

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
October 9, 2012

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson 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: Freudmann, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro  
Excused: Keane, Kochenburger

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2012 meeting as corrected. Motion passed by all except for Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Schaefer who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Chris Miles, spoke on behalf of a group of faculty from the University of Connecticut in support of the Responsible Contracting Ordinance emphasizing on greater enforcement of State and Federal laws, hiring undocumented workers, and community hiring.

Prakash Kashwan, 81 Independence Drive, assistant professor of Political Science at the University of Connecticut, requested the Town adopt a Responsible Contracting Ordinance to ensure equitable labor conditions at publicly funded construction projects in town. (Statement attached).

Jessica Higham, 14 Adeline Place, spoke as a parent and the voice for families in the community supporting the benefits of the Southeast School site. (Statement attached).

Ken Forrest, 140 Brookside Lane, expressed the benefits of the Southeast site for its proximity to the library and sports fields.

Silvia Dorado, 29 Storrs Heights, feels Southeast is not just a building, but consists of an outstanding team of dedicated professionals. She is concerned about the survival of this exceptional team and their morale during this period of high uncertainty.

Jennifer Hawkins-Mott, Browns Road voiced her concerns about the two new school proposal, specifically enrollments and capacity issues. She disagreed that town officials and the Board of Education can predict with statistical accuracy the future enrollment projections.

Jana MacDonald, 29 Atwoodville Road, read a letter from Greg Zlotnick, 28 Wormwood Hill Road, expressing his opinion that all three neighborhood schools should remain opened. (Statement attached)

Erin Ballou, Wormwood Hill Road, moved to Mansfield for the wonderful school system. She would like to see the Council reconsider the school site and to take into account that Southeast would not require the purchase of additional land.

Harvey Luce, 528 Bassetts Bridge Road, speaking as a soil scientist explained that the Southeast location has the best aquifer in comparison to the other sites. In his opinion, Southeast is the number one choice and money would be better spent in building than having to purchase additional land.

Shannon Cartier, Hanks Hill Road, as a Social Worker at E. O. Smith High School, supports three community schools feeding into the middle school and then feeding into

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the high school creating stepping stones for the social and emotional well-being of the students.

Greg Samuels, Wormwood Hill Road, addressed the challenges of being a leader and the moral and ethical decisions leaders must make. He feels purchasing land for the building site is not living up to the best interest of the town.

Ted Jordan, speaking as a union carpenter highly supports the Responsible Contracting Committee.

Lena Rossi, 818 Storrs Road, as a kindergarten teacher she realizes how vital a school climate is to student growth. She requests that the Council reconsider the closing of Southeast School.

Bob LaRose, 58 Olsen Drive, has recently moved to Mansfield for the reputation of its teachers. He is very concerned that the two school project will put a heavy tax burden on the residents, as will the refurbishing of the schools for repurposing.

Lisa Eaton, 89 Lorraine Drive, loves the idea that Mansfield has the best schools and that the community has come out to express their love for the intimacy of the schools. She expressed that there are still choices for renovating like new.

Mike Kelly, 138 Storrs Road, spoke on the impact of closing Southeast School and feels that the Town is not spending enough time on the aftereffect.

Al Hawkins, 242 Spring Hill Road, is against the closing of Southeast School again. He feels not enough long term planning has been done and with other building projects going forward now is not the time for this project.

Cindy Wells, Wormwood Hill Road, strongly feels that keeping Southeast School open is in the best interest of the Town and that elected leaders should base their decisions on strong data.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Lane, questioned the validity of using staff who are not attorneys to answer questions concerning the tax status of UConn Tech Park enterprises.

#### IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager commented that the Council reviewed a variety of factors in making their decision on proposed school locations; the fair contracting ordinance will be discussed later in the meeting; and the presentation by the Assessor focused on how the Town currently taxes UConn related businesses. The Assessor does consult, as needed, with the Town Attorney.

#### V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson recommended the Town Council add to the agenda the appointment of an ad hoc committee to study a Responsible Contracting Ordinance and to appoint Mr. Paulhus, Ms. Moran and herself to the Committee. The motion to add to the agenda was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Schaefer and was passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann. This will be Item 4a on the agenda.

Mr. Schaefer distributed a Daily Campus article regarding relaxing UConn's stance on Spring Weekend. Mayor Paterson reported this item was discussed at the last Town/Gown meeting. The Mayor and Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola also attended an open forum with students at which Spring Weekend, partying and enforcement were discussed. No decisions were made but UConn is reviewing their options including student only events. The Town will continue to monitor the issue.

Mr. Paulhus will be attending the Veteran Day's Celebration and thanked Tony Kotula for his efforts to move the event to the Community Center.

Mr. Ryan attended a meeting regarding contract negotiations for Region 19 at which meeting towns were asked to provide input to the process.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

Town Manager Matt Hart reported work has begun on Wilbur Cross Way.

2. Community Water/Wastewater Issues

The Town is awaiting the Environmental Impact Evaluation which is expected in early November.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Mansfield Community Center Fee Schedule

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Freudmann seconded to approve the Community Center fee recommendations for the operating year beginning November 1, 2012 and ending October 31, 2013 as presented by staff in its draft dated October 9, 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Veteran's Day Ceremonial Presentation Planning Subcommittee

Mr. Paulhus, Ms. Moran and Mr. Schafer volunteered to serve on the Subcommittee.

4a. Formation of a Ad Hoc Responsible Contracting Ordinance

Mr. Ryan moved to form an ad hoc Responsible Contracting Ordinance Committee to examine the subject and to report back to the Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shapiro. Mr. Paulhus, Ms. Moran and Mayor Paterson have agreed to serve on the Committee.

Mr. Freudmann suggested the motion be tabled to the next meeting in order to conduct a workshop for the entire Council and to outline a charge for the Subcommittee. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Subcommittee Chair Moran expressed her plans to look at a variety of information and proposals and then to winnow those to meet the needs of Mansfield. Council members discussed the role of the Committee including the need to look at the entirety of the issue, to examine what towns similar to Mansfield have done, and to gather and sift through information. The Committee meetings will be open to the public.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who was opposed.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Schaefer questioned the wording found on page 25 Section 3c of the Parks Advisory Committee minutes dated March 7, 2012. The section should read "Wet area...".

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the Committee reviewed the relocation cost associated with Storrs Center. A complete report will be presented by Cynthia van Zelm in February, but current indications are that the totals will be within the budget.

The Finance Committee also discussed the South Eagleville Walkway which was approved by a Town Meeting but failed to garner the 15% needed at referendum. The project will expire in 3 years unless action is taken. The Committee recommended this be added to a future agenda for discussion.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

5. Human Services Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, Mansfield Advocates for Children re: Public Hearing on

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Public Transportation Issues

6. M. Hart re: Proposed Interstate Reliability Project
7. M. Hart re: Town of Mansfield Application to the Main Street Investment Fund for the Storrs Center Downtown Enhancement Plan
8. Assisted/Independent Living Project Background
9. Assisted/Independent Living Proposal: Selection Criteria. Mr. Freudmann requested a definition of "preferred developers" and asked what services have been provided to Mansonicare. Town Manager Matt Hart reviewed the history of the designation and extent of the efforts of the Town. Mr. Shapiro left the table during the discussion in accordance with his previously announced recusal from voting or discussing issues related to Mansonicare.
10. Invitation re: "Celebrating the Living and Remembering the Fallen"
11. Proclamation in Recognition of October 14 – 20, 2012 as Freedom from Workplace Bullies Week – Deputy Mayor Moran thanked the Mayor for offering this proclamation as bullying within the workplace is a serious issue.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA

As requested by the Finance Committee the discussion of the South Eagleville Walkway will be added to a future agenda.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to move into Executive Session to discuss the Sale or Purchase of Real Property, in accordance CGS§1-200(6)(D) (the Town Manager and Town Attorney will be included in the discussion), and to discuss Personnel, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(A).

Motion passed unanimously.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Present: Freudmann, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien

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

Present: Freudmann, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Christine Hawthorne, Assistant Town Clerk

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