2014 STEAP grant application to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for the Mansfield Town Square in the amount of \$500,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. UCONN Main Accumulation Area Environment Impact Evaluation (EIE)

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded, to authorize the Mayor to co-sign the attached letter in support of the University of Connecticut's efforts to relocate the Main Accumulation Area, as recommended by the environmental impact evaluation dated November 19, 2013.(Letter to be found in the January 1, 2014 packet)
Motion passed by all present.

8. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved effective January 13, 2014 to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and State and Federal Single Audit Reports for the year ended June 30, 2013, as endorsed by the Finance Committee.
The Finance Committee reviewed and approved the audit report which was very complimentary to the Finance Department.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. Appointment of Municipal Representative to Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kegler seconded, to appoint Councilor Paul M. Shapiro to the Board of Directors for the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, for a term commencing on January 13, 2014 and expiring on June 30, 2016.
Motion passed by all present.

10. Town Manager's Goals

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee moved January 13, 2014, to adopt the Town Manager's Goals for FY 2013/14.
Motion passed unanimously.

11. Presidents' Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee

Councilors Kochenburger, Moran and Raymond volunteered to prepare the program for the Presidents' Day Ceremonial Presentation

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan Chair of the Finance Committee, reported on recently passed legislation which requires Towns and Boards of Education to have a uniform system of accounting.

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Committee on Committees, recommended the following names for consideration:

The appointments of Lisa Boree, Kelly Zimmerman, Chelsea Burns, Jeff Smithson and Linda Williams to the Mansfield Advocates for Children. All terms will end on 6/30/2016.

The appointment of Lon Hultgren to the Transportation Advisory Committee, effective February 4, 2013. Mr. Hultgren's term will end on 2/4/2017.

The appointment of Kristopher Perry to the Committee on Persons with Disabilities for a term ending 6/30/2016.

The reappointment of Jennifer Thompson to the Beautification Committee for a term ending 6/30/2016

The reappointment of James Silva (term ending 9/30/2016) and Gregory Zlotnick (term ending 9/30/2015) to the Building Board of Appeals

The reappointment of Matt Hart to the Eastern Highland Health District for a term ending 10/4/2015

The reappointment of Winthrop Smith to the Board of Ethics for a term ending 6/30/2016

The reappointments of Gail Bruhn and David Spencer to the Historic District Commission for terms ending 11/01/2017

The reappointment of Michael Taylor to the Transportation Committee for a term ending 11/30/2015

The motion to approve all recommended appointments passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Responsible Contracting, reported the Committee will hear from the Chamber of Commerce at their meeting in February and then will begin discussions regarding possible language.

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Fee Waivers, noted the draft amendments will be reviewed by the Committee.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

12. T. Luciano (12/08/13) re: President Herbst's letter
13. T. Luciano (12/19/13) re: Draft Water Supply Agreement between the Town and CWC
14. T. Luciano (01/03/14) re: NextGen Connecticut & Town of Mansfield
15. M. Hart re: Statutory references delineating powers given to the Town Manager/Chief Executive Officer
16. Legal Notice: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Regional School District #19
17. Press Release: 2014/15 Non-Profit Agency Grant Application Available
18. Regional School District #19 Board of Education District Budget Sharing Information Meeting
19. State of Connecticut re: Comptroller Lembo Says State Budget Outlook Continues to Slowly Improve
20. State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management re: boundaries of logical planning regions
21. CCM re: Prescription Discount Card Program Results for Town of Mansfield
22. COST re: Connecticut Town Meeting
23. Mansfield Minute – January 2014
24. Connecticut Water: In Your Community – December 2013

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

No items suggested.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

January 13, 2014