

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
October 14, 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. Shapiro moved and Mr. Marcellino seconded to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2014 special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2014 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Ryan who abstained. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2014 regular meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Ryan who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Jason McGarry, South Eagleville Road, spoke to the increase in crime and traffic accidents in Eagleville. Mr. McGarry distributed pictures of recent incidents and asked the Town to erect barriers at the corner of Rte. 275 and Rte. 32. Mr. McGarry expressed concern for the safety of his family. (Pictures will be included as a communication in the 10/27/2014 packet)

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, spoke in opposition to the rental certification zone citing both cost and privacy concerns. (Statement attached)

Noreen Pease, Manager of Wood's Edge Apartments, described recent events surrounding the execution of warrants in accordance with the Mansfield Housing Code at the apartment complex. Ms. Pease stated she believes that the constitutional rights of tenants were violated.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, objected to the characterization of his September 22, 2014 public comments as presented in the minutes and requested an ad hoc committee be formed to study the performance and efficiency of the Fire Department.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, stated that it is inappropriate to use the Code Red system to get out the vote for the referendum; urged the Council to find cuts to finance the proposed additional appropriations (Item 6); and disagreed with the expansion of the rental certification zone.

Rebecca Shafer, Echo Road, asked the Council to look at the interest rates charged for taxes that are in arrears and the practice of applying payments to the oldest bill. Ms. Shafer also commented that the implementation of the rental zone served the purpose for which it was intended and sees no need to expand the zone.

Bill Rowe, stated the rental certification zone was established to address one area of Town but now it is too expensive and a way for the Town to make money.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, asked why the live broadcast of tonight's Council meeting was not working and posed a series of questions. (Statement attached)

Jeffrey Viens, Columbia, told the Council they should be ashamed of themselves for not beginning the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ray Haddad, Conantville Road, commented that he does not think that the emergency calling system should be used for the referendum.

Pat Suprenant, Mansfield Independent News, questioned how the Council is able to circumvent the purchase order requirement for the Blum Shapiro proposal (Item 7) and not go out to bid.

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IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written reports Town Manager Matt Hart offered the following remarks:

- Charter has reported a technical problem which prevents them from broadcasting tonight's meeting live. The Town website, however, is streaming the meeting. The meeting will be rebroadcast on Channel 191 as scheduled.
- The Town Manager has spoken to and will look into Mr. McGarry's concerns about traffic and crime issues in Eagleville. The Town has erected additional signage and increased police patrols in the area. The Traffic Authority will look at other options including the possibility of erecting barriers along state roads.
- Mr. Hart will confirm if the Town has any latitude regarding the interest rate charged for past due taxes and how payments are applied. Later in the meeting Town Attorney Kevin Deneen clarified that both the interest rate and the application of payments are a matter of state law and the Town has no discretion in the matter.
- The agreement with the Community School for the Arts has not yet been executed. The Town will be looking for the program to cover all related costs.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Kegler reported that he and Ms. Wassmundt attended the Connecticut Water Company's informational meeting. Mr. Kegler noted a requirement, discussed at the meeting, which imposes water usage limitations along the water pipe line route.

Ms. Moran reminded residents of the Mansfield Pup Crawl on October 18, 2014. All proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Mansfield Animal Shelter.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations, UConn Master Plan

University of Connecticut Associate Vice President Tom Callahan, Director of Planning Beverly Wood and Manager of Environmental Compliance Jason Coite were present to discuss the roll out of UConn's Master Plan. The UConn representatives spoke to the timing of community information sessions, the approval schedule for the draft and final plan and plans for future environmental reviews. Ms. Woods noted that she has had no requests for biosafety level 4 laboratories. Mr. Callahan will provide information as to whether state and federal laws would require community involvement if a higher level biosafety laboratory is ever proposed.

2. Mansfield Housing Code, Expansion of Rental Certification Zone

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, to accept the proposed amendments to the Mansfield Housing Code, which amendments shall be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Mansfield.

Director of Building and Housing Mike Nintean was available to answer questions.

Members discussed the need for the program, the cost of certification to landlords and tenants, the inspection process used by officials, privacy rights, the use of warrants, and the benefit of the entire Town having the same rules.

Ms. Wassmundt called the question. Seconded by Mr. Shapiro the motion passed unanimously.

The motion to approve passed with Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson Ryan and Shapiro in favor and Kegler, Raymond and Wassmundt in opposition.

3. Use of Code Red and QNotify Community Notification Systems for Referendum Notice

The Town Manager clarified the planned use of Code Red for the November 4, 2014 Referendum. The plan is to send a notification only to those residents who have specifically signed up for community notifications, not to be confused with the emergency

call list which is populated by AT&T and sign-ups. The communication will be in the form of an email and will conform to state laws for such notifications.

Mr. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective October 14, 2014, to authorize the Mayor to approve use of the QNotify community notification system to send a notification in the week preceding November 4, 2014 to remind residents of the time and location of the upcoming bond referendum on the Four Corners Sanitary Sewer Project. The notice distributed may also include the ballot question and explanatory text as prepared by the Town Clerk and approved by the Town Attorney.

The motion to approve passed with Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson Ryan and Shapiro in favor and Kegler, Raymond and Wassmundt in opposition.

4. Storrs Center Update

The CVS store is now open and Java Juice and Bruegger's Bagels will open later this month. Two occupants have been identified for the building near Price Chopper.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

5. Resolution to Join the Capitol Region Council of Governments Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the following resolution:
RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CRCOG) MPO

WHEREAS, as the result of the State of Connecticut's reorganization of regional planning organizations and councils of government the Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG), of which Mansfield was a member, was dissolved as of June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield voted to join the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), effective July 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG is the region's Transportation Management Area (TMA)/Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); and

WHEREAS, the Federal 23 CFR 450.310, MPO Designation and Re-designation Process requires that units of general purpose local government vote in favor of MPO Re-designation in order for such re-designation to take effect;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mansfield Town Council hereby votes to join the Capitol Region Council of Governments Transportation Management Area / Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Proposed Additional Appropriations FY2014/15

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan offered the following motions:
Move, effective October 14, 2014, to increase the FY2014/15 General Fund Transfer to Capital/CNR by \$212,500, to be funded by the additional State payment in lieu of taxes grant.

Move, effective October 14, 2014, to amend the Capital Non-recurring Fund and the Capital Improvement Program Fund budgets to fund a replacement for Ambulance 607 (\$50,000); a pavement management system study (\$50,000); street sign inventory/replacements (\$60,000).

Move, effective October 14, 2014, to amend the Capital Improvement Program Fund budget for the purchase of a Transfer Station vehicle, roll off dumpsters, compactor and boxes for \$241,000, to be funded by the Solid Waste Fund.

Mr. Kegler moved and Ms. Wassmundt seconded to amend the motion by eliminating the funding for a replacement ambulance and by adding the \$195,000 (Other Capital Improvement Needs – Future Action) and the \$401,500 to the Fund Balance Reserve.

Chief Dave Dagon discussed the proposal to purchase a replacement ambulance.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to amend the proposed amendment by eliminating the inclusion of \$195,000 to the Fund Balance Reserve.
The motion to amend the amendment passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to further amend the amendment by eliminating the replacement ambulance.
The motion to further amend the amendment failed with Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, and Ryan in favor and Kegler, Marcellino, Raymond, Shapiro and Wassmundt in opposition.
The amendment, as amended, passed unanimously.

The amended motion now reads:

Move, effective October 14, 2014, to increase the FY2014/15 General Fund Transfer to Capital/CNR by \$162,500, to be funded by the additional State payment in lieu of taxes grant.

Move, effective October 14, 2014, to amend the Capital Non-recurring Fund and the Capital Improvement Program Fund budgets to fund a pavement management system study (\$50,000) and street sign inventory/replacements (\$60,000).

Move, effective October 14, 2014, to amend the Capital Improvement Program Fund budget for the purchase of a Transfer Station vehicle, roll off dumpsters, compactor and boxes for \$241,000, to be funded by the Solid Waste Fund.

Move, effective October 14, 2014, to place \$401,500 in the Fund Balance Reserve.

The amended motion passed with Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson Ryan and Shapiro in favor and Raymond and Wassmundt in opposition.

By consensus the Council agreed to add the purchase of a replacement ambulance to the next agenda.

7. BlumShapiro Proposal to Perform a Financial Operations Control Assessment
Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee moved, effective October 14, 2014, to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract with BlumShapiro to perform the scope of services detailed in BlumShapiro's Proposal to Perform a Financial Operations Controls Assessment, dated October 6, 2014.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted in opposition.

8. New Local Option Property Tax Exemption
The material is informational only. By consensus the Council agreed to pass over this agenda item.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS (www.MansfieldCT.gov)

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the Committee met earlier this evening and that the issues addressed in that meeting have been discussed during the Council meeting.

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Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Committee on Committees, offered the following recommendations to the Council:
The reappointments of Don Nolan, Laurie Grunske McMorrow, and Beverly Korba, and the appointments of Nancy Trawick-Smith and Jennifer May Hoskins to the Commission on Aging
The reappointment of Michael Kurland to the Eastern Highland Health District Board of Directors
The appointment of Suzanne Gormley to the Mansfield Advocates for Children
The appointment of Eric Apgar to the Parks Advisory Committee
The appointment of Prescott Powers to the Arts Advisory Council
The appointment of Joan Terry (representing the Mansfield Senior and Wellness Center Executive Board) to the Human Service Advisory Committee
The motion to recommend passed unanimously.
Mr. Kochenburger noted the Committee is reviewing the advisability merging the Advisory Committee of People with Disabilities with the Human Services Committee and has asked the Director of Human Services to poll the members for their input.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Responsible Contracting, reported the Committee met recently and will be bringing their recommendations to the Council at the next meeting.

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

9. C. Rowe (09/20/14)
10. A. Smith (09/22/14)
11. J. Kaufman (09/19/14)
12. B. Barnes re: University of Connecticut, Main Accumulation Area
13. Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association re: 2014 Program of Merit Award
14. State of Connecticut re: Historic Documents Preservation Grant FY 2015
15. Connecticut Water, In Your Community – September 2014
16. CCM Candidate Bulletin – Major Issues in Financing PreK-12 Public Education: Achieving a Balanced Local-State Relationship (www.MansfieldCT.gov)
17. CCM Candidate Bulletin – Property Taxes in Connecticut: How Over-Reliance Thwarts Towns' Ability to Provide Essential Services (www.MansfieldCT.gov)
18. CCM Candidate Bulletin – Unfunded State Mandates: The Corrosive Impact & Reasonable Relief Measures (www.MansfieldCT.gov)
19. Mystic Country re: Annual Review (www.MansfieldCT.gov)

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

Ambulance needs will be discussed at the next meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting and 11:05 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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