

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
September 22, 2008

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, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to approve minutes of the September 8, 2008 special and regular meetings with corrections. Motion passed with all in favor except Blair, Paterson and Paulhus who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Peter Plante of Oak Drive spoke in support of the resolution to establish an Economic and Community Development Committee. He applauded the opportunity for citizen participation noting that it puts the citizens in a proactive position. Mr. Plante is a member of the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission but was speaking as a private citizen.

Cynara Stites, Hanks Hill Road, requested the letter she recently sent to Council members regarding economic development be distributed in the next packet.

The meeting was video taped by Mike Sikoski and Cesar Cormier.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager, congratulated all who worked so hard on the Town fireworks and the Festival on the Green. In response to a question raised by Ms. Koehn at the last meeting regarding the liability the Town incurs with events like the kayak rentals, Ms. Capriola reported that in all such instances the Town requires a waiver of liability be signed. The Assistant to the Town Manager also reported that she has polled the members of the Ethics Committee and is in the process of arranging a meeting date, most likely on October 2nd.

Ms. Duffy moved to add to the agenda as Item 4a a discussion of the resolution establishing the Community Quality of Life Committee. Seconded by Mr. Clouette, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson thanked the staff and volunteers who organized the fireworks and Festival on the Green. The Mayor noted that both citizens and members of the University participated, calling it a coming together of the Community.

Ms. Capriola reported the Town Gown Committee reviewed the priority points of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Clouette commented that the Committee also discussed the issue of governance regarding the water supply and reported that the Board of Trustees has formed a committee to review Spring Weekend.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, reported the University of Connecticut Water and Wastewater Policy Advisory Committee met and discussed the status of the Willimantic River Study and although the season was not dry enough to complete the study preliminary findings will be issued. He also commented that Ponde Place is planning to resubmit the development proposal with a request for sewers only.

Council members asked questions regarding the State Department of Health's requirements for community wells. Mr. Haddad requested a memo from staff regarding the permitting process for community water systems including any provisions that address possible impacts on neighboring wells.

3. Proposal to Establish a Standing Economic & Community Development Committee of the Town Council and an Economic Development Advisory Committee: Proposed Ordinance to repeal Economic Development Commission (resolutions attached)

Mr. Nesbitt moved to adopt the Resolution to Establish a Standing Economic and Community Development Committee of the Town Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paulhus.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to strike all language in the Findings and Purpose section up to the word "Therefore". Motion to amend passed unanimously.

Council members discussed the role of the proposed committee and its relationship to the Strategic Planning Process; the role of the Downtown Partnership in the Four Corners and King Hill sections of Town; the impact of an additional committee on the Council and staff: the need for multiple resources to focus on economic development; the role of the Plan of Conservation and Development in determining economic development and the role of the Council in determining priorities and setting goals.

Mr. Clouette moved to end debate on the motion. Seconded by Ms. Blair, the motion passed with Blair, Clouette, Duffy, Koehn, Paterson and Paulhus in favor and Haddad, Nesbitt and Schaefer opposed.

On a roll call vote the motion as amended failed with Duffy, Paulhus and Schaefer in favor, Clouette, Haddad, Koehn, Paterson, Nesbitt opposed and Blair

abstaining.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adopt the Resolution to Establish an Economic Development Advisory Committee starting with "...Be it Resolved..."

Council members discussed the motion as a possible way to advance the concerns of the Council regarding the issue of Economic Development and the need for the addition of a mission statement to the motion.

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Clouette seconded a motion to table. The motion passed unanimously.

By consensus it was agreed that the Ordinance to repeal Economic Development Committee would not be addressed at this meeting.

4. Hillside Circle Quit Claim Deed

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective September 22, 2008 to approve the conveyance of a .036 acre parcel to the owner of 3 Hillside Circle subject to a condition that the land conveyed to the owner of 3 Hillside Circle be merged with the existing lot so that no new parcels of land are created.

Motion passed unanimously.

4.a Community Quality of Life Committee

Ms. Duffy moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to increase the membership on the Community Quality of Life Committee to include 5 at large members with preference being given to a landlord, a student renter and an affected neighbor.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

5. Financial Statements dated June 30, 2008

Mr. Schaefer moved to accept the amended Financial Statements dated June 30, 2008, as prepared by town staff and endorsed by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Schaefer, chair of the Finance Committee, reported the committee would be looking at the CNR fund from a long-term perspective.

The motion passed with all in favor with the exception of Ms. Koehn who abstained.

6. Budget Transfers for Fiscal Year 2007/08

Mr. Schaefer moved effective September 22, 2008, to approve the Budget Transfers for FY 2007/08, as presented by the Director of Finance in his communication dated September 18, 2008.

The motion passed with all in favor with the exception of Ms. Koehn who abstained.

7. Bid Waiver for Renewal of Single Family Collection Contract

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective September 22, 2008, to waive the competitive bid requirements of the town's purchasing regulations solely for the purpose of executing a two-year extension to the Town's contract with Floyd Mayo and Sons for the provision of single family refuse collection services.

Lon Hultgren, Public Works Director explained that this is a negotiated amount and that Mayo has been able to provide this service to the Town very successfully.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Proposed Amendments to Building Construction Ordinance

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Clouette seconded, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on October 13, 2008, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendments to the Building Construction Ordinance, Chapter 107 of the Mansfield Code.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Notice of and Agreement to Right of First Refusal for 85 Depot Road (Reynolds School)

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

Resolved, on this, the 22nd day of September 2008, the Town Council for the Town of Mansfield, County of Tolland, State of Connecticut, grants to the State of Connecticut for the University of Connecticut a Right of First Refusal in real property known as 85 Depot Road, located in the Town of Mansfield, County of Tolland, and State of Connecticut.

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. QUARTERLY REPORTS

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Schaefer noted that the Conservation Commission requested the Town ask White Oak Condominium to return five and a half acres of open space to the Town if the Town gives the organization land for the septic system.

Mr. Schaefer asked the concept be reviewed.

Mr. Clouette questioned whether the Town should be proactive and work with White Oak Condominium to craft a solution or potentially be forced to fix the problem under a DEP order. Staff will clarify the Town's options.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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Ms Duffy reported the Committee on Committees has scheduled interviews for citizens interested in serving on the Community Quality of Life Committee. She invited Council members to attend.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Ms. Koehn attended the Executive session of the Senior Center Association and noted she is the only Council member who is a member of the Senior Center Association.

Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Schafer attended the field trip to Moss Sanctuary.

Ms. Duffy attended the Reynold's School opening.

Mayor Paterson as President of CCM attended a conference of Irish leaders in Ireland. She reported their issues and concerns are much like those in the United States.

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X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

10. Chronicle, "Editorial: We Offer These Threads, Needles" - 09/08/08

11. Chronicle, "Letter to the Editor" - 09/16/08

12. Chronicle, "Mansfield Officials Now Have a Plan" - 09/09/08

13. Chronicle, "Mansfield Set to Have a Festive Weekend" - 09/11/08

14. Chronicle, "Mansfield Tackles School Updates" - 09/16/08

15. Chronicle, "Postal Lifesaver Is Honored" - 09/12/08

16. Chronicle, "The Heat Is On" - 09/16/08

17. Connecticut Light and Power re: Interstate Reliability Project

18. G. Padick re: CL&P Interstate Reliability Project

19. G. Padick re: Proposed Telecommunication Tower, Daleville Road, Willington

20. VNA East 4th Quarter Statistics

21. L. Weiss re: "A Resolution to Establish a Standing Economic and Community Development Council Committee of the Mansfield Town Council" and "A Resolution to Establish an Economic Development Advisory Committee"

XI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

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No comments

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

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Mr. Schaefer requested the following question be a future agenda item:

The Town explore the expansion of the low-income programs at the Community Center to a broader range of residents including senior citizens on fixed incomes.

Mr. Nesbitt moved to schedule a special meeting of the Town Council for a strategic planning workshop. Seconded by Mr. Paulhus the motion passed unanimously.

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

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Included: Town Manager, Matthew Hart

Issue: Town Manager's Performance Evaluation

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Duffy moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed by all.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk