

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

The Mansfield Town Council regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:32 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Haddad, Hawkins, Holinko, Paterson, Clouette, Schaefer, Martin, Thorkelson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of August 25, 2003.

So passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Alison Blair, 115 Coventry Road, thanked the Council for the excellent Fireworks display for the 300th celebration. Everyone seemed to have a good time, the fireworks were awesome and the traffic personnel got people out of the parking area within a very short time. It was a well run and planned event.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

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

On September 3 there was an Open House in the Council Chamber of residents of Mansfield and the UConn Community to review the engineering design plans for capping the UConn landfill and former chemical pits area. Representatives of the CT. Department of Environmental Protection, the US Environmental Protection Agency and members of the technical engineering team.

2. Bowhunting on Town-owned Land

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Holinko seconded that the Open Space Committee share further comments or their suggestions for a referral service to connect trained bowhunters with landowners. Parks advisory comments on this would also be welcome, along with staff recommendations.

So passed unanimously.

3. Fee Waiver Ordinance

Mr. Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager, Mr. Kevin Grunwald, Director of Social Services, Mr. Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Ms. Becky Lehmann for the Social Service Advisory Committee, discussed recommendations.

By consensus the Council, after much discussion, recommended the second option.

4. Underage Drinking, University Spring Weekend and President Austin's Task Force on Substance Abuse.

The Staff is working on an underage-drinking ordinance. Ordinances adopted by other municipalities, received from CCM, have been reviewed.

Mr. Haddad requested that 4a be added to the agenda Financial Report of June 30, 2003. By consensus item was added.

4a. Financial Report June 30, 2003

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Martin seconded to accept the Financial Report of June 30, 2003 as presented.

So passed unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

5. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) 2004 State Legislative Program

Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Martin seconded to place this item on the next agenda with further recommendations.

So passed unanimously.

Councilmembers discussed the following changes:

ELECTIONS

Change to: Eliminate the expanded Presidential ballots currently utilized in this state and permit same day registration with appropriate ID.

HEALTH, WELFARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Change to: Increase state assistance to Connecticut Legal Services

TRANSPORTATION

Change to: Expand mass transportation systems such as rail and bus service. This would relieve pressure on state and local roads and help spur development along existing transportation corridors.

Change to: Study the distribution of state gas tax funds to municipalities to determine whether or not they are receiving an equitable share of this revenue.

Currently, this revenue is distributed to municipalities through grants administered by the state (Town Aid being one of them)

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded that effective September 8, 2003 the Town Manager is authorized to present staff's recommendations to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities for inclusion in its 2004 Legislative Program. This list is amended by consensus as written above.

So passed unanimously.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

VII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson spoke of the newsletter about town employees. She felt it was a good way to meet new staff and see a photo of the new employees.

Mayor Paterson recently presented Betty Robinson with a certificate of appreciation from the Council and Town for her many years of service in the field of Parks, Recreation and Open Space. She has given much to begin the Friends of the Hollow committee.

Thanks also to the fire and emergency service persons that handled the traffic control so well for the fireworks display.

IX. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

The fence at Bicentennial Pond has been removed and the family, which was concerned about it, has been notified.

The second crow, found in Mansfield, has been tested to be positive for West Nile Virus.

1063 memberships have been sold to the Community Center.

Town Planner, Greg Padick, has site plans for the poultry building on Horsebarn hill on the University of Connecticut campus.

The University of Connecticut has hired Mr. Rick Miller as Director of Environmental Policy and he will be looking at the Hazmat on campus and discussing the procedure to move it on campus.

The Department of Public Works has cut the grass along the pathway in Mansfield Center.

The assessment for the Nathan Hale Hotel has been reduced due to the financial circumstances of the hotel.

The University will be developing a co-generating facility using natural gas.

X. FUTURE AGENDAS

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

6. R. Miller re: East(Agriculture)Campus Open House
7. Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board re: Regional Designation as Workforce Investment Area
8. The Willimantic Chronicle-"Fire Department Plans Working"
9. The Daily Campus-"Housing Shortage Under Control"
- 10.The Daily Campus-"Alcohol Task Force Regulations Implemented"
- 11.G. Padick re: proposed Discontinuation of a 900' Segment of Old Tolland Turnpike
- 12.UConn Advance-"University Seeking Input on Master Plan"
- 13.Mansfield 300th Steering Committee-Tercentennial Ball
- 14.Mansfield 300th Steering Committee-Tercentennial Fireworks Display

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor
Town Clerk

Joan E. Gerdson,