

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 15, 2014

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 8:00 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. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed FY 2014/2015 Budget

The Town Clerk read the legal notice.

Ann Kouatly and Omar Kouatly, both of Fern Road, urged support for the funds in the budget which would provide for an environmental study of the former bus garage near their homes. Mr. Kouatly reiterated his concerns for the safety of the children in the neighborhood. (Statement attached)

Richard Long, Westgate Lane and Chair of the Mansfield Housing Authority, urged support for the additional funding requested for the Authority. Mr. Long commented on the positive change he has seen in participants who have had to, with staff assistance, work through issues and crisis in their lives.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, requested a zero tax increase this year. (Statement attached)

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, agreed with Mr. Coleman and commented on the budgets of the Board of Education and Public Works Department.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, noted that sometimes debt serves as a catalyst for unwanted changes and expressed concerns on the direction the Town is taking.

Brian Anderson, Ridge Road, spoke in support of the budget commenting that it is important to make sure the Town remains strong.

John Hodgson, E.O.Smith school counselor and resident of Wormwood Hill Road, spoke in favor of the Challenge Program. (Statement attached)

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, urged the Council not to approve the Safe routes to School Grant. (Statement attached)

IV. NEW BUSINESS

2. Proclamation in Honor of World Book Night

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective April 15, 2014, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Honor of World Book Night. (Proclamation attached)

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Motion passed unanimously.

3. Proposed Amendments to Fee Waiver Ordinance

Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Fee Waiver Ordinance Peter Kochenburger moved, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on April 28, 2014, to solicit public comment on the proposed amendments to the Fee Waiver Ordinance.

Council members discussed the role of a resident's financial status in Section 122-4, Intent; clarification of the residency statement in Section 122-5. B., Eligibility Criteria; and whether the proposed amendments should be reviewed again by the Committee.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kegler, Ms. Raymond and Ms.

Wassmundt who voted against the motion.

4. Safe Routes to School Grant – Southeast School Walkway

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective April 15, 2014, to adopt the following resolution in support of the Southeast School Walkway Safe Routes to School Project:

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield broadly publicized a public informational meeting for the proposed Safe Routes to School Southeast Elementary School Walkway project on Route 89 through direct mail to property owners in the project vicinity, PTO notification of Southeast parents, flyers at the public library, Town Manager reports and website postings; and

WHEREAS, a public informational meeting was held on March 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Southeast Elementary School gymnasium, 134 Warrenville Road, at which meeting residents had an opportunity to voice their concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield has considered the concerns of residents from the public informational meeting and finds that the proposed project is in the best interest of the Town of Mansfield, and will promote public health, safety and general welfare of its residents and provide convenience and safety for the travelling public.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Town of Mansfield hereby fully supports the proposed Southeast School Walkway project based upon the above information.

Council members discussed the safety of the proposed route of the sidewalk, its potential use and the cost of maintenance. Staff reported that according to conversations with the Federal Highway Administration the Town would not be liable for returning funds if the school closed.

The motion failed with Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson and Shapiro in favor and Kegler, Marcellino, Raymond, Ryan and Wassmundt against.

5. Acceptance of Bolton Road Extension, Royce Circle, Wilbur Cross Way and Charles Smith Way

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Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective April 15, 2014, to refer the acceptance of Bolton Road Extension, Royce Circle, Wilbur Cross Way and Charles Smith Way as municipal roads to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
The motion passed unanimously.

6. Consolidation of Non-Educational Services (PA13-60)

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective April 15, 2014, to authorize the Mayor to transmit the attached memorandum to the Mansfield Board of Education detailing the Town Council's recommendations for the consolidation of non-educational services.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Memorandum of Agreement with Connecticut Water Company, Water System Advisory Committee

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective April 15, 2014, to refer the draft Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Connecticut Water Company, concerning the Water System Advisory Committee, to the Committee on Committees to review and to develop a recommendation for the Town Council as a whole.

Mr. Kegler moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to amend the motion and add Willington to the list of towns with representatives.

The motion to approve the amendment passed unanimously.

The motion as amended passed unanimously. By consensus Council members agreed that the total number of Committee members and whether or not the appointment of a Planning and Zoning member would be a conflict of interest are two issues identified as items of discussion by the Committee on Committees.

8. Memorial Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee

Mr. Ryan, Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Kegler will arrange the Memorial Day Ceremonial Presentation.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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