

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
October 11, 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

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2011 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, thanked Councilor Shapiro for recognizing the importance of training in the Freedom of Information Act and requested that all union contracts of the Town be placed on the website. (Statement attached)

IV. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report, Town Manager Matt Hart reported that he attended the CCM Annual Convention at which he and the Director of Finance Cherie Trahan participated in a panel discussion on shared services; attended the Governor's Summit on Economic Development; and attended the WINCOG Board of Directors' meeting at which CL&P was present and the response to Storm Irene was discussed. The recruitment process for the Library Director has begun and interviewing panels will consist of peers, staff, Library Board members and representatives from the Friends of the Library. Mr. Hart also stated his interest in reviving the Economic Development Commission and has asked the Committee on Committees to review the existing ordinance. Mr. and Mrs. Shifrin, owners of the Kirby Mill, have expressed an interest in installing a hydro system in the Mansfield Hollow Dam area and selling the power back to the Town. A presentation by the Shifrins will be added to a future agenda. In response to a public comment, Mr. Hart agreed that all of the Town's union contracts should, if they are not already posted, be added to the Town's website. Bruce Silva, Superintendent of E.O. Smith High School, has asked if any Council member would be interested in participating in union negotiations. The Town Manager will forward Mr. Silva's letter to members.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson reported that she attended the ground breaking for the Windham Hospital Medical Building and the dedication of the open space donated by the Dorwart Family. Mayor Paterson recognized three recently deceased community members who contributed greatly to the Town, Fred Cazel former Mayor and founding member of the Historical Society, Elizabeth Hamill President and founder of the Friends of the Library, and Reinholdt Dorwart whose family donated the recently dedicated open space. The Mayor and Town Manager attended the funeral of retired fire fighter Richard Chandler, who also gave so much time and energy to the Town.

Mayor Paterson participated in the first meeting of the Legislative Task Force on Municipal Funding. The group will be studying the current municipal aid formulas and making recommendations to the legislature.

Ms. Moran attended CCM's Annual Convention and was pleased to hear the heads of various State agencies commit to working together to expedite economic development projects. Ms Moran also visited East Conn's high tech training facility in Chaplin.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

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Town Manager Matt Hart announced that Sgt. Richard Cournoyer has been recently appointed as the Town's coordinator and welcomed him. Sgt. Cournoyer had been serving on an interim basis.

Sgt. Cournoyer updated Council members on the implementation of several initiatives including bar compliance checks, the issuance of nuisance ordinance infractions, and neighborhood visits. By communicating with all affected citizens and working with UConn to provide input into the orientation process, the State Police hope begin to change the current culture.

Council members thanked Sgt. Cournoyer for his efforts.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

2. Be Well Program Presentation

Eastern Highland Health District's Health Education Coordinator Ande Bloom presented an overview of the history of the Town's Wellness program, the potential benefits to both employers and employees, components of the "Be Well" program, and the current measurable outcomes.

Council members thanked Ms. Bloom and EHHD Director Rob Miller for the presentation and work.

3. Willimantic River National Recreation Trail Application

Willimantic River Alliance member Meg Reich described the group's efforts to work with the Last Green Valley, Inc. and others in an effort to designate the Willimantic River Trail as a National Recreation Trail and asked the Council for support in this effort.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective October 11, 2011, to approve the Access Site Stewardship Plan including the public use of and improvements to Merrow Meadow Park and River Park, and authorize the Town Manager to complete a letter of support for the nomination of the Willimantic River for National Recreation Trail Status. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran reported the Personnel Committee has reviewed and incorporated the suggestions offered at the last meeting into the revised draft Ethics Ordinance. This draft will be forwarded to members of the Ethics Board.

Mr. Paulhus requested that if the Public Safety Committee is reconstituted in the future he would like to be considered as an appointment to the Committee.

X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

4. S. Clark re: Thank you

5. Special Town Meeting Minutes, September 26, 2011

6. E. Paterson/M. Hart re: Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

7. E. Paterson/M. Hart re: Thank you letters, Tropical Storm Irene

8. C. Paulhus re: Public Safety Committee

9. B. Silva re: District/Municipal Budget Information Sharing Meeting

10. Connecticut Light & Power re: Tropical Storm Irene

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Keane requested a review of the need for Charter Revision be added to a future agenda.

Mr. Shapiro stated one of the potential acquisitions under discussion in the proposed Executive Session abuts his property and therefore he will be recusing himself from any

discussions regarding said property. Mr. Shapiro will, however, participate in the other issues to be discussed.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to enter into Executive Session to discuss the sale or purchase of real property in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D) and to include Town Manager Matt Hart, Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien and Director of Planning and Economic Development Linda Painter and to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or litigation in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(A) and §1-200(6)(B) and to included Town Manager Matt Hart and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or Purchase of Real Property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (D)
Present: Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro (for one issue)
Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien and Director of Planning and Economic Development Linda Painter

Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Claims or Litigation in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (A) and §1-200(6) (B)
Present: Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro
Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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