1. CALL TO ORDER
   Mayor Moran called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

2. ROLL CALL
   Present: Ausburger, Berthelot, Coleman, Fratoni, Kochenburger, Moran, Schurin, Shaiken
   Excused: Bruder

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
   Mr. Aylesworth read a communication into the record from Sam Salorio, Clearview Drive, regarding American Rescue Plan Act funds.

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.

5. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
   Mr. Coleman requested updates to the Town Council webpage.

6. CONSENT AGENDA
   A. Approval of Minutes
   B. Appointments to Town Committees
      Mr. Schurin moved and Mr. Shaiken seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed with all in favor except Ausburger, Fratoni and Kochenburger who abstained.

Motions and resolutions adopted by consent:
- To approve the December 13, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the December 20, 2021 special meeting minutes
- Move, effective January 10, 2022, to appoint Laura Austin to the Commission on Aging for a term ending 9/30/2024; to appoint Elaina Hancock and Joshua Walters to the Sustainability Committee as alternates for terms ending 4/27/2024; to appoint Laurel Manville to the Transportation Advisory Committee as a PZC representative for a term ending 11/20/2023.
7. OLD BUSINESS
A. Continuing Council and Council Committees Virtual Meetings (Item #10D, 11.8.21 Agenda)
Mr. Aylesworth summarized the most recent orders from the Governor regarding virtual meetings.

Ms. Berthelot moved and Mr. Ausburger seconded, effective January 10, 2022, to have the Town Council and Council Committees and advisory committees and commissions continue to utilize remote meetings until such time as it is determined that positivity rates in Mansfield and Tolland County broadly fall into what is deemed to be a reasonable risk category.

Mr. Kochenburger requested "by the Town Council" be added after "determined." The request was ruled a friendly amendment.

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Ausburger seconded to amend the motion by adding the following sentence to the end: "The Town Council recognizes the importance of in-person meetings to our town government and the people of Mansfield and will return to them when safe." Motion to amend passed unanimously.

Motion on the floor now reads:
Move, effective January 10, 2022, to have the Town Council and Council Committees and advisory committees and commissions continue to utilize remote meetings until such time as it is determined by the Town Council that positivity rates in Mansfield and Tolland County broadly fall into what is deemed to be a reasonable risk category. The Town Council recognizes the importance of in-person meetings to our town government and the people of Mansfield and will return to them when safe.

Motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

B. COVID 19 Update (Item #9A, 12.13.21 Agenda)
- Rapid Home Test Kit & N95 Mask Distribution Events
Robert L. Miller, Director of Health, Eastern Highland Health District (EHHD), provided the Council with an update on COVID-19 in Mansfield including information about local case trends and vaccination rates. Mr. Miller reminded everyone that the vaccine is one of the most effective and important tools in combating the pandemic and preventing severe symptoms. UConn has delayed in person learning until end of January and weekly surveillance will commence upon return to in-person classes. EHHD recently issued a call to businesses to take direct steps to prevent the spread of COVID. In response to Councilor questions, Mr. Miller stated that self-test results are not reported and not included in the statistics and that the numbers show that mask mandates make a positive impact on case counts.
Mr. Aylesworth reported that everyone who waited in line received test kits last week. The next test kit distribution will be held in coordination with various organizations to target vulnerable populations, per State guidance.

8. NEW BUSINESS
A. WRTD and UConn Shuttles Transit Route Redesign
WRTD representatives Linda Happeman and Phillip Johnson from WRTD and UConn Shuttles presented preliminary scenarios and schedules for the proposed route redesign and discussed routes and outreach efforts with the Council.

B. Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant Application
Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development, presented regarding the South Eagleville Road Corridor Housing and Infrastructure Improvements.

Mr. Shaiken moved and Ms. Berthelot seconded, effective January 10, 2022, to adopt the attached Resolution with the blanks in the Resolution being filled in with the grant amount and match amount noted in this motion and the typo corrected to change “and” before “the University of Connecticut” to a comma, and that the Resolution be updated to reflect the full language of this motion authorizing the submission of a Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant Application in the amount of $4,854,595 for affordable housing and infrastructure improvements in the South Eagleville Corridor and committing $2,180,000 of the required local match (including $800,000 of federal SAFE grant funding) should the grant be awarded and should the Town decide to accept the award; and further move, effective January 10, 2022 to authorize the Mayor to submit a letter to DECD in support of both the grant application and specifically funding for the Eagleville Green project.

Motion passed unanimously.

C. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding/Investment Deliberations
Mr. Aylesworth reviewed acceptable uses of ARPA funding and the recommended funding allocations and projects. In response to Councilor questions, Mr. Aylesworth also reviewed the project proposals that were not recommended.

Mayor Moran asked Mr. Aylesworth to set up a special meeting in the near future for the Council to go over the plans in detail and make funding decisions.

9. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES
Mayor Moran asked Ms. Berthelot to temporarily chair the Committee on Committees during Mr. Bruder’s excused absence.

10. DEPARTMENTAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS
None.

11. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
A. Storrs Center Parking Operation Financial Report November 2021
B. Human Rights Commission 2021 Annual Report (12.10.21)
C. Youth Services Advisory Board Appointment (12.13.21)
D. Town-UConn Letter to DOT - Uncontrolled Crosswalks in State Route 275 (12.10.21)
E. DOT Response Letter - Uncontrolled Crosswalks in State Route 275 (01.07.22)
F. L. Valle (12.17.21)
G. Resident Emails - COVID Test Kits & N95 Masks Distribution (01.03.22 - 01.04.22)

12. FUTURE AGENDAS
    • Parking issues at Storrs Center related to the use of the parking garage by E. O. Smith students

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

    Mr. Shaiken moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Claims or Litigation, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(B) and to invite to that executive session the town attorney and town manager. The motion passed unanimously.

14. ADJOURNMENT
    The executive session concluded and the Council reconvened in open session. Mr. Ausburger moved and Ms. Berthelot seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Mayor                         Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk
To whom it may concern:

The COVID-19 pandemic has reemphasized a need in our society for outdoor recreational options to support both physical and mental health. Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act seem like an excellent opportunity to build upon Mansfield's outdoor communal spaces. Both Mansfield and Windham are receiving roughly $7 million in ARPA funding. Based on my reading of a recent article in The Chronicle and the agenda for tonight's town council meeting, it seems that Windham plans to spend over $3 million of their ARPA funding on a variety of projects to improve outdoor communal spaces and parks, while the totality of Mansfield's plans in that arena are adding wifi to two parks and building a pavilion at the Library (costs not explicitly listed but look to be around $100,000-$200,000). I would like to request that we increase the priority given to improving outdoor communal spaces and parks in Mansfield with ARPA funding, to support physical and mental health of our community members as related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank You
Sam Salorio
TOWN OF MANSFIELD
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CONNECTICUT COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SOUTH EAGLEVILLE CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, The Connecticut Department of Community and Economic Development (DECD) issued a Notice of Funding Availability on October 18, 2021 for Round 1 of the Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, The Town has identified the need for affordable housing in the Affordable Housing Plan adopted by the Planning and Zoning Commission on July 6, 2021 and by the Town Council on July 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Eagleville Green mixed-income development on South Eagleville Road would add 31 units of housing affordable to residents at or below 80% of median income; and

WHEREAS, The Town has identified pedestrian safety and sewer infrastructure improvements in the South Eagleville Road corridor that will facilitate access for residents to jobs and services in Downtown Storrs and at the University of Connecticut’s main campus; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Mansfield make application to the State for $_________ in order to undertake a Communities Challenge Grant project to facilitate construction of the Eagleville Green development and needed public infrastructure in the South Eagleville Road corridor, and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD:

That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Mansfield in an amount not to exceed $_________ is hereby approved and that Ryan Aylesworth, Town Manager, is hereby authorized and directed to:

• File such application with the Commissioner of the Department of Community and Economic Development;
• Provide such additional information; to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner;
• Execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance if such an agreement is offered and execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto;
• Implement project activities in partnership with the Mansfield Nonprofit Housing Development Corporation (MNHDC), Mansfield Housing Authority and University of Connecticut; and Connecticut Department of Transportation; and
• Act as the authorized representative of the Town of Mansfield and to execute any other agreement or contract relative to said project.
That in approving this resolution, the Town commits to providing $______ of the required local match for the requested grant should the grant be awarded.

That it adopts or has adopted on behalf of the Town of Mansfield a policy to support the following nondiscrimination agreements and warranties provided in subsection (a)(1) of Connecticut General Statutes sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a, respectively, as amended by Public Act 07-142, and for which purposes the “contractor” is the Town of Mansfield and “contract” is said Assistance Agreement:

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut. The contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved.

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract, such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation.

_____________________________________
Antonia Moran
Mayor

Dated at Mansfield, Connecticut
this 10th day of January, 2022

Attest: I, Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk of the Town of Mansfield, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Mansfield Town Council at its duly called and held meeting on January 10, 2022, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect. I further certify that Ryan Aylesworth now holds the office of Interim Town Manager and that he has held that office since December 1, 2020.

_____________________________________
Date
(Seal)

Sara-Ann Chaine, Town Clerk