

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-JANUARY 27, 2003

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Haddad(Arrived at 7:35), Hawkins, Holinko, Paterson, Rosen, Schaefer, Martin, Thorkelson

II. APPROVAL OF MINURES

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes as corrected.

So passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

The Town Clerk read the warning of the Hearing.

1. Business Sponsorship and Commercial Advertising in Town Parks

Bob Milvae, President of Mansfield Little League, read a letter in support of the proposed changes to the Parks Regulations to allow limited sponsorship banners to be hung at Field A at Southeast Park.

Brian Ross, 604 Browns Road, spoke in support of the sponsorship signs but opposed the taking up and removal of them after each event.

Diane Nadeau, Tri-Town Youth Football and Cheerleading Association read a letter in support of the proposed changes to allow signs in the park and thanked the Council for their time and effort given to this issue.

Sheldon Dyer, Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Committee, read a letter to the Town Council, in support of the banners located at Southeast Park and recommended that a joint committee be establish to investigate the feasibility of building a combination restroom, storage and concession facility at Southeast Park.

Julie Sherman, Pinewoods Lane, opposes the sponsorship signs in parks in the Town. She suggested other ways for the athletic groups to raise the needed funds, such as coupon books from local businesses. She believes that unmarred landscape in this town is priceless.

MANSFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE

January 27, 2003

Town of Mansfield
Town Council

Dear Council Members,

Mansfield Little League (MLL) is writing this letter to ask for your support in amending the current regulations prohibiting banners at Southeast Park. Approximately one year ago today, I requested authorization from the Town to recognize our sponsors by hanging 3 1/2 by 8 foot banners on the interior fence on Field A at Southeast Park. We were able to arrange for 14 banners to be displayed throughout the Spring, Summer tournament and Fall baseball seasons. These 14 banners generated \$3,500 and allowed the league to purchase much needed safety equipment and to expand our program offerings.

During the Spring baseball season, the traditional Little League season, 214 boys and girls ranging in age from 9 to 14 participated on one of seventeen competitive teams playing baseball or softball. Mansfield Little League had a registration fee of \$40 per participant last year. The approximate cost to MLL per child was \$110. The difference in registration fees and costs was generated through a combination of donations, sponsors, fund raising and the further recognition of our sponsors via displays of banners on the outfield fence at Field A. At the conclusion of the Spring season we entered four different teams representing the Town of Mansfield at the Little League International Tournament (the All-Stars).

This was MLL's third year of offering a "fall ball" program. The number of children participating has increased each year. This year we had 82 children enrolled on one of six baseball teams (2 minor league, 2 major league and 2 junior league teams). The program consisted of one week night clinic and a Saturday doubleheader (against other teams in our State District) for each of eight weeks in September and October, 2002.

For the first time, MLL is offering a weekly hitting clinic on ten Sunday afternoons during January through March, 2003. We currently have 42 children registered for "winter ball". In summary, MLL provided many formal baseball related activities during the previous year and had a total of 386 children registered in one or more of these programs.

MLL recognizes and expresses their appreciation to the Town for maintenance of the ball fields, for the support the league receives from the Parks and Recreation Department, and to the Town of Mansfield Recreation Advisory Council for their annual support of our co-sponsorship application. Nonetheless, by far the majority of efforts expended on behalf of Mansfield's children with respect to baseball, reside in an outstanding group of dedicated volunteers. The League analyzed the number of programs offered during the past year and estimated that approximately 10,000 hours of time was contributed by coaches, board members and others to benefit the children of Mansfield. Using a conservative estimate of the value of these individual's time at \$20/hr; volunteers contributed \$200,000 worth of time to our youth. In addition formal baseball programs were conducted during 37 of the last 52 weeks.

Mansfield Little League has made a conscious and deliberate decision to keep the cost of participation in all of our programs affordable. We have chosen to maintain registration fees at a reasonable cost as to not preclude nor inhibit any child's involvement with the League. MLL does not desire to increase registration fees.

In closing, MLL asks for your support with affirmative votes to enact changes as described in the proposed amendment to the Parks Regulation to allow for limited sponsorship banners to be hung at Field A at Southeast Park. MLL also requests that the rules and regulations generated with respect to the temporary nature of the banners be flexible and reasonable so that they in effect do not prohibit banner useage. MLL further requests that these changes be made as rapidly as possible so that changes may be incorporated into our 2003 fiscal budget. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Robert A. Milvae, President
Mansfield Little League

TRI-TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION
150 Thornbush Road, Mansfield, CT 06250
(860) 208-8770

January 27, 2003

Town Council Members
Town of Mansfield
Public Hearing
January 27, 2003

Dear Council Members:

The Tri-Town Youth Football & Cheerleading Association would like to express its gratitude for your support with your proposed park regulation change. We appreciate the time and thought you have given this issue both during town council meetings and on your own personal time. The proposed changes meet the requirements of our organization to continue with our sponsorship recognition program. Your support and willingness to accommodate our needs on this very crucial issue are greatly appreciated.

The Tri-Town Youth Football & Cheerleading Association, its Directors, youth participants, coaches, sponsors and fans Thank you for your continuing support of youth sports programs in Mansfield.

Sincerely,
TRI-TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION



Diane Nadeau
President



Town of Mansfield Recreation Advisory Committee

Sheldon Dyer, Chairman
Christopher Casa
Darren Cook
Donald Field
David Hoyle
Mia John
Anne Rash
Joseph Soltys

Four South Eagleville Road
Storrs/Mansfield, Connecticut 06268
Tel: (860) 429-3321 Fax: (860) 429-7785
Email: Parks&Rec@MansfieldCT.org

To: Mansfield Town Council
Martin Berliner, Town Manager

From: Sheldon Dyer, Chairman, Recreation Advisory Committee

Subject: Southeast Park

Date: January 27, 2003

We understand that the Town Council has a difficult job in trying to appease all the different factions on a particular subject and to look for an amiable decision for the parties concerned, as well as to determine what is in the best interest for the town of Mansfield.

As far as the situation with the banners located at Southeast Park, we hope that a compromise will be reached soon that will meet the objectives of all parties concerned. We are happy to hear that the Town Council is contemplating the idea of letting the Associations display the sponsor's banners during their sporting events. We also understand the Association's plight of putting 14 banners up and down and storing them after each event. Perhaps some sort of cover could be made to conceal the banners when not on display or they could be attached up over the fence when not in use.

OVER →

Mark Hamilton, 5 Brookside Lane, urged a compromise be accomplished. Helen Koehn, 83 Separatist Road, expressed her view that she was not wild about the signs and that they did not add anything to the park. She suggested that the parents be able to make up the additional funds and that those who could not pay be covered.

Susan Keplesky, 734 Storrs Road, assured the Council and audience present that no child is denied the right to play due to lack of funds. The Association pays for that child.

Mary Perry, Spring Hill Road, supports the amendment as presented and feels that it is a workable solution.

John Zizik, 224 Spring Hill Road, supports the amendment and the proposed sponsorship signs on the baseball field.

At 8:15 p.m. the public hearing was closed.

2. Proposed Amendment to Town of Mansfield Zoning Citation

The Town Clerk read the warning of the Hearing.

Curt Hirsch, Zoning Agent, spoke to the proposed amendment.

No other comments from the public. The public hearing closed at 8:18 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Sheldon Dyer, Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Committee reported that the committee recommends unanimously the Community Center membership, daily admissions and guest pass fees as recommended by staff and the marketing consultant.

V. OLD BUSINESS

3. Business Sponsorship and Commercial Advertising in Town Parks

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Bellm seconded to adopt the amendment to the Mansfield Parks Regulations titled "Temporary Sponsorship Signs/Banners," as presented by town staff in its draft dated January 23, 2003, and which will become effective 21 days after its publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town of Mansfield; and to authorize town staff to submit an application to the planning and zoning commission to request a corresponding amendment to the zoning regulations

So passed unanimously.

4. Proposed Amendment to Zoning Citations Ordinance

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Martin seconded to adopt the amendment to the Mansfield Code of Ordinances titled "Town of Mansfield Zoning Citations Ordinance," as presented by town staff in its draft dated November 4, 2002, and which will become effective 21 days after its publication in a newspaper having a circulation in the Town of Mansfield.

So passed unanimously.

5. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill including the UConn Consent Order, Public Participation Relative to the consent Order and Well Testing.

A public availability meeting was held at the Bishop's Center on the UConn campus. 20-30 people attended. The next step will be a public hearing on February 25, 2003.

No action taken by Council.

6. Willimantic River Greenway Proposal

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to adopt the resolution to endorse Mansfield's participation in the nomination of the Willimantic River corridor as a state greenway.

So passed unanimously.

7. University Spring Weekend

Mr. Rosen inquired if the Town had heard of any progress report from the University of Connecticut. The Town Manager answered he had not received any report. Chip Jordan, from the Eagleville Fire Department, sent an email regarding time and number of emergency requests from persons living in the Town of Mansfield during University party weekends, to all Council members.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

8. WPCA, Proposed Fiscal Year 2002/03 UConn Water/Sewer Budget

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Martin seconded to adjourn as the Town Council and to convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

So passed unanimously.

draft

Mansfield Town Council
Regular Meeting
DATE 01/27/03

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE MANSFIELD'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NOMINATION OF
THE
WILLIMANTIC RIVER CORRIDOR AS A STATE GREENWAY

_____ MOVED to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield is bordered on its western edge by the Willimantic River and a portion of its land lies in the Willimantic River Watershed; and

WHEREAS the Town recognizes the Willimantic River corridor for its recreational, historical, scenic, natural resource and wildlife habitat value; and

WHEREAS Mansfield's 1993 Town Plan of Conservation and Development states that high priority open space sites/areas include "sites/areas along the Willimantic River streambelt from the Willington to Windham Town Lines, particularly properties with river access or within the primary recharge area of the UConn well fields; and

WHEREAS the Town intends that the next revision of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development will include the Willimantic River Greenway as a component;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL to hereby support the concept of working regionally to link and protect open space and natural resources by endorsing Mansfield's participation in the nomination of the Willimantic River corridor as a State Greenway; and

FURTHER RESOLVE TO authorize Mansfield's Town Manager to submit this Resolution and Mansfield's endorsement of the Greenway nomination to the Willimantic River Alliance, which is coordinating the initiative for the nine corridor towns.

SECONDED by _____
A voice vote was taken and Motion _____.

UCONN WATER AND SEWER BUDGET
2002/03

Facility	Actual Costs from UConn					% of Total	Est. Other Costs	Reserve	2000/01 Proposed		Breakdown	
	Nov-Dec 2001	Nov '01 - Apr '02	May - Oct '02	Nov - * Dec '02	Total 2002				Billing	Rounded	@ 78% Wrights	@ 22% Sen Ctr
Wrights A - Water	(\$535)	\$1,624	\$1,801	\$547	\$3,437					\$4,565	\$3,560	\$1,005
- Sewer	(535)	1,624	1,801	547	3,437					4,565	3,560	1,005
Total Wrights A	(1,070)	3,248	3,602	1,094	6,874	11.4	1,952	300	9,126	9,130	7,120	2,010
Wrights B - Water	(125)	364	288	123	650					865		
- Sewer	(126)	364	288	123	649					865		
Total Wrights B	(251)	728	576	246	1,299	2.2	377	58	1,734	1,730		
Holinko - Water	(525)	1,405	1,100	473	2,453					3,255		
- Sewer	(525)	1,405	1,100	473	2,453					3,255		
Total Holinko	(1,050)	2,810	2,200	946	4,906	8.1	1,387	213	6,506	6,510		
Juniper Hill - Water	(1,500)	4,306	4,565	1,451	8,822					11,715		
- Sewer	(1,500)	4,306	4,565	1,451	8,822					11,715		
Total MRC	(3,000)	8,612	9,130	2,902	17,644	29.3	5,017	772	23,433	23,430		
Glen Ridge - Water	(740)	1,895	2,028	639	3,822					5,075		
- Sewer	(739)	1,895	2,028	639	3,823					5,075		
Total Ret. Co-Op	(1,479)	3,790	4,056	1,278	7,645	12.7	2,174	335	10,154	10,150		
Ctr for Rehab - Water	(2,042)	5,330	5,853	1,796	10,937					14,525		
- Sewer	(2,041)	5,330	5,853	1,796	10,938					14,525		
Total Ctr for Rehab	(4,083)	10,660	11,706	3,592	21,875	36.3	6,215	957	29,047	29,050		
GRAND TOTALS	(\$10,933)	\$29,848	\$31,270	\$10,058	\$60,243	100.0	\$17,122	\$2,635	\$80,000	\$80,000		

* Estimated based on the Nov '01 - Apr '02 Average

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
WILLIMANTIC SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS

	2001/02 Actual	2002/03 Proposed
OPERATING REVENUES:		
Sewer Charges	\$97,683	\$98,000
Other Revenues	549	500
Total Operating Revenues	98,232	98,500
 OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Sewer Billings	58,468	72,267
Purchased Services & Supplies	1,500	1,500
Depreciation	14,273	14,273
Total Operating Expenses	74,241	88,040
Operating Income	23,991	10,460
Retained Earnings/(Deficit), July 1	24,840	48,831
Retained Earnings/(Deficit), June 30	\$48,831	\$59,291

Estimate of Willimantic Sewer Expense 2002/2003

Over-Estimate for Jan - Jun 2002	(11,436.66)
Actual for July - December 2002	\$45,307.75
Estimate for January through June 2003 20.00 m/gallons at \$1,919.82 m/gallons	38,396.40
Total	72,267.49

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adopt the proposed fiscal year 2002/2003 UConn Water/Sewer Budget, as presented by the Director of Finance.

So passed unanimously.

9. WPCA, Proposed Fiscal Year 2002/03 Willimantic Sewer Budget

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adopt the proposed fiscal year 2002/03 Willimantic Sewer Budget, as presented by the Director of Finance.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to adjourn as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

So passed unanimously.

10. Public Information Meeting-Mt. Hope Road Culvert

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to schedule a public information meeting for 7:30 p.m. at the town council's regular meeting on February 24, 2003.

So passed unanimously.

11. Solid Waste Advisory Committee-Letter from Town on Recycling Matters

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to authorize the Town Manager to submit the January 15, 2003 to State Senator Williams, as presented by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

So passed unanimously.

12. Recreation Trails Program Grant

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to authorize the Town Manager to submit an application to the State Department of Environmental Protection's Recreational Trails Program requesting \$10,000.00 in funding to finance the development of an electronic trail guide.

So passed unanimously.

13. Community Center Membership Descriptions and Fees.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to: effective January 27, 2003, to adopt the membership descriptions and fees for the Mansfield Community Center, as presented by the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his memorandum dated January

15, 2003, with the exception that in the Teen Center there will be no fees on non-structured activities; and to add the fees to the town's fee schedule.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Rosen commended the committee for the many hours they put in on the membership issue.

14. Bowhunting on Town-owned Land

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to refer this matter to the Parks Advisory and to the Open Space Committees.

So passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The engineering has researched the Bike signs and noted that 89 signs will be removed.

There will be a special Town Council meeting dealing with Finances at the Senior Center at 9:00 a.m. on February 1, 2003.

There will be a special meeting on January 30, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. on Economic Development at the Senior Center.

Discussion on establishing a Historic District in Gurleyville. Staff will work with neighborhood.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

League of Women Voters resolution expressing opposition to a preemptive war with the country of Iraq.

XII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

15. J. Gerdson re: Town Council Resolution Concerning State Taxation ISSUES

16. Connecticut Department of Social Services re: Closing of Windham Office

17. Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc. re Response to Comments of the Environmental Impact Evaluation for the Proposed Graduate Student Apartments and Downtown master Plan Projects.
18. N. Fisher-Doiron re: Volunteer Assistance from Brett and Stephanie MacNamara
19. CCM-2003 State Legislative Program
20. New York Times-"UConn Speeds toward a 'State of the Art Campus'"

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:34 p.m. Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the Town Council meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk