

REGULAR MEETING - MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

January 9, 2012

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer (7:35 P.M.), Shapiro
Excused: Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2011 meeting. Mr. Ryan offered an amendment to the minutes. The motion to approve as amended passed, with all in favor, except Ms. Keane and Ms. Lindsey, who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2011, special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger, who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, expressed his happiness with the manner in which the Town is run and observed that most people he talks to agree with him. Mr. Raphaelson commented on the excellent value the townspeople received from the Community Center during and after the recent storms, noting that he is willing to pay a bit more taxes for the benefits.

Richard Civie, Beech Mountain Road, urged the Council to reject the current CL&P proposal for additional transmission lines in Mansfield. Mr. Civie cited concerns about the limited benefits the Town will receive and the negative impact on the Town's tree canopy.

Tony Mele, CL&P Project Manager, described the outreach program employed by the company and stated the purpose of the project is to facilitate the bringing of more power into the state.

Pat Gaenzler, Beech Mountain Road, spoke in opposition to the Reliability Project.

Ron Manizza, Bassetts Bridge Road, asked the Council to take a stand against the project. Mr. Manizza suggested the money for the project be used to address the current problems with the power lines as evidenced by the recent outages.

Victor Civie, Beech Mountain Road, and member of Mansfield Citizen's United, reviewed a previously submitted letter and a handout distributed this evening. (Handout attached) Mr. Civie feels the money could be better spent.

Pat Suprenant, Gurleyville Road, read a statement requesting clarification on a number of points in the Town Manager's letter to Kurt Heidinger (Statement attached)

Quentin Kessel, Codfish Falls Road, urged the Council to keep a close eye on the protection of the watershed. Mr. Kessel stated that the Town has little input into UConn water issues and outlined his efforts over the years to bring more accountability to the process. He also requested Mr. Heidinger be sent a copy of the agreement between UConn and NEWUS.

David Morse, Birchwood Heights, read a letter written by his wife, Joan Hall, to the Conservation Commission, addressing her concerns regarding the Connecticut Water Company.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, voiced his objections and concerns regarding the Storrs Downtown Project and the potential purchase of electricity from the Kirby Mill hydroelectric facility. (Statement attached)

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, discussed a number of concerns regarding water issues and civility. (Statement attached)

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked that the Community Center be free for all Mansfield citizens.

Mike Sikoski, Windham, urged the Council to give attention to the proposed Ethics Ordinance.

IV. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

In addition to his written report, Town Manager Matt Hart inquired as to whether the Council would like to meet with the Town's representatives prior to the upcoming legislative session. By consensus, the Council agreed to the suggestion.

In response to Council questions, the Town Manager also reported that UConn PD has offered to assist with patrolling the neighborhoods that have been the scenes of recent break-ins. Mr. Kochenburger was in attendance at the recent Storrs Neighborhood Watch meeting conducted by the Resident's Trooper's Office and reported the meeting was well attended and worthwhile.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Kochenburger asked the Town Manager to review the details regarding the elimination of the half-price Jorgenson tickets offered as part of the Senior Center program. Mr. Hart will report back.

Mr. Schaefer requested an update on the timetable for the DOT work at the intersections of Rte 195 and Chaffeeville Road and Clover Mill Road. The Town Manager will report back.

Deputy Mayor Toni Moran reported the Personnel Committee is currently working on the Ethics Ordinance.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. CL&P Interstate Reliability Project

Director of Planning and Economic Development Linda Painter summarized the differences between the 2008 plan and the current plan, presented a number of options for the Siting Council to consider, and explained the PZC's opposition to the proposed project, with the caveat that if it goes forward, they would like the Hawthorne Lane Alternative to be considered.

Project Director Tony Mele outlined the process going forward and stated that even though the time period for submission of materials to the Siting Council has passed, CL&P will continue to pass on any comments the Town submits.

In addition, the Siting Council's process involves a number of public-comment sessions and public hearings, during which time the Council's responses may be submitted.

Council members discussed how best to respond and asked the Town Manager to contact the Executive Director of the Siting Council to inquire about the possibility of putting all transmission lines underground and to clarify further the timing for submission of comments. This item will be placed on the Council's next agenda for further discussion.

2. Community Water/Wastewater Issues

Mr. Shapiro recused himself from the discussion and any subsequent action.

Council members discussed the current and future role of the Town concerning existing public water suppliers, the water-quality standards required under current law, applicable state laws regarding land use in protected areas, the regulation of the public water supply, and possible future steps.

Members agreed that additional information is needed prior to any action and asked the Town Manager to propose a project that will include an outline of information needed, possible sources of this information, and opportunities for public input. The Town Manager will submit a proposal at the next Council meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Open Space Acquisition: Hickory Lane Lot 7

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, to refer the proposed acquisition of Hickory Lane Lot 7 (aka Lot 19 River Ridge Estates) to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review under §8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 P.M. at the Town Council's regular meeting on January 23, 2012 to receive public comment regarding the proposed acquisition.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Dog Lane Utility Easement

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective January 9, 2012, that the Town Manager be authorized to grant the proposed utility easement to Connecticut Light and Power, as it is consistent with Mansfield's Plan of Conservation and Development, the approved Storrs Center Master Plan, and the Development Agreement between the Town and Storrs Center Alliance.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Agreement between Regional School District #19 Board of Education and E.O. Smith High School Teacher's Association

Mr. Ryan recused himself from all discussion and action on this item.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to ratify the agreement between Regional District #19 Board of Education and E. O. Smith High School Teachers' Association.

Motion passed with Kochenburger, Moran, Schaefer, and Shapiro in favor, and Keane, Lindsey and Paulhus opposed.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Chair of the Committee on Committees Peter Kochenburger moved the following Committee recommendations:

- Councilor Paul Shapiro's appointment to the Sustainability Committee and Beverly Korba's appointment as the Commission on Aging's representative to the Human Services Advisory Committee. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mr. Shapiro noted there is still a Council member opening on the Sustainability Committee.

Ms. Lindsey reported the Parking Steering Committee has produced a Cooperative Parking Agreement, which will be presented to the Council in the near future.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

6. Civie re: CL&P's Interstate Reliability Project
7. M. Hart re: Community Challenge Planning Grant
8. L. Hultgren re: CPI Escalation for Multi-family Garbage Recycling Collection
9. C. van Zelm re: Storrs Center Construction: Mr. Paulhus noted that information regarding the hiring of Connecticut residents is available on p. 273.
10. C. Vincente re: Reduction in Facility Operating Hours
11. Connecticut State Police Call for Service Report dated 12/1/11 - 12/31/11
12. Press Release: Erland Construction Donates to Mansfield, CT, Food Pantry
13. Press Release: Gov. Malloy Announces Remaining STEAP Awards for Towns across the State
14. Press Release: Storrs Center Alliance Announces First Tenants for Storrs Center Mixed Use Town Center
15. Press Release: Town of Mansfield Announces Appointment of Leslie B. McDonough as Next Mansfield Public Library Director
16. Connecticut Council of Small Towns Annual Executive Director Letter
17. *The Connecticut Economy*, "Reinventing Mixed Use Development: The Long Road from Gurleyville to Storrs Center" (Winter 2012)

Mr. Paulhus left the meeting at 10:30 P.M.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

Members agreed to add the review of the Charter to a future agenda.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to move into Executive Session to Discuss Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Claims or Litigation, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(B), and to include Town Manager Matt Hart, Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien, and Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Pending Claims or Litigation, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(B)

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien, and Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Council resumed in regular session.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor Mary Stanton, Town Clerk