

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
March 28, 2011

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: Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro  
Excused: Kochenburger, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2011 meeting as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Small Cities (Community Development Block Grant) Public Hearing – Housing Rehabilitation

The Town Clerk read the legal notice. Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola discussed the application for \$300,000 in funds for the Town's housing rehabilitation program. No public comments were offered and the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Jay Rueckl, South Eagleville Road, expressed his disappointment with how the decision not to go forward with the school building project was made. (Statement attached)

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, urged Council members, during budget deliberations, to question the operation of the Town's government. (Statement attached)

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, questioned the source accounting for the added hours for the building inspector and the fire marshal; the amount in reserve for the relocation expenses of business in the downtown area and expressed his disappointment that the Council did not wait for the report from the Parking Steering Committee before approving the agreement with EDR.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

Council members agreed by consensus that the newspaper articles currently included in the packet would be scanned and offered to the public electronically. The Town Clerk will look at ways to limit the amount of paper used to reprint the minutes included in the packet for Town Council approval.

Staff will contact the work study students to see if someone is available to tape the March 30, 2011 budget meeting.

Mayor Paterson suggested the Town prepare for student celebrations as a result of UConn's participation in the NCAA's final four tournament. The Town Manager reported that contingency plans are underway.

Masonicare will be invited to a future meeting. Prior to the meeting staff will make copies of the Brecht report (market feasibility study on the need for assisted/independent living) available to Council members.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Mayor reported that she and a number of other Council members attended the Mansfield Advocates for Children community conversation last Saturday. Mayor Paterson noted it was well attended and was a very good program.

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Mr. Paulhus noted that during the community conversation one of the speakers commented on the new locks at the elementary school and the new cameras at the middle school.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. School Building Project

Mr. Ryan moved that every year during the month of December the school building project be added as an agenda item in order to continue to address where we are as far as maintenance, reimbursement funds, etc. are concerned.

Seconded by Mr. Shapiro the motion passed unanimously.

Council members discussed a number of directions available to them including requesting information on the cost of new media centers for the elementary schools and necessary renovations to the middle school; a referendum designed to get a sense of what the residents would like; the desire to only perform necessary maintenance on the school buildings until the economy turns around so as not to foreclose the idea of new schools in the future; and the role of the projected student enrollment on the project.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to invite the Board of Education, the School Building Committee and project staff to meet for the purpose of discussing what needs to be done to maintain the schools as they currently exist for the next several years.

The motion passed unanimously.

A budget meeting with the Board of Education is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> at which the project can be discussed.

Council members requested information from staff on the necessary repairs that will be needed to maintain the facilities for the next couple of years, information on the cost of a ten year improvement plan, information on the cost of new media centers for the elementary schools, and projected and past enrollment figures. The Mayor suggested any additional request for information be emailed to the Town Manager prior to the meeting

3. Small Cities (Community Development Block Grant) – Housing Rehabilitation

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, federal monies are available under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C § 5301, et. seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Development Block Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Mansfield make an application to the State for \$300,000 in order to undertake and carryout a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the CGS.

That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by The Town of Mansfield in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 is hereby approved and that Matthew Hart, Town Manager is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department

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of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, to carryout approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Mansfield. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Proposed Natchaug River Basin Conservation Compact

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded, effective March 28, 2011, to adopt the proposed Natchaug River Basin Conservation Compact. Motion passed unanimously.

5. March 2011 Draft UConn Water Supply Plan

The Town Manager noted that both the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Conservation Commission will be reviewing the draft and will submit comments. These comments will be presented to the Council for final approval.

6. Historic Document Preservation Grant

Ms. Lindsey moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution: Resolved, effective March 28, 2011, that Matthew W. Hart, Mansfield Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

7. WPCA, FY 2010/11 Windham Sewer Budget

Director of Finance Cherie Trahan and Account Manager/Treasurer Keri Rowley explained the proposed budget.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded effective March 28, 2011, to adopt the FY 2010/11 Windham Sewer Budget as prepared by town staff.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. WPCA, FY 2010/11 UConn Water/Sewer Budget

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded, effective March 28, 2011 to adopt the FY 2010/11 UConn Water/Sewer Budget as prepared by town staff.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Appointment to Mansfield Discovery Depot Board of Directors

Move, effective March 28, 2011 to appoint Council member Denise Keane as the Town Council's representative to the Board of Directors of the Mansfield Discovery Depot, Inc., for an indefinite term.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Distributed

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Lindsey requested clarification on a reference to "UConn planned industrial park" on page 139 of the packet. The Director of Planning updated the Council noting that the Environmental Impact Statement for the road which is planned through the Conn Tech area will be completed by the end of 2011 with construction expected to begin early next year.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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Chair of the Committee on Committees Paul Shapiro offered the following recommendations:

The appointment of Bryan Klimkiewicz to the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities to fill a vacancy with a term ending June 30, 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

The reappointments of Kelly Kochis, Kim Bova Kaminsky, Scott Lehman, Thomas Bruhn and Blanche Serban and the appointment of Kathryn Niemasik to the Arts Advisory Council. All terms to end March 1, 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

The appointment of Ed Lukoss to fill a vacancy on the Beautification Committee with a term ending on June 30, 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

The appointments to the Commission on Aging of Donald Nolan replacing Mr. Doeg, Joan Terry replacing Ms. Philips and the reappointment of April Holinko. All terms to begin on September 30, 2011 and end on September 30, 2013. The reappointment of Sam Gordon and the appointment of Laurie Grunske McMorrow replacing Mr. Quinn for terms beginning on October 1, 2011 and ending on September 30, 2014. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

The appointment of Sue M. Lipsky to fill a vacancy on the Communication Advisory Committee with a term ending on March 24, 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

The appointment of Richard Long to replace Ms. Fried on the Community Quality of Life Committee. This Committee is an ad hoc committee. Motion passed unanimously.

The appointment of Lesley Dyson Minearo as an alternate to replace Mr. McGarry on the Historic District Commission with a term ending on November 1, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

The reappointment of Richard Pellegrine to the Housing Code of Appeals with a term ending September 25, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

The appointments to the Human Service Advisory Committee of Joan Quarto representing the Senior Center Association, Dexter Eddy representing the Mansfield Housing Authority, Ethel Mantzaris representing the Youth Advisory Committee, Jane Blanshard representing the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, Victoria Nimirowski representing the Windham Area Interfaith Ministries, Sara Anderson representing the Mansfield Advocates for Children, Joan Terry representing the Commission on Aging and Frank Perrotti as an at large member. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

The appointment of Sara Anderson to the Mansfield Advocates for Children for a term ending June 30, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

Pending an opinion from the Town Attorney the appointments to the Ethics Boards will be postponed. At question is the definition of an "official of the Town" as found in the current Ethics Ordinance and whether or not that definition applies to the recommended citizens.

Mr. Shapiro thanked the former Committee Chair Toni Moran and the Committee on Committee members for their work and members of the community for volunteering.

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan reported the Committee met with the auditors and reviewed their observations. The Director of Finance will offer suggestions to address those comments. Mr. Ryan noted the report was very favorable.

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Chair of the Personnel Committee Toni Moran reported the Committee is continuing to review the various drafts of the Ethics Ordinance. The Committee has completed a review of the Town Attorney's draft and is in the process of comparing his draft with the previous draft of the Personnel Committee and that of the Ethics Board. Once the Personnel Committee has agreed on a draft ordinance it will be forwarded to the Ethics Board and then to the Town Council for further review.

## XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

10. C. Johnson re: Community Center Fee Waiver
11. E. Paterson re: Independent/Assisted Living – Mr. Shapiro recused himself from the discussion. Ms. Keane questioned the use of the term “highest priority” in the letter as that status was not identified in the approved motion. Mr. Hart explained the “highest priority” is a category not a status.
12. M. Hart re: Recommended Commuter Parking Lot/Transit Stop in Mansfield
13. State of CT, Department of Public Health re:HEARTSafe community
14. Chronicle “Letter to the Editor” – 03-08-11
15. Chronicle “Planned updates better than demolish, rebuild” – 03-08-11
16. Chronicle “Mansfield Commission on Aging finalizes long-range plan” 03-12-11
17. Mansfield's PZC OK's reg changes” – 03-14-11
18. Chronicle “Councilors waive fees for seniors” – 03-15-11
19. Chronicle “Status quo in Mansfield” – 03-15-11
20. Chronicle “Letter to the Editor” – 03-16-11
21. Chronicle “Grant to fund study of parties” – 03-19-11
22. Chronicle “We offer these threads, needles” – 03-21-11
23. Chronicle “Mansfield ready to kick off budget season” – 03-22-11
24. Hartford Courant “Fourteen Connecticut Towns Part of Three-Year...- 03-21-11

## XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Lindsey requested a workshop on water issues affecting the Town to be held after the budget process and requested a review of EDR marketing campaign for the Storrs Center area.

Ms. Moran noted that a meeting with officials from Masonicare was identified as an agenda item earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to move into executive session to discuss the following:

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (D)

Also to include: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Planning Gregory Padick and Open Space Preservation Chair Jim Morrow

Personnel, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (A)

Also Included: Town Manager Matt Hart

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

## XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (D)

Present: Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Planning Gregory Padick and Open Space Preservation Chair Jim Morrow

Personnel, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (A)

Present: Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro

Also Included: Town Manager Matt Hart

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XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council reconvened in regular session. Ms. Lindsey moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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