

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
June 23, 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

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2014 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, called the vote on the Safe Routes to School at the May 27, 2014 meeting a poor display of democracy.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, noted the Mansfield Housing Authority purchased land on South Eagleville Road, which is currently zoned RAR-90, and plan to construct Section 8 housing units. Mr. Freudmann asked if the Town has offered any assurances regarding a zoning change. He also questioned why the Mansfield Housing Authority asked the Council for an increase in funds during the budget cycle if they were able to purchase this land for cash.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, expressed concerns regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and UConn.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, asked if herbicides are being used near the sidewalk in front of the Eaton bog and if they are requested the area be posted.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report Town Manager Matt Hart commented that he became aware of plans for the Mansfield NonProfit Housing Development Corporation to build affordable housing units last week and stated that no assurances have been given with regards to potential zone changes.

Ms. Wassmundt expressed disappointment that the fee schedule for the transfer station was not presented during the budget cycle. The Town Manager stated that the various fee schedules could be included as budget documents if the Council so desires.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson publically thanked Jennifer Thompson, Fran Raiola, Jamie Russell and Sara-Ann Bourque for their work on the implementation of the CodeRed project and urged residents to sign up for the alerts if they haven't already.

The Mayor also noted the grand opening of Hartford Healthcare and welcomed the facility to the community.

Ms. Moran reported the CRT production of Sunshine Boys was wonderful. The next scheduled production is Gypsy.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

No report

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The UConn Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee met and were provided a brief report on Connecticut Water Company's water diversion permit. The Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee will meet on July 1, 2014. An update on the project will be provided. The Town Manager and Director of Finance have invited Bill Lindsay, the Town's financial adviser, to the next Finance Committee meeting to discuss bonding options for the Four Corners Project.

Staff continues to keep Masonicare updated on the water project.

3. Collaboration with Community School for the Arts

Parks and Recreation Director Curt Vincente, UConn Vice-Provost and Executive Vice-President of Academic Affairs Sally Reis, Dean of the UConn School of Fine Arts Brid Grant, and Community School for the Arts Director Linda Neelly described the importance of the project and responded to questions. Ms. Reis stated the proposed collaboration will eliminate duplicate registration and marketing efforts allowing the Town and School to offer more to the children of Mansfield. Ms. Grant addressed remarks made during the public comment section of the meeting, at which time a resident misidentified the profit and loss figures for the Community School for the Arts (CSA).

Council members discussed the details of the proposed MOU, the joint marketing and registration plans, the historical role of the University in providing access to the arts, the financial sustainability of the School, the opportunity to try the collaboration with assessments to be made in a year and again the following year, and the need for a comprehensive business plan.

In response to questions raised during the public comment period, Mr. Hart stated the Town is not assuming any liability to pay any UConn employee nor is the Town assuming any debt for the program. The Town will realize "full cost recovery" during this two year period. Mr. Hart also stated that he has full confidence in the Finance Director's ability to absorb this added entity into her department's work flow.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective June 23, 2014, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Connecticut regarding the Community School of the Arts for a term to run from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Transfer of Uncollected Taxes to Property Tax Suspense Book

Chair of the Finance Committee Mr. Ryan moved, effective June 23, 2014, to transfer \$53,531.81 in uncollected property taxes to the Mansfield Property Tax Suspense Book, as recommended by the Collector of Revenue.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to refer the matter of uncollected taxes for UConn students to the Town/University Relations Committee, to determine if the University could assist the Town with its collection efforts.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Council Appointment to Parking Steering Committee

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded, effective June 23, 2014, to appoint Alex Marcellino to the Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center, as the Town Council representative.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective June 23, 2014, to add one ex officio position for Hart Realty Advisors to the Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan reported the auditor's recommendations have been or will be implemented by the Director of Finance. The Committee also received an update on the implementation of the uniform chart of accounts for the Town and Board and reviewed the energy prices for the year. The Finance Committee will be reviewing the financial shared services agreement.

Chair of the Personnel Committee Toni Moran stated the Committee reviewed the use of electronic devices by Councilors during meetings and are recommending no changes to the Town Council Rules of Procedures. The Committee urged members not to use such devices for communication purposes and requested if members would like to communicate with others that they leave the table and go into the hallway. The Committee also looked at the cancellation of meetings and agreed that meetings should be cancelled and rescheduled if, for a variety of reasons, the work of the committee cannot be accomplished. No changes to the Town Council Rules of Procedures were recommended.

Chair of the Committee on Committees Peter Kochenburger offered the recommendation of Sabrina Hosmer to the Mansfield Advocates for Children. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Kochenburger provided an update regarding the membership to the Connecticut Water Company Advisory Committee. The Economic Development Commission is recommending the appointment of John McQuire. The Conservation Commission is recommending the appointment of Joan Buck. The Planning and Zoning Commission, in consultation with the Town Attorney, has declined to recommend an appointment. Mr. Kochenburger spoke to Conservation Commission member and Open Space Committee member Michael Soares who is willing to serve. The Committee on Committees will meet prior to the next Council meeting to vote on the recommendations.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comment offered.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

6. A. Smith (6/9/14)
7. A. Smith (6/10/14)
8. J. Goodwin re: STEM Residence Hall DEEP Wetlands Permit Application
9. E. Paterson re: Appointment to WRTD
10. E. Paterson/M. Hart re: WRTD
11. C. Trahan re: Mileage Reimbursement for Superintendent Baruzzi – Council members to review with regards to the upcoming discussion on shared services.
12. PZC Application Referral: East Brook F, LLC
13. Transfer Station Fee Schedule
14. Legal Notice: Adoption of Amendments to Parks Rules and Regulations
15. Mansfield Minute – June 2014
16. Press Release: Test of Mansfield's CodeRED emergency notification system complete
17. CRCOG Annual Report 2013-2014
18. UConn 2013 Water Quality Report

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Ryan requested the Council look at extending the rental zone to the entire Town. Ms. Moran asked when the proposed smoking bans in Town parks will be discussed. The Town Manager expects this issue to be included on a July agenda.

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

June 23, 2014