
Hybrid | Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
4 So. Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moran called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Berthelot, Bruder, Cotton, Moran, Schurin

Virtual: Ausburger, Coleman, Fratoni (*see late arrival below*), Shaiken

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Orlando Calfe, Old Wood Road, posed several questions aimed at better understanding Town financial operations. Mayor Moran referred Mr. Calfe to the Town Manager's Office.

Mr. Schurin **moved** and Ms. Berthelot seconded to discuss old business item 7B now. Motion **passed** unanimously. (*Fratoni absent*)

7B. New School Building Construction Update (Item #8A, 10.11.22 Agenda)

Randy Walikonis, Chair of the School Building Committee, provided the Council with an update on construction progress for the new elementary school building. Al Howat from Newfield Construction shared photos of construction progress to date. Ryszard Szczypek of TSKP Studio described the solar and geothermal energy systems that make this a net zero building.

(*Fratoni arrived.*)

In response to questions from Mr. Shaiken, Superintendent Peter Dart explained transition plans, staff needs and timeline for moving into the new school.

Mr. Coleman expressed his opinion that the RFP process should include the disclosure of any pending litigation.

4. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth presented and discussed his written report. The report is available online at www.MansfieldCT.gov and is on file with the Town Clerk. In response to a question from Mr. Coleman, Mr. Aylesworth explained that inspection staff working on the new school project have purposely not been invited to Council or School Building Committee meetings in order to support and maintain the objectivity of the inspectors.

In response to a question from Mr. Coleman, Mr. Aylesworth stated that a report regarding the SAFER grant would be provided during the Fire Department Annual Update.

5. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ausburger reported on the recent passing of Tony Lent, former Chair of the Republican Town Committee and publisher of the Mansfield Independent.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

B. Proposed FY 2022/23 Salary Budget Transfers

C. Proposed FY 2023/2024 Budget Review Calendar

Mr. Coleman requested items 6A and 6C be pulled from the consent agenda.

Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Ms. Berthelot seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion **passed** with all in favor.

Motions passed by consent:

- Move, effective January 9, 2023, to approve the Salary Budget Transfers for FY 2022/23, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated January 9, 2023.

A. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Coleman asked that the location of the meeting referred to in the minutes be corrected to "Senior Center." With the scrivener's error corrected, Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Mr. Bruder seconded to approve the December 12, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Motion **passed** unanimously.

C. Proposed FY 2023/2024 Budget Review Calendar

Mr. Coleman stated that he doesn't feel a month is enough time and wants budget discussions to begin in February.

Mr. Shaiken **moved** and Mr. Bruder seconded to adopt the Proposed Budget Review Calendar for FY 2023/2024 as presented by staff.

Mr. Coleman **moved** and Mr. Ausburger seconded that discussion of the budget begin the second Monday in February.

Mr. Shaiken urged rejection of the amendment to give staff the time necessary to prepare the proposed budget.

Motion to amend **failed** with all opposed except Ausburger and Coleman who voted in favor.

Motion to adopt the Calendar **passed** with all in favor except Ausburger and Coleman who voted against.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 Update (Item #7B, 10.24.22 Agenda)

Robert L. Miller, Director of Health, Eastern Highland Health District provided the Council with an update on COVID-19 in Mansfield and the work being done by the Health District in response to the pandemic.

B. New School Building Construction Update (Item #8A, 10.11.22 Agenda)

Item considered earlier in the meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Farm Tax Abatements Ordinance

Assessor Rochelle Lambert explained the process for granting the property tax abatement.

Ms. Berthelot **moved** and Mr. Ausburger seconded, effective October 1, 2022 through October 1, 2026 Grand List Years to renew property tax abatement, granted to Mr. and Mrs. Cone, for “Cedar Ledge Tree Farm” consisting of 75.5 acres, located at 260 Coventry Rd. Mansfield, CT. Motion **passed** unanimously.

B. Agreement between Regional School District #19 Board of Education and Local 1303-234 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO Custodians and Maintenance Technicians

Mr. Aylesworth briefly summarized the agreement and the Council’s options.

Mr. Bruder **moved** and Ms. Cotton seconded, effective January 9, 2023, to approve the Agreement between Regional School District #19 Board of Education and Local 1303-234 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO Custodians and Maintenance Technicians. Motion **passed** unanimously.

C. Fire Department Annual Update

Fire Chief Fred Mitchell provided the Council with an update on the Fire Department including response data, operations, training, firehouses, fire prevention and emergency management and emergency medical services.

Mr. Coleman expressed concern regarding operations during a long-term power outage. Ms. Berthelot suggested outreach to local ObGyn offices and daycares in regards to the car seat safety program.

9. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Shaiken, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Committee met tonight to discuss the budget transfers and set the meeting schedule.

Mr. Bruder, Chair of the Committee on Committees, reported that the Committee will meet on Thursday and continue review of committee charges.

10. DEPARTMENTAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

11. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Downtown Storrs Parking Garage Financial Report (November 2022)

B. Press Release: Mansfield Pilots Four Day Work Schedule for Municipal Offices at Town Hall (01.04.23)

C. Press Release: Mansfield Families Boosted by Helping Hand Program (01.04.23)

12. FUTURE AGENDAS

- Emergency Management – Power Outages

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Bruder **moved** and Mr. Ausburger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Mayor

Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk