

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
June 13, 2016

Mayor Paul M. Shapiro called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Raymond, Ryan, Shaiken, Shapiro
Excused: Marcellino, Sargent

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2016 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Shapiro paused the meeting and asked all present to reflect and remember those affected by the shooting in Orlando.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Gary Bent, Mansfield Hollow Road, urged the Council to ask the DOT for a safety study of Route 6 given the co-infusion station proposed for Andover. Mr. Bent stated that 5 to 10 trucks per hour, carrying high pressure natural gas, are expected to navigate Route 6. He is concerned that an accident will cause a dangerous rupture and explosion.

Patricia Taylor, Deputy Outreach Director for Environment and Human Health, Inc., urged the Town to enact regulations that would prohibit outdoor wood furnaces.
(Statement attached)

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, agreed with Mr. Bent that Route 6 is a terrible place to add truck traffic. Mr. Coleman stated that, according to people that he has talked to, the crumbling foundation problem in Mansfield is larger than reported and that he feels the Town has not been as proactive as other towns in addressing the problem.

Lois Happe, Olsen Drive, reported that the proposed Andover infusion station is the first in the country and therefore there is no history or experience with mitigating possible outcomes.

Amy Gorin, Michele Lane, thanked the Council for their efforts regarding the possible building project at E.O.Smith and urged members to stay involved in the discussion. Ms. Gorin would like the downtown to remain part of Mansfield not an extension of UConn. Steve Bacon, Wormwood Hill Road resident and attorney for the Mansfield Historical Society, commented on Item 3, Lease Agreement with Mansfield Historical Society. Mr. Bacon stated that the proposed lease has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and is supported by the Society.

Kelly Bourquin, Jonathan Lane, spoke in support of Ms. Gorin's comments and questioned how regional boards work with town government to make sure everyone is on the same page.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager offered the following comments:

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- The issue of crumbling foundations is the first item of business on this evening's agenda.
- If the Council wishes, the subject of outdoor wood furnaces could be added to a future agenda. The issue is a Planning and Zoning Commission matter but the Council could review the information provided and refer the matter to Eastern Highlands Health District or the Conservation Commission for comments.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Shapiro reported that the Memorial Day event, moved to the Middle School because of rain, was terrific and thanked Sara-Ann Chaine, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager, for her nimble work.

Ms. Moran noted that last Monday Main Street Connecticut presented an award to the Downtown Partnership for the development of the Town Square. The Partnership was recognized both for the public participation process followed in the creation of the Square and for its use as a public facility. Ms. Moran itemized some of the concerts and events to be held this summer.

Mr. Shaiken reported that both he and Mr. Kochenburger attended the Region 19 Board of Education meeting last week and offered his thanks to the Board for postponing any decisions on building process.

Mr. Ryan and Ms. Raymond attended the Four Corners Water and Sewer Committee meeting and asked that the proposed sewer agreement between the Town and UConn be forwarded to its members.

Mr. Kochenburger noted that the UConn baseball had a very successful season reaching the American Athletic Conference Tournament semifinals. He also announced that Jack Sundberg, team captain and resident of Mansfield, has been drafted by the Washington Nationals.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Crumbling Foundations in Eastern Connecticut

Town Manager Matt Hart reviewed some of the steps the Town has taken and are currently pursuing regarding crumbling foundations including, hosting and organizing the public information session, meeting with colleagues to discuss ways to help residents, and encouraging the State to provide interim relief and take additional steps as outlined in a June 9, 2016 letter to the Governor.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to authorize the Mayor to sign the aforementioned letter with all due haste.

The motion passed unanimously.

PA 1645 will be posted on the Town's website.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

2. Fair Housing Policy and Resolution

Mr. Shaiken moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective June 13, 2016, to adopt the attached Fair Housing Resolution

Motion passed unanimously.

Staff will make sure the current fair housing information on the website has been updated.

3. Lease Agreement with the Mansfield Historical Society
Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Raymond seconded, effective June 13, 2016, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the attached Lease Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Mansfield Historical Society, Inc.
Motion passed unanimously.
4. Special Fare Agreement with Windham Region Transit District (WRTD)
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shaiken seconded, effective June 13, 2016, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Windham Transit District to provide a Special Fare Program for qualifying Mansfield residents for FY 2016/17.
Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane who voted in opposition.
5. Agreement Between the Town of Mansfield, the Mansfield Board of Education and the Regional School District No. 19 Board of Education for Employee Benefits, Financial Management, Information Technology and Risk Management Services
Director of Finance Cherie Trahan and Director of Information Technology Jaime Russell reviewed the new cost analysis methodology used to determine the allocation of expenses for shared financial and informational technology services.
Ms. Trahan will provide a direct of comparison of FY2016/17 incurred costs and figures for the proposed cost sharing agreement for FY2017/18.
In Section III A (page 63) change the work “management” in the last paragraph to “principles”.
6. Graduate Student Intern Presentation
Kevin Filchak, Graduate Student Intern for the last year and a half, talked about his experience working in Mansfield and described some of his major accomplishments. Council members thanked Kevin for his work and wished him success in his future endeavors.
7. Independence Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee
Ms. Moran and Ms. Raymond volunteered to serve on the Subcommittee. Mr. Marcellino will also be asked to serve.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported on the May 26, 2016 meeting at which the Fraud Risk Assessment was reviewed. Mr. Ryan also reported on tonight’s meeting at which the Committee approved the ability of the Town to purchase street lights, update to LED bulbs, and with the savings in electricity pay for the purchase in about five years.

Ms. Moran will contact members regarding the June 20, 2016 Personnel Committee meeting. Ms. Moran also noted the information in the packet on page 173 regarding the schedule for the Town Manager’s evaluation and that the Police Services Ad Hoc Committee meeting has been postponed.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

8. Letter from 250+ community members regarding EO Smith High School project – Mr. Shaiken commented that petitions pages for names “H thru L” and “R thru Z” are missing and will be emailed to staff.
9. Petition to Ensure the Safety of Route 6
10. I. Hanka (5/30/16)
11. A. Kotula (6/13/16)
12. R. Shafer (5/23/16)
13. P. Taylor re: EHHI Outdoor Wood Furnaces
14. M. Capriola re: Timeline – Town Manager Performance Review Process
15. M. Hart re: United Services proposed Windham Region Clinical Center
16. Capitol Region Council of Governments Annual Report 2015-2016
17. CRCOG Inter-town Cooperation Award
18. CRCOG Regional Sustainability Award

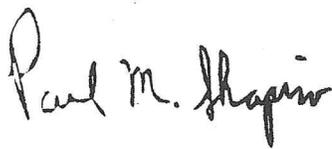
XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

Councilors agreed to add outside wood burning stoves and a Route 6 safety study to the next agenda.

Mr. Kochenburger requested a discussion of paperless meetings be added to a future agenda.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Shaiken seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.



Paul M. Shapiro, Mayor



Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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Item 13 – Proposed Zoning Regulation Prohibiting Outdoor Wood Furnaces (OWFs)

By Patricia Taylor, Deputy Outreach Director, Environment and Human Health, Inc.

To the Mansfield Town Council:

My name is Patricia Taylor. I am Deputy Outreach Director for Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI).

(EHHI) is a science-based organization composed of physicians, public health professionals and policy experts. We are dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information encouraging Mansfield to prohibit outdoor wood furnaces (OWFs) in your community. Mr. Hart and Ms. Capriola have provided documents in your packet including health information, a list of Connecticut towns that prohibit OWFS, a model zoning regulation from Tolland, and a Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Fact Sheet on the state statute regulating these appliances. The Fact Sheet discusses local rights and responsibilities – including your right to prohibit.

I met with Mr. Miller - your Director of Health at Eastern Highlands Health District. I hope you'll seek his advice on the health information I've shared.

The CT DEEP describes an OWF as “essentially a wood-fired boiler in a small, insulated shed with a smoke stack. OWFs heat water that is carried through underground pipes to heat a home or building, domestic hot water, a swimming pool, a Jacuzzi or a hot tub,” and has cautioned that OWFS are harmful to the environment and human health.

These appliances are now being marketed to residential users. In the past, there were primarily installed on farms or heavily wooded areas “off the grid.” Industry now targets suburban home owners in densely populated areas, calling them environmentally friendly and carbon-neutral biomass burners. In new homes, they are even being installed to heat driveways!

OWFs produce a lot of thick, cool smoke dense with fine particles. Our health study showed a house as far away as 850 feet from an OWF had 6 times the levels of PM 2.5 as the houses not near an outdoor wood furnace and 4 times above the levels of the EPA air standards.

Large amounts of wood smoke, like the plumes from OWFs, cannot be kept out of neighboring houses, even those with tight windows and doors. **The amount of wood smoke inhaled determines the health risk.** Wood smoke has many of the same components as **cigarette smoke** and, therefore, these exposures pose a real health risk for families living in the vicinity.

Short-term and immediate effects are burning eyes and throat, sinusitis, bronchitis, and pneumonia. Long-term effects are cancer, cardiovascular disease, carbon monoxide poisoning, and complications to COPD and asthma.

The harm that OWFs do to neighboring homeowners' health and the inadequacy of the new wood smoke standards for OWFs are the reasons why EHHI is asking towns and cities to ban them. Outdoor wood furnaces are a flawed technology that not only harm the health of neighboring homeowners but also ruin the real estate value of their homes.

OWFs are the only wood burning appliance we seek to ban. I hope Mansfield will join 19 Connecticut towns that already prohibit OWFS and, by doing so, protect the health of your residents and the value of their homes.

Thank you for your attention this evening.