

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
September 12, 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, Marcellino, Moran, Raymond, Ryan, Sargent, Shaiken, Shapiro

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Marcellino seconded to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2016 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane who abstained. Mr. Shaiken moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to approve the minutes of the special meeting of August 30, 2016, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, disagreed with the recommended name for the town square; urged the Council not to approve the sewer agreement; dismissed the need to restore the tennis courts at the Middle School; and voiced his objections to bonding for Middle School renovations.

Al Hawkins, Spring Hill Road, spoke in favor of restoring the tennis courts at the Middle School and noted that it should be the goal of the Council to maintain the resources in the Town (statement attached)

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, requested that the Council not support the sewer agreement as it is disadvantageous to the Town.

Cynthia Hirschorn, Davis Road, suggested that instead of naming the town square after Betsy Paterson perhaps a bench could be placed in the town square in her honor. Ms. Hirschorn spoke in favor of refurbishing the tennis courts and advocated for a pickle ball court.

Steve Bacon, Wormwood Hill Road resident and President of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership but speaking as individual, provided a history of Betsy Paterson's contributions to the Storrs Center project. Mr. Bacon commented that without her work and leadership the project would not exist.

Betsy Makuch, Bone Mill Road, stated that the tennis courts should have been maintained and spoke to the game of tennis being a lifelong activity.

Jennifer Mott, Browns Road, remarked that it is important to have the Middle School courts available to residents as the EO Smith courts are used extensively by students.

Ms. Mott asked the Council to maintain the resources the Town currently has.

Steve Pfaffle, Storrs Road, urged support for the restoration of the tennis courts. As a tennis player Mr. Pfaffle noted the difficulty in finding a place to play.

Ann Williams, Brookside Lane, used the Middle School tennis courts with her children and noted that tennis is ageless and is an important sport for the body and the mind. Ms.

Williams also stated that it is worthwhile to have a place for the community to come together in an activity that is not a big team sport.

Sharry Goldman, Browns Road, congratulated the Town Manager on his report regarding the tennis courts noting that he has identified areas of opportunities in the decision making process including the relationship between the Town Council and the Board of Education, the need for a recreation masterplan, and additional opportunities for public participation in the discussion.

Adrian Garcia-Sierra, Liberty Drive, spoke against the demolition of the tennis courts commenting that tennis is an important family and community activity.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked the Council to listen to Mr. Hossack and Mr. Freudmann regarding their reservations concerning the sewer agreement and stated that Betsy Paterson Square is an appropriate name.

Bill Roe, Echo Road resident and member of the Mansfield Neighborhood Preservation Group but speaking as an individual, commented on the lack of progress in stopping single family homes being made into rentals. Mr. Roe noted that just last month 7 additional homes were converted and urged the Council to send a strong message that conversions will stop.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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

- The discussion regarding the possible addition of Willington students in the Mansfield School system has been put on hold given the retirement of the Willington Superintendent of Schools.
- Student parties, including a recent large house party on Rte. 195, have presented challenges to law enforcement. State police and UConn police have been working together to address the problems.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to add, Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield September 12, 2016, to the agenda as the first item under Old Business.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Shapiro reported that he recently attended two ribbon cutting ceremonies – the opening of the Katmandu Nepalese Restaurant and the new Amazon facility. The Mayor also noted the retirement of Pat Michalak who worked in Youth Services for 27 years and touched the lives of so many families in Town.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

.5 Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield September 12, 2016

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Ms. Moran seconded the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that section (b) of the resolution entitled “Resolution Establishing A Referendum For The Mansfield Middle School Gymnasium And Related Facilities Renovations Project, And Authorizing The Issue Of Bonds And Notes In The Same Amount To Finance The Appropriation,” adopted at meeting held August 30, 2016, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(b) This resolution shall be placed upon the paper ballots or voting machines under the following heading:

“SHALL THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD APPROPRIATE \$873,000 FOR THE MANSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM AND RELATED FACILITIES RENOVATIONS PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION?”

Voters approving the resolution will vote “Yes” and those opposing said resolution shall vote “No”.”

The motion passed with Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Ryan, Shaiken, and Shapiro in favor and Keane, Raymond and Sargent in opposition.

1. Naming of the Town Square

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Marcellino seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, effective September 12, 2016, to approve the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Naming of Town Square and to name the town square the Betsy Paterson Square.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. WPCA Proposed Sewer Service Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the University of Connecticut

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Sewer Service Agreement (draft dated August 31, 2016) between the Town of Mansfield and the University of Connecticut.

Noting that the Council was not acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) the Mayor declared the motion null and void.

Ms. Raymond moved and Mr. Shaiken seconded to recess as the Town Council and to convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Sewer Service Agreement (draft dated August 31, 2016) between the Town of Mansfield and the University of Connecticut.

Attorney Kevin Dineen and Public Works Director John Carrington were on hand to answer questions. Members discussed the terms of the agreement.

The motion passed with Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Ryan, Shaiken, and Shapiro in favor and Keane, Raymond and Sargent in opposition.

Mr. Shaiken moved and Ms. Keane seconded to adjourn as the Water Pollution Control Authority and to reconvene as the Town Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Presentation Regarding International Town and Gown Association

John Armstrong, Director of Off-Campus Student Services, and Janell Mullen, Assistant Planner and Zoning Enforcement Officer, shared some of the insights and suggestions they gathered at the International Town Gown Association meeting they

recently attended. Working together they are developing a multi-pronged approach of education and enforcement involving landlords, property managers and renters.

4. Tennis Courts at Mansfield Middle School

Town Manager Matt Hart reviewed the options outlined in his agenda item summary. By consensus the Council asked the Town Manager and Director of Park and Recreation to put together a budget and a plan to address the restoration of the tennis courts at the Middle School. Additionally, the Council agreed that a master recreation plan should be developed as well as a protocol for the management of facilities jointly used by the Board of Education and the Town.

5. Mobilitie, LLC Permit Application

Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Economic Development, provided what project information she has been able to glean to date including a description of the installations and identified locations. Ms. Painter stated that there seems to be questions as to whether approval is under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council or the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). The Council thanked the Town Manager and the Director of Planning for bringing the issue to their attention and asked them to gather as much information as possible on the proposal and surrounding legal issues, and to work with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) to better understand the process.

6. Proposed Amendments to Mansfield Housing Code Fee Structures

Mr. Sargent moved and Ms. Moran seconded to refer the proposed amendments to the Mansfield Housing Code Fee Structure to an Ad hoc Ordinance Development and Review Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

The members of the Committee will be Ms. Keane, Mr. Marcellino and Ms. Moran.

7. Appointment to Windham Region Transit District Board of Directors

Mr. Marcellino moved and Ms. Keane seconded, to appoint Matthew W. Hart to the Windham Region Transit District, for a term commencing on June 9, 2016 and expiring on June 8, 2020.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan reported that the Finance Committee will be meeting on September 22, 2016
Mr. Kochenburger reported that the Committee on Committees will be meeting on September 13, 2016.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

8. M. Hart re: Correction to August 30, 2016 Minutes

9. C. Marcus (08/08/16)

10. R. McDonald (08/08/16)
11. T. Mihalopoulos (08/04/16)
12. R. Shafter (08/08/16)
13. P. Tavar (08/04/16)
14. K. Ward (08/23/16)
15. T. Wrubel (08/05/16)
16. Planning and Zoning Commission re: Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces – The Town Manager will communicate with the organization who brought this subject to the Council’s attention that they should apply directly to the Planning and Zoning Commission for any changes they would like to see.
17. K. Deneen re: Regulating Political Speech at Transfer Station Property – This item will be scheduled as an agenda item for the October 13, 2106 meeting.
18. J. Armstrong/M. Hart re: Letter to Off-Campus Students

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

Future agenda items identified during the meeting include:

- Discussion of Attorney Dineen’s opinion regarding Regulating Political Speech at Transfer Station Property will be discussed at the October 13, 2016 meeting.
- Reports regarding the restoration of the Mansfield Middle School tennis courts will be provided at a future meeting
- Proposals for a master recreation plan as well as a protocol for the management of facilities jointly used by the Board of Education and the Town will be discussed at a future meeting

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to move into executive session to discuss Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Claims or Litigation, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(B) and to include the Town Manager and the Town Attorney in the discussion
Motion passed unanimously.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Claims or Litigation, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(B)

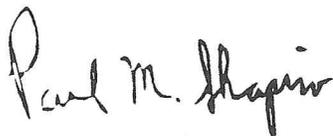
Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Raymond, Ryan, Sargent, Shaiken, Shapiro

Also included: Town Attorney Kevin Dineen and Town Manager Matt Hart

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Following completion of the executive session, Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.



Paul M. Shapiro, Mayor



Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

September 12, 2016

To: Mansfield Town Council

September 12, 2016

Recently the tennis courts at E.O. Smith High School were re-surfaced. This work was accomplished with grant money obtained by the town of Mansfield from the United States Tennis Association. While this successful partnership developed between the Region 19 Board of Education and the Town Recreation Director, the courts at the Mansfield Middle School have been allowed to deteriorate well beyond what is reasonable.

The last repair work on the MMS tennis courts was four years ago when surface cracks were filled. Since that time the courts have continued to deteriorate to the point where the nets have been removed and the access gates locked for the past couple of years.

The lack of maintenance of the M.M.S. tennis courts has directly resulted in decisions made by the board of education to re-purpose the area. If these courts had been appropriately maintained I don't believe that we would be discussing this issue. The ownership of these courts seems to be shared by the Mansfield Recreation Department and the Mansfield Board of Education with some repair work being facilitated by the Mansfield Public Works Department. One entity should be charged with maintaining this resource.

The Mansfield Plan of Conservation and Development represents a comprehensive plan. The plan needs a steward. One agency needs to monitor projects for consistency with the plan. I request that the Council confer with P.Z.C. and determine which agency should assume the position of lead agency. That agency should be named in the plan for future reference.

Whatever resources we have in this town, it should be a goal of this body to maintain those resources.

If no one takes responsibility for a plan, you have no plan

A goal without a plan is just a wish

Sincerely,

Alan R. Hawkins

242 Spring Hill Road

Storrs, CT 06268