

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
March 10, 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, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt
Excused: Kochenburger

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014 special meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014 regular meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed Amendments to the Ordinance Regarding Regional Council of Governments

Town Manager Matt Hart explained that at Mansfield's request the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has recently designated the Town as a member of the Capitol Planning Region. The proposed changes to the ordinance will withdraw the Town from Windham Region Council of Government (WINCOG) and authorize membership in the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CGCOG).

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, commented on the town attorney search. (Statement attached)

Ron Baker, Storrs Road, thanked the Council members for all their work for the community.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, asked that when CL&P is trimming trees that they make sure the wood goes to the property owner.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written statement the Town Manager commented that the rating sheet for the town attorney search was developed with Personnel Committee input.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Moran suggested that in addition to the efforts of staff and Council members to present the Town's case to area legislators and at legislative public hearings the Republican members consider talking to legislative members of their own party.

In response to comments by a citizen, Ms. Moran noted the RFQ issued for the town attorney elicited a number of responses from law firms all of which have extensive municipal experience. No decisions have been made.

Mr. Shapiro stated that the RFQ did a good job of identifying the essential qualities of a town attorney. Mr. Shapiro is looking forward to the next round of interviews and is baffled by a citizen's comment which suggested a conspiracy.

Mr. Ryan reported that he and Ms. Raymond attended the Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee at which the sewer design was presented. The plan is to have the details finalized so that a November referendum can be scheduled.

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Ms. Wassmundt expressed her disagreement with the Mayor's ruling regarding the exchange of notes between Councilors and the public during a meeting. Ms. Wassmundt noted that Council members who use electronic devices do have the ability to communicate with others during a meeting. (Statement attached)

Mayor Paterson reported that she attended the 90th birthday party of George Zlotnick and presented him, on behalf of the Town, with a proclamation. Mr. Zlotnick is a longtime resident, veteran, and business owner. The Mayor wished Mr. Zlotnick and his family continued health and long life.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to move Item 5, Presentation: Connecticut Light & Power re: Tree Trimming, and Item 6, UCONN STEM Residence Hall and Engineering/Science Building, ahead of Old Business.

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Proposed Amendments to the Ordinance Regarding Regional Council of Governments

Mr. Shapiro moved to suspend the Town Council Rules of Procedures and pursuant to Rule 6 consider the Ordinance Regarding Regional Council of Government this evening. Seconded by Ms. Moran the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded effective March 10, 2014, to approve the proposed amendments to the Ordinance Regarding Regional Council of Governments, which amendments shall repeal and replace the former ordinance in its entirety and be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Community/Campus Relations

The UCONN public scoping meeting for the proposed residence hall and Engineering and Science Building will take place on March 17, 2014. The Town-University Relations Committee meeting will take place on March 11, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Hart also reported that UCONN has embarked on the preparation of a master plan for the Storrs campus and the committee includes two Town staff members representing the Town. Members discussed the need for an impact study regarding UCONN's Next Generation project and the Tech Park; who should finance the study; and the importance of the Town being in charge of the direction of such a study.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to authorize staff to work with the UCONN administration to issue a RFQ to recommend to the Town Council a qualified consultant to conduct an impact study regarding UCONN's Next Generation project and related projects.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kegler, Ms. Raymond, and Ms. Wassmundt who voted against the motion

4. Storrs Center Update

Mr. Hart announced the opening of GBS Threading and Spa. In response to Councilors' questions, Mr. Hart commented that the Nash Zimmer Transportation Center will be opening in early April and that he will provide copies of the Municipal Development Plan for Storrs Center indicating the Town's responsibility regarding the roads within the condominium section.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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5. Presentation: Connecticut Light & Power re: Tree Trimming
Sean Johnston and Steve Child of Connecticut Light & Power provided an update on the different levels of tree trimming planned in parts of Mansfield and discussed the notification process. Citizens were urged to contact customer service at 1-800-286-2000 if they have any problems after the trimming. In areas of more intense trimming a representative will personally contact home owners prior to any activity. Mr. Johnston will look at the most recent trimming history on Fern Road and report back to the Town Manager. In response to a citizen comment regarding the ownership of the cut wood, Mr. Johnston suggested home owners put out a sign once the crew is no longer there.

6. UCONN STEM Residence Hall and Engineering/Science Building
Director of Planning and Development Linda Painter and UCONN Environmental Compliance Manager Jason Coite described the March 17, 2014 public scoping process for the proposed residence hall and Engineering and Science building. The suggested letters include the comments of the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the need for a campus master plan prior to additional construction, the need for traffic studies evaluating the impacts on local roads, and the need to reduce impacts on the Eagleville Brook watershed.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective March 10, 2014, to authorize the Mayor to co-sign the attached letters to the University regarding the proposed new Residence Hall and Engineering and Science Building.
The motion passed unanimously.

7. Response to Council Inquiry re: Technological Divide
Library Director Leslie McDonough and IT Director Jaimie Russell reviewed their report which shows that, in an attempt to offer all residents the information they need, The Town provides technological opportunities for accessing information but has not abandoned the availability of traditional means.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No comments offered.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

8. J. Goodwin re: Innovative Partnership Building Comparative Evaluation
9. B. Finch re: Senate Bill No. 858
10. R. Pfau re: A Commendation for Fine Roads Work
11. M. Hart re: Overtime and Fringe Benefit Rate for Resident Troopers
12. V. Walton re: Senate Bill No. 67
13. State of Connecticut General Assembly re: Request for the Program Review and Investigations Committee to Conduct a Municipal Needs Capacity Study
14. Community Renewal Team re: Programs and Services
15. Connecticut Light & Power re: CL&P Kicks Off Initial Work on Interstate Reliability Project
16. Connecticut Light & Power re: Plan Before You Hike
17. Freedom of Information Commission Annual Conference
18. Invitation from Mansfield Tomorrow
19. The Last Green Valley – Clean Up! Green Up!

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Marcellino requested the Council consider writing the Probate Court Administrator to see how the court could be made more accessible to residents. The Town Manager

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will provide a report on the state's consolidation and the process the four towns used to determine the location.

Town Manager Matt Hart requested the Council invite the Housing Authority to a meeting to discuss Section 8 housing and to schedule an update on the Masonicare Independent/Assisted Living Project.

Ms. Wassmundt requested the Council review electronic communications and the Town Council Rules of Procedure and whether the use of electronics disadvantages those who do not have similar access.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Raymond moved and Ms. Moran seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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