

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-JULY 11, 2005

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer
Absent: Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded to approve the June 27, 2005 minutes as corrected.

So passed. Mr. Schaefer abstained.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Deputy Mayor Haddad requested those present to observe a moment of silence, briefly, in honor of our servicemen serving in Iraq and abroad and other victims that conflict.

Ms. Blair said that Mr. Mark Stewart, from Mansfield, was given the Purple Heart award for his work in Iraq.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr. Randolph Steinen, 112 Depot Road, spoke on concerns of the traffic on the road. He suggested that the road should be closed off into two cul de sacs. Other suggestions: no left turn on Route 44. He urged the Council to request the Traffic Authority to explore a variety of options.

Ms. Megan Meikle, 98 Depot Road, has two young children and is deeply concerned over the amount of traffic and speed of traffic in the Depot community. She is concerned that the sense of a small community which exists now in the depot area will be lost if the traffic concerns are not addressed. If the Reynolds School project does go forward, there will be an additional amount of traffic.

Lynn Stoddard, Ravine Road, urged Council to adapt the resolution on Clean Energy. She is impressed that this town is showing such great leadership by participating in this program.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to add to the agenda the vacancies on ZBA.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Chris Kueffner, 192 Ravine Road, spoke in favor of the Clean Energy Resolution and showed the Council his Corn Maze design, which supports the theme of clean energy.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill

Update only. The DEP has issued the wetlands permit everything is on schedule.

Mr. Clouette moved to add under new business, in light of the public comment, that we ask the Public Works Director and Traffic Authority to once again revisit the issue of excessive traffic on Depot Road and come back to the Council.

Seconded by Mr. Schaefer.

So passed unanimously. Item 5b.

2. Clean Energy

Ms. Koehn moved the following motion: RESOLVED, effective July 11, 2005, to issue the attached resolution attesting to Mansfield's commitment to Connecticut's "20% by 2010 Clean Energy Campaign," and to authorize staff to purchase renewable energy certificates to provide for the town's participation in the program.

Mr. Clouette seconded motion.

Question came up as to what class of renewable energy certificates would be purchased.

Mr. Hart, Assistant Manager, said that the Town would issue an RFP that is recommended by the EPA. The RFP can be limited to Class 1.

Mr. Clouette asked if it would be more appropriate to change the motion to: to request staff to assemble further information on the purchase of renewable energy certificates. Would that be better? Ms. Koehn supported that amendment.

Mr. Schaefer opposed this amendment. He said it was micromanaging. Mr. Hawkins agreed with him. Since this was the consensus amongst the members. Mr. Clouette withdrew the rewording of the motion.

Ms. Koehn amended her original motion to add, "to purchase renewable Class 1 energy certificates".....

Seconded by Ms. Blair.

Vote on the amendment Unanimously approved.

Vote on the original motion, which was amended.

So passed unanimously. See attached Resolution.

3. Negotiations with MBOE Administrators

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded that effective July 11, 2005, to direct the personnel committee to confer with the personnel committee of the Mansfield Board of Education, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Mansfield Board of Education Administrators.

By consensus this was changed to read..."to meet with" not "confer with" and The Council will also choose a member or representative to attend the negotiations. This was an amendment by Carl Schaefer, seconded by Koehn.

By acclamation the amendment was passed unanimously.

Vote on the amended motion:

Move, effective July 11, 2005, to direct the personnel committee to meet with the personnel committee of the Mansfield Board of Education, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Mansfield Board of Education Administrators. The Council will also choose a member or representative to attend the negotiations.

So voted unanimously.

4. Campus/Community Relations

Assistant Town Manager Matt Hart stated that the Council Committee on the Community Quality of Life had recommended a number of joint Town/University initiatives that we could potentially pursue. He was endeavoring now to schedule a follow up meeting with University personnel to move that along.

Bruce Clouette reported that the Town/Gown Meeting was held on June 14, 2005. Primarily what was agreed upon was to have future Town/Gown meetings have a more theme approach. The first meeting in August would present the Draft Town Plan of Conservation and Development and Greg Padick, Town Planner, has agreed to make a presentation. Following that they would like to have the Master Plan similarly presented before the committee.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

5. Status Report on Pending Claims and Litigation

Mr. Hart announced that the Town Attorney has stated that this item routinely should be under Executive Session.

5a. ZBA Vacancy

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded that the present ZBA Alternate Suzanne Singer-Bansal will fill the vacancy created by Stephen Marks-Hamilton's retirement.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded that Sarah Accorsi, 284 Storrs Road, Mansfield Center, Ct. is the alternate on the ZBA.

So passed unanimously.

5b. Excessive traffic on Depot Road

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Blair seconded that the issue of excessive speed on Depot Road be referred to the Public Works Director and the Traffic Authority, and that they be requested to report to the Council on their findings.

So passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mr. Schaefer inquired as to what Dr. Dardick meant on Pg. 46. "Numbers seem to be low" Staff will find out.

Ms. Koehn inquired if the Town did pay the CACIWC dues.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Clouette reported on the Downtown Partnership Board of Directors meeting on July 7. The Mayor and Mr. Clouette attended the meeting. And it was primarily to reconstitute the Board of Directors committees and to authorize the Executive Director to begin negotiations with the preferred consultant for the Relocation Plan. Also the Board of Directors discussed the comments of the State on the municipal plan of development. The largest number of comments came for the DEP and they were primarily of a request for further information and further elaboration of some issues. The Board of Directors reviewed those comments and their conclusion was that they would form a response to them but it was not of a nature to impede the project.

Ms. Koehn would like a copy of those comments.

Personnel Committee needs to meet after Council meeting to decide on a meeting date.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

X. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

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Mr. Hart handed out his report. See attached.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

XII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

6. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, "Governor Signs Conveyance Tax Extension Bill"

7. The Hartford Courant (courant.com), "Mansfield Hollow State Park"

At 8:55 p.m. Mr. Clouette move and Mr. Paulhus seconded to go into executive session with the Assistant Town Manager to discuss pending claims and litigations. So passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:55 p.m. Town Council went into Executive Session.

At 9:04 p.m. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to come out of Executive Session.

So passed unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 p.m. Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the Town Council Meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk