

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
May 14, 2007

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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

Mayor Paterson welcomed new Council member Leigh Duffy.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2007 special meeting. Motion passed with Ms. Duffy abstaining.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2007 special meeting. The Clerk noted a correction in the opening sentence. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected passed with Ms. Duffy abstaining.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2007 meeting, Motion passed with Ms. Duffy abstaining.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Amendment to Section A194-1 (J) of the Mansfield Park Regulations

The Town Clerk read the legal notice.

Gary English, 15 Clearview Drive, who is both a Little League Coach and a member of the Board, expressed support for the amendment. He noted this issue was first raised in mid-January and that the three committees the issue was referred to were supportive. Mr. English also noted that there are over 200 families in Town that participate in the program. He also reiterated his point from the last meeting that banners in ballparks are not out of context.

Aline Booth, 451 Wormwood Hill Road, noting Mansfield's historic careful treatment of the signage in Town, suggested some limitations to the amendments. These suggestions include defining the season, limiting the size of

the signs and requiring uniformity of style. She is not opposed to the amendments if the banners are regulated.

Warren Higgins, 76 Brookside Lane, stated that he would like to see the amendment pass. He feels that having banners in the park will allow the participants to feel like they are in the big leagues.

Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, expressed support for the amendments noting that if the Town does not change the rules regarding banners the Little League program might disappear in Mansfield. He suggested that the Town might fund the League.

Sharry Goldman, Browns Road, commented that she has always been very supportive of the sports programs in Town, but she is concerned with the use of corporate models to implement the programs. The goal of sports should be to allow the children to get outside, become team players and to set goals, not to emulate the major leagues. Ms. Goldman does support the idea of allowing every child to play and had some suggestions for fundraising.

Julia Sherman, Pinewoods Lane, suggested that the continual display of the banners would detract from the natural beauty of the area as seen from the Nipmuck trails. She commented that signage is an outdated way to fundraise and suggested a number of other possibilities. Ms. Sherman also felt that the concept of using public property for business use could expand to many other Town owned properties.

Diane Nadeau, 150 Thornbush Road, President of the Mansfield Little League, explained the structure of the organization and described what Little League considers fundraising. The local organization conducts one fundraiser a year, which is the Defender's event. Sponsorships are not considered to be fundraisers. She described the banners as a 2x3 foot green signs with the same font and white lettering which will have the company name on them. Ms. Nadeau stated that the lack of available volunteers has made it impossible to implement the current sign regulations and that has led to fewer sponsors.

Larry Lombard, 185 Pleasant Valley Road, described the discourse at much ado about nothing.

The public hearing was closed at 8:30 p.m.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

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2. Program Sponsorship Signs/Banners In Town Parks/Amendments to Section A194-1 (J) of the Mansfield Park Regulations

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to adopt the proposed amendment dated May 14, 2007 to Section A194-1 (J) of the Mansfield Parks Regulations, which amendment shall become effective 21 days after publication

in a newspaper having a circulation within the Town of Mansfield.

Mr. Clouette questioned the restrictive nature of the wording, which is limited to name and logo. He also expressed concern regarding identifying specific dates as the season.

Mr. Hawkins commented that since it is so difficult to find volunteers to work in the program it would be unfair to dictate to them how to continue to finance the program. He also noted that all three of the committees that received the referral commented favorably.

Ms. Koehn expressed her opposition to corporate advertising on public property and offered a substitute motion. Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Haddad seconded that the Town of Mansfield sponsor the Mansfield Little League in the amount of \$3000.

Mr. Clouette raised a point of order inquiring whether or not a substitute amendment that is contrary to the original amendment could be offered.

Mr. Haddad raised a point of order commenting that the substitute should be offered in the form of an amendment. The amendment would be germane to the original motion. Mr. Haddad moved to amend the motion by striking the current language and change it to appropriate \$3000 to the Mansfield Little League. Ms. Koehn seconded the amendment.

Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien agreed that the amendment was in order.

Ms. Koehn stated that she is in support of the program, but the Council is trying to solve the Little League problem of too few volunteers by approving advertising on public property. Mr. Haddad concurred that the Little League Program provides a valuable service and should be funded without the need for signs on public property.

Ms. Blair expressed concern that this amendment might cut off the organization's opportunity to raise funds.

The vote on the amendment failed with Ms. Koehn and Mr. Haddad in favor and all others against.

Mr. Schaefer called the question. Seconded by Mr. Paulhus the motion did not receive the necessary approval of 2/3rds of the Council. Discussion on the original motion continued.

Mr. Clouette, although he finds the creeping commercialism repulsive, outlined the reasons he would support the motion. The Town is a co-sponsor of the activity and therefore must be cognizant of the fundraising needs of the organization; the recreation area in question is not a garden or a natural park; local business sponsorship is better than corporate sponsorship and all three committees to whom the issue was referred were in favor of the change.

Mr. Haddad stated that although he cannot support the proposed changes he

would abstain from voting out of respect for the Little League organization. He explained that he supported the previous compromise allowing temporary signs.

Ms. Duffy expressed hope that the organization would explore some of the suggested fundraisers.

The motion passed with Mr. Haddad abstaining and Ms. Koehn in opposition.

### 3. Issues regarding the UConn Landfill

Matt Hart, Town Manager, commented that Rob Miller of Eastern Highlands Health District has reviewed the material and that the results do not vary from previous reports. Mr. Schaefer requested additional information on when it will be known if the two leachate interceptor trenches will solve the problem of the VOCs. The Town Manager will investigate.

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded to move Item#6 as the next item on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.  
(See Item 6)

### 4. Community/Campus Relations

Mr. Hart updated the Council on recent and upcoming activities including the appointment of a additional state trooper; the arrival and introduction of the new Director of Off Campus Housing; the development of a town-wide ticket system; an increase in staff enforcement of litter ordinance and meetings with landlords from a number of larger apartment complexes including Keystone Development.

Ms. Koehn requested that as staff meets with landlords they promote clean energy, recycling and a move out policy. Mr. Hart agreed to do so.

### 5. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Greg Padick, Director of Planning, Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works and the Town Manager serve on this committee. Mr. Padick stated that this report was required as a part of consent order. The purpose of which was to identify options regarding ownership, governance and operation. The information will be reviewed by the State. Ms. Koehn has a list of questions regarding the peak monthly flow, the availability of water to the Town and the affect of all the water reentering the Willimantic River. Staff will address these questions when received.

### 6. Mansfield Charter Revision Commissions Report

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, effective May 14, 2007, to schedule a public hearing for June 11, 2007 to solicit public comment regarding the draft report of the Mansfield Charter Revision Commission and to refer the draft report to staff for comment.

Mayor Paterson thanked Charter Revision Chair and the Commission for all their work.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

7. Financial Statements Dated March 31, 2007

Mr. Schaefer reported that the Finance Committee has briefly reviewed the statements but would like other Council members to have time to look over the statements. They suggest tabling the issue until the next meeting. By consensus the Council agreed.

8. Appointment of Auditor to Conduct Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2007/2007

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective May 14, 2007, to appoint the firm of Kostin, Ruffkess and Company to conduct the financial audit for Fiscal Year 2006/07.

The Finance Committee also reviewed this request and approved the measure. This company has been doing the auditing for ten years and so next year the audit requirement will go out to bid.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

9. DECD Pre-Application for Small Cities Funding of Juniper Hill Sprinkler Project

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective May 14, 2007, to authorize staff to prepare and to submit a pre-application to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for Small Cities Program monies to fund renovations and improvements to the fire safety system at Juniper Hills Village.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

10. Strategic Planning Project

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective, May 14, 2007, to authorize staff to appoint the firm of Management Partners, Inc, as the consultant for Mansfield's strategic planning process, which firm shall specifically perform the services as described in Option One of its proposal dated April 13, 2007.

Motion so passed.

11. Contract with Siemens Corporation

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to move, effective May 14, 2007, to approve a bid waiver for the Siemens' Performance Contracting Program and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Agreement between the Town of

Mansfield, CT and Siemens Building Technologies, Inc., following review of the proposed agreement by the Town Attorney.

William Hammond, Director of Maintenance, explained that projects that will show an immediate benefit were chosen for this first round.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

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To be discussed at the May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

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XII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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Attached

Mr. Hart welcomed Leigh Duffy to the Council. He also mentioned that he has invited Greg Padick, Director of Planning, to a future meeting to discuss the Plan of Development

Mr. Paulhus requested an update on the taping of Council Meetings. The Town Manager replied that he would like the soon to be appointed Director of Information Technology involved in the decision.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

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XIV. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

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12. Be Well Activity Reports, April 2007
  13. DEP Commissioner G.McCarthy re: Climate Change Leadership Awards Program
  14. E. Paterson and M. Hart re: Storrs Center Special Design District
  15. E. Paterson and M. Hart re: University Spring Weekend
  16. Foreign Affairs, *How Biofuels Could Starve the Poor*, May/June 2007
  17. Mansfield Community Center, Celebrate National Aquatic Month
  18. The Daily Campus, Local Bar Deals with Fire Code Violations, April 25, 2007
  19. The Daily Campus, *Sober Alternatives Need Improvement*, April 25, 2007
  20. The Daily Campus, *Spring Weekend Tame for Students*, April 23, 2007
  21. USA Today, *Bills Wedge Between Universities*, Towns, May 3, 2007

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk