

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 27, 2015

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, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt
Excused: Marcellino

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Ryan and Ms. Wassmundt who abstained. Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, provided responses to points made in a letter to the editor from the Mayor which was in response to his letter to the Chronicle.

Gary Bent, Mansfield Hollow Road, presented an additional 100 signatures on the petition requesting state legislators to oppose the expansion of the Algonquin Pipeline through Mansfield and asked the Council to pass a resolution which would begin the process of stopping the expansion. (Statement attached)

Don Hoyle, Bassetts Bridge Road, described the expansion of the use of fossil fuels as a moral issue and urged the Council to take a new look at where energy is coming from.

Marjorie Mollar, Olsen Drive, expressed concern for future generations who will have to contend with significant changes in the climate in the next 25 year if people do not take steps now to limit the use of fossil fuels. (Statement attached)

Peter Millman, Dog Lane, urged the Council to pass a resolution stopping the expansion of infrastructure which will lock us into a technology which is not the future. Mr. Millman submitted materials which outlined many of the reasons it is necessary to reign in greenhouse gas emissions. (Submitted materials will be listed as a communication in the May 11, 2015 packet)

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, spoke about the quiet Spring Weekend, the recruitment of prospective employees, and concerns about the construction process of additional pipelines. Mr. Coleman stated that the construction process is not up to the State or the Town but efforts at conservation are within the Town's purview.

George Rawitscher, Codfish Falls Road, stated that the expansion of the pipeline will retard the development of renewable energy and will result in the additional use of fossil fuels.

Miriam Kurland, Wormwood Hill Road, commented that to stop climate change many steps including conservation, efficiency, and stopping the use of fossil fuel will be necessary. Ms. Kurland stated that the pipeline infrastructure needs to be fixed and that expansion will cost all residents.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, stated efforts to stop the pipeline expansion is an exercise in futility and that the energy companies are the ones taking the risk as you can't force someone to buy energy.

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Julia Sherman, Pinewoods Road, stated that one of the unintended consequences of expansion of the pipeline is the cost of cleanup and asked the Council to show the State where we stand regarding future energy needs.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report, the Town Manager reviewed the following budget information attached to the report:

- Requested Council scenario adjustments for the proposed FY 2015/16 budget
- Clarification that the net number of Board of Education employees in the proposed budget has decreased by one
- Impact of the proposed mill rate on residential properties following the revaluation

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments offered

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to move Item 4, Algonquin Pipeline Expansion, as the next item of business.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

- Downtown Logo
Mansfield Downtown Partnership Executive Director Cynthia vanZelm provided copies of the Partnership's new Downtown Storrs logo and described the areas included in the Downtown Storrs area of focus. Ms. vanZelm noted a number of ways the areas activities are being promoted and marketed including an event calendar, the expansion of various activities, and the use of multiple types of social media.
- Town Square Update
Ms. vanZelm reported the Town Square will be completed this week and invited members to the ribbon cutting ceremony on May 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Other planned events are planned for the summer including live music on Wednesdays in June and July, and a Puppetry Festival in August.
- Other
The Executive Director reported that Hair Cuttery and Wing Stop will be opening this spring/summer and Educational PlayCare will be opening in the fall.

2. Community/Campus Relations

Town Manager Matt Hart reviewed the activities of Spring Weekend 2015. Mr. Hart will be meeting with the State Police and University Personnel to debrief the event and will emphasize the value of the restrictions currently in place. Mr. Shapiro requested that the most recent Spring Weekend 2015 activities be compared to those of a non-Spring Weekend and that the impact on the Town of the weekend before Spring Weekend 2015 be addressed. The Town Manager will provide more data on non-Spring Weekends during both the fall and spring semesters. UConn representatives will be invited to a future meeting to make a presentation on future plans for the Depot Campus.

3. Draft: Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective April 27, 2015, to endorse the December 2014 Public Hearing Draft of the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development, with the changes recommended at the April 9, 2015 Special Town Council meeting and reflected in the minutes of said meeting.
The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who abstained.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded that the Town's legislative representatives be sent the following statement:
The Mansfield Town Council wishes to express its concern with the increased use of fossil fuels proposed by the Algonquin Pipeline expansion and by the pollution caused by escaping methane gas. We ask the legislature to consider ways of moderating these impacts.
Members discussed their lack of knowledge on the subject, the concern expressed regarding increased escaping methane gas, the role the Town can play and the Town's carbon footprint impact. Councilors thanked residents for their input.
Mr. Kochenburger requested the last sentence be changed to read: We request that the State Legislature urge regulatory authorities to stay further construction of the pipeline pending additional review.
Accepted as a friendly amendment the motion, as amended, passed with Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan, and Shapiro in favor and Kegler, Raymond and Wassmundt opposed.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) for the purpose of consideration of the sewer and water sewer budgets.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. WPCA, FY 2014/15 Willimantic Sewer Budget
Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective April 27, 2015, to adopt the FY 2014/15 Willimantic Sewer Budget as prepared by town staff. The Finance Director explained the increase and the timing of the budget.
The motion passed unanimously.
6. WPCA, FY 2014/15 UConn Water and Sewer Budget
Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective April 27, 2015, to adopt the FY 2014/15 UConn Water and Sewer budget as prepared by town staff.
The Town Manager will verify that Storrs Center is being billed and paying UConn directly for sewer and water usage.
The motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to end the Council's roles as the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) and reconstitute as the Council.
The motion passed unanimously.
7. Approval of License Agreement between the Town and the Mansfield Downtown Partnership for Office Space
Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed License Agreement with the Mansfield Downtown Partnership for the use of 820 square feet of office space in the Nash-Zimmer Transportation

Center, at an annual rent payment of \$13,120, for the period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017

Council members discussed the following concerns in the wording of the License Agreement:

- Item 1. Premises – clarification of the meaning of the phrase, “... which may include any number of parking spaces in the Building...”
- Item 5 License Fee – clarification of the fee which should be \$26,240 for the initial term (initial term is for two years)
- Item 9 Compliance with law; Indemnity – change “personal injury” to “bodily injury”

Mr. Ryan withdrew his motion and the issue will be considered at the next Council meeting.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No comments offered.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORT

No comments offered.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

8. A. Chandy/F. Huang/M. Lin (04-14-15)
9. Planning and Zoning Commission re: 2015-16 Capitol Improvement Budget
10. W. Rose/M. Hart re: Interlocal Agreement
11. Office Hours with Senator Flexer and State Representatives Haddad & Orange
12. State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection re: funding allocation – Mr. Hart highlighted the receipt of this grant.
13. ICMA Center for Performance Analytics – Inaugural 100 Communities – Mr. Hart noted that Mansfield is one of only a 100 communities who have adopted the ICMA Insights performance evaluation system. Jay Ghassem-Zadeh, the intern who worked on implementation of these standards, will make a presentation to the Council in late May.
14. Town of Mansfield 2013-2014 Annual Report (www.MansfieldCT.gov)

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

No items identified

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson. Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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