

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

October 9, 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 (7:55 p.m.), Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to approve the minutes of the September 24 meeting with corrections. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2007 special meeting. Motion passed with Ms. Koehn and Mr. Schaefer 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

Gary Bent, Region 19 Physics Teacher and town resident, asked the Council to consider the use of B20 biodiesel as a fuel for the school busses and as heating oil. Unlike corn, which is used for ethanol, the use of the oil from the soybean does not destroy the meal of the plant. The United States grows 40% of the world's soybean crop. Mr. Bent distributed a handout to the members.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

Brian Kennedy, Resident State Trooper Sergeant, introduced himself to the Council and shared his views on the partying of students at UConn. He is encouraged by the progress being made at Carriage House and complimented Aspen Management on the steps they have taken, but he has also noticed that the partying is sprawling into other neighborhoods. In response to Council member's questions, the Sergeant stated that the new state trooper was delayed by some previous commitments but is now getting up to speed. He also described the approach that they are using with students as a balance between enforcement and incentives for good behavior. Ms. Koehn asked that Sergeant Kennedy check with Lon Hultgren regarding the dumping of alcohol at the entrance of Carriage House.

Mayor Paterson distributed a summary of the Community Campus Partnership off-campus visits for the current year, which includes a list of volunteers. Mr. Clouette reported that Jim Hintz, Director of Off-Campus Student Services, has compiled information on 7 different communities and their approaches to town/gown issues. He will include it in the next Council

packet.

Mr. Haddad arrived at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Paterson requested a motion to move Item # 5, Mansfield Middle School Fuel Conversion Project, as the next item on the agenda. Moved by Mr. Schaefer, seconded by Ms. Blair, the motion passed unanimously.

See below under Item 5

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

No Report

3. Cogeneration Facility for Mansfield Community Center

Bill Hammond, Director of Maintenance and Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, reviewed the plan and the proposed financing of the project with the Council. Mr. Smith plans to finance this project as a lease/purchase agreement. The payback period will be about 5 years.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded the following resolution:

Resolved:

- (a) The town appropriate \$350,000 to design and construct a co-generation plant and pool cover at the Mansfield Community Center.
- (b) That the Director of Finance is authorized to issue a request for proposals for an equipment lease purchase.
- (c) That the Town Manager, Director of Finance, and Treasurer or any two of them are authorized to enter into a lease purchasing agreement not to exceed \$350,000 and to determine the amount, interest rates, maturities, prepayment provisions, forms and other details of the agreement.
- (d) Principal and interest payments of the lease purchase agreement are subject to annual appropriation.

It is the intention of the Town of Mansfield that the lease purchase agreement will qualify as tax exempt debt, as such the Town Manager, Director of Finance and Treasurer or any two of them are authorized to make such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation on interest on the lease purchase agreement.

Ms. Koehn moved to divide the question commenting that the information regarding the cost of the pool covers was insufficient to make a decision. She is in favor of the cogeneration system. Mr. Haddad seconded the motion. The motion failed with all against except Ms. Koehn and Mr. Haddad.

The original motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Koehn who abstained.

4. Demand Responsive Elderly and Disabled Transportation Grant

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following resolution:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL, that the Town of Mansfield hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes §4a-60(a)(1) and §4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142, as those statutes may be amended from time to time.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

5. Mansfield Middle School Fuel Conversion Project – Fuel Analysis Phase

Michael Callahan and Joseph Marcucio from Fuss and O'Neill Engineering were asked to reevaluate the fuel conversion options explored in a 2004 study and to investigate a number of other energy sources. They presented their findings which determined that a hot water boiler with natural gas as fuel would be the best alternative. Factors such as carbon footprint, annual savings, implementation cost, maintenance and repair cost and noise and comfort were taken into account. Mr. Callahan commented that while the savings in money and carbon emissions was substantial with the Geothermal Space Heating Systems with COP the number of wells and heat pumps needed would be difficult to maintain and noisy to operate.

The next stage will be to request bids for the system and to make sure that the natural gas service could be installed at the Middle School.

6. Proclamation Designating October as Meet the Blind Month and October 15, 2007 as White Cane Safety Day

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective October 9, 2007, to authorize the Mayor to issues the attached Proclamation Designating October 2007 as Meet the Blind Month and Proclamation Designating October 15, 2007 as White Cane Day.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Request for Public Information Session re: Preliminary Designs to Stone Mill Road/ Laurel Lane Bridges

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, to schedule a Public Information Session regarding the Preliminary Designs to Stone Mill Road/Laurel Lane Bridges for the October 22, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Mansfield Town Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2008

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective October 9, 2007, to adopt the Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2008, as presented by the Town Clerk

Motion passed unanimously.

9. FY 2006-2007 Budget Transfers

Mr. Schaefer, Finance Committee Chair, moved, effective October 9, 2007, to approve the Budget Transfers for FY 2006/07, as presented by the Director of Finance.

Mr. Schaefer commented that the Finance Committee has reviewed these transfers.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

10. Suggestions for CCM's 2008 State Legislative Program

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective October 9, 2007, to authorize staff to submit its proposed suggestions for inclusion within the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities 2008 Legislative Program

Ms. Koehn requested that the Council add to the list new legislative authority for towns to reward the use of green building and penalize those buildings that do not use green building methods. She asked staff to investigate how other states manage this. By consensus Ms. Koehn's suggestion was agreed to and the motion as amended passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Clouette reported that at the last meeting of the Town Gown Committee members discussed the UConn water system and the fact that the University has not drawn any water from the Fenton since July. Housing alternatives were also discussed.

Matt Hart, Town Manager, outlined some of his thoughts for the establishment of an ad hoc committee to look at housing in town, including conferring with the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Hawkins asked to be included in the initial discussions.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Paulhus reported that he attended the award ceremony celebrating Mansfield Middle School's designation as Middle School of the Year. Also in attendance were Mayor Paterson and Town Manager Matt Hart.

Mayor Paterson, Mr. Paulhus and Matt Hart also attended the League of Women Voter's dinner at which the changes to the Charter were reviewed.

Mr. Hawkins requested that the scheduling of special meetings of the Town Council be reviewed.

Council members agreed to a sense of the Council, congratulating Assistant to the Town Manager, Maria Capriola, and Terry Coonradt on their marriage.

Mr. Schaefer reported that he sent a letter to the Daily Campus identifying a number of

inaccuracies in a recently published article regarding Mansfield's supposed lack of support for student housing. (Letter attached)

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Attached

The Town Manager reported that the PTO, Board of Education and Town have been working on a proposal for the playscape at Goodwin School.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. Charter Revision Vote on November 6, 2007 - Explanatory Text of the Four Ballot Questions

12. Daily Campus An open letter to the Mansfield Town Council

13. Daily Campus Mansfield Celebrates Festival – 9-17-07

14. K. Holt re: Mansfield's IWA Approval for a Mixed-Use Town Center

15. A. Kouatly re: Know Your Town Fair

16. Reminder News Festival on the Green is Preview of Future 'Downtown' Mansfield – 9-14-07

17. Reminder News UConn and Town Celebrates – 9-21-07

18. State of Connecticut Department of Transportation re: State Matching Grant Program Application

19. Strategic Planning Steering Committee re: Open Call for Participants

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to move into Executive Session.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Legal Issues

Included: Matt Hart, Town Manager, Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works and Jeff Smith, Director of Finance

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

Motion passed by all.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk